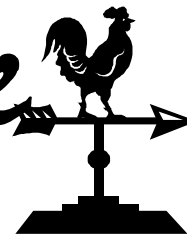


The Weatherwane

Weatherly Heights Baptist Church

Volume XLVI Issue 51 December 18, 2007



The Weatherly Spirit... And a Merry Christmas to You All

Each year I try to separate in my mind the sentimentality and myth of Christmas from the biblical story. While sentimentality and myth drive Christmas in this country, the biblical story embodies far more wonder and amazement. The divine became human. The infinite took on finitude. The All-powerful surrendered power and became vulnerable. The apostle Paul captured this mystery in the words of an ancient hymn about Jesus. This is the text to a theologically sound Christmas hymn:

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.*

Notice the amazing contrasts. "In the form of God...the form of a slave." "Equality with God...in human likeness." Is it true that God *emptied* God's self into the man of Nazareth named Jesus?

That is the miracle of Christmas, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself. The outcome of that miracle is another miracle. *We are by grace, as a gift, what Christ is by nature: sons and daughters of God. In the eyes of God, we look like Jesus.* The biblical story of Christmas is the ultimate validation of human beings.

With that understanding of Christmas, I wish you all a merry, merry Christmas! May your Christmas be filled with the wonder and amazement of a biblical Christmas.

Grace and peace,
David

Worship News For This Week

The Gifts We Bring to God 'Be Saved'

Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

This Sunday we light the fourth candle and hear those familiar words, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way..." It will be the last Sunday before Christmas Day. Don't miss it. Both Sunday School and worship will be at regular times. Please invite your friends and neighbors to be your guests during this special season.

**The Weatherwane will not be printed
for the next two weeks.**

**The church office will be closed
December 25 and 26 and January 1.**

Budget Update

Year to date budget receipts

\$606,092.00

Year to date budget expenses

\$645,351.00

Shortfall

\$39,259.00

We have only one more Sunday in 2007. Please give generously to help us end the year with no budget deficit.

Brief Note from LIM Student

Dear LIM Committee,

Thank you for your contributions made to me in the past few years. Your support has helped get me through college. I will be graduating in Industrial Engineering in May 2008. I am currently in the process of job searching. My goal is to move back to Huntsville after graduating and working in an engineering field with a promising company.

Sincerely,
Stanley C. McCaulley Jr.



Happy Birthday!

DECEMBER 20: Alma Porter; **DECEMBER 21:** Bryan Arrowood, Keith Putnam, Norma Terrell; **DECEMBER 22:** Ned Dendy, Emma Winn; **DECEMBER 23:** Anne McArthur; **DECEMBER 24:** Emmily Elliott; **DECEMBER 26:** Susan Gurgew, Daichi Kitano; **DECEMBER 28:** Dorothea Dunham; **DECEMBER 29:** Robert Lehman, Eric Lindstrom; **DECEMBER 30:** Ceacy Moore; **JANUARY 1:** Becky Davenport, Mary Ann Gargus, Reggie Simmons; **JANUARY 2:** Danielle Gurgew, Al Henderson, Larry Robey, Joley Shaw, Jo Ann Terry, Kim Wegrich; **JANUARY 3:** Pat Malone; **JANUARY 4:** Roger Poole; **JANUARY 6:** Evelyn Dawkins, Daryl Johnson, Carl Walker; **JANUARY 7:** Lindsey Arrowood, Ernestine Cothran, Debbie Nore; Erin Thacker; **JANUARY 8:** Frances Johnson; **JANUARY 9:** Chet Dunaway

The Record Speaks

Morning Worship	261
Sunday School Attendance.....	189
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$13,265.00
This Week's Budget Receipts	\$27,597.00

2007 Church Stewardship

YTD undesignated receipts through 12/16/07.....	\$606,092.00
YTD undesignated expenses through 12/16/07.....	\$645,351.00
Shortfall	\$39,259.00

Prayer Requests

Doug Atkins, son of Brenda Graves
Bob Thrasher
Mickie Mobley, sister of Darlene Morr, shingles
Jeanne Greer's father
Helen McDaniel's sister
Ray Jones
Ray Walker
Ray Gargus
Kristie & Terry Allums, sister & brother-in-law of Darlene Morr
Elaine McKenzie
Carolyn Hicks
Bob Nore's mother
Becky Bruce
Clifford Johnson, father of Jean Arrowood
Russell Cliburn, cousin of Keith Putnam
Beverly Garrett
Cindy Durst's sister-in-law, cancer
Our members and friends serving in the military

The Church in Service

DEACON ON CALL: Dottie Keebler

Week of December 23-29

TELLERS: Art Dohrman & Dottie Keebler

SOUND TECHNICIAN: Scott Booth

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Robin & Jeff Sells

ACOLYTES: Kit & Elaine Booth

NURSERY : Barbara Lehman & Jeanne Greer,
Isis Su & Claire Sharp, Kelly Freeman & Chris Childers

DEACON ON CALL: Susan Still

Week of December 30-January 5

TELLERS: Harvey Shelton & Debby Sharp

SOUND TECHNICIAN: Tate Calvert

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Mike & Wendy Malone

ACOLYTES: Robert & Bill Caraway

NURSERY: Scott & Mary Carol Lawrence,
Dean Smith & Jackson Lawrence,
Rhonda & Kim Wegrich



Family Forum



Milk & Cookies Open House

For Families with Children
At the home of Howard & Jana Williams
1111 Chesterfield Road
Friday, December 21, 2007
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Advent Gifts

The last two years, Weatherly has made the giving of Advent gifts a meaningful part of our celebration of Christ's birth. This year's gifts will go to children in Guatemala and Uganda through Friends of Children, a charity founded by local engineer Homer Wilson. Our donations will go directly to orphans in Uganda and Guatemala who may never have received a gift before. We are asking for shoebox-sized boxes filled with basic supplies to be placed under the Children's Tree in the Gathering Place on the Frances Davis Hallway.



Suggested items include paper, pencils, pencil sharpeners, socks, combs, soap, washcloth, ball cap, sunglasses, crayons, and small toys. Monetary contributions are also welcome to assist with transportation costs.

Items will be collected throughout the Advent season.

Memorial Gifts

To the Building Fund
In memory of Chet Dunaway's Father
Given by Susan Still

To the Building Fund
In memory of Mary Dohrman's Mother
Given by Susan Still

Youth at WHBC

Progressive Dinner Party

Thanks to Terri Baldwin for organizing the annual youth Christmas party and progressive dinner!

Thank you to our host homes for opening your home to us and preparing some wonderful food - the Plaxcos for hosting appetizers, the Sells for hosting salad, the Coxes for hosting the main course and the Streets for hosting dessert and Dirty Santa.

Thank you to each of these families for providing appetizers - the Buckners, the Tuckers, the Childers, the Wegricks, & Brian, Leigh, Olivia & Alex Smith.

Thank you to these families for providing desserts - Becky Davenport, the Olsens, & Mike, Kim, Elizabeth & James Smith.

Thank you Ruth Ann Konantz & Terri Baldwin for driving the youth as we progressed to each house.

"Reveal" Winter Retreat

January 18-20, '08

How do science and art connect us to God? Join us at the Alabama 4H Center and Birmingham to discover more! We will visit the Birmingham Museum of Art and see a showing at the planetarium at Samford University. We will go through a session of Lee Strobel's book *The Case for a Creator*.

On Sunday, various youth will help create our worship experience by putting together several experiential worship stations.

The cost is \$60. Sign up NOW!

- Dean

Upcoming Events

- **December 30 - 5th Sunday Breakfast during Sunday School** - Each person should bring a breakfast item to share with the group. Ann Noren will lead us in a game.
- **Sunday, January 6 - Youth Covenant Group (D.E.E.P.) resumes** - We will begin preparations for Winter Retreat with a look at how art connects us to God and a look into *The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel.
- **January 18-20 - "Reveal" Winter Retreat to Alabama 4H Center & Birmingham** - Sign up on the youth bulletin board in Memorial Hallway. \$20 deposit due by January 6.



Handy's Happenings

I would have thought that the day Mr. McDreamy sat quietly with me was the day "You-know-where" would freeze over. This is the same cat that as a kitten broke, chewed and scratched his way through our home. He now lives in Ashley's lovely town home seeking some way to climb the pole of her Christmas tree and give her Radko ornaments a good scare. But on this day, he approached me with longing in his eyes. I picked him up and he curled up beside me like a good cat can do!

As we approach Christmas Eve, I am reminded of the saying that is frequently shared in Northern Europe: that on the night Christ was born, the animals spoke in human languages. However, it seems to me that animals communicate perfectly well all year long, with each other and with us. They may do it better than we do. I feel sure it is more honest communication than ours. Notice: Animals do not spin the events of their lives to make others think well of them. For the most part, our animals don't care what we think. We do care, though. We seem surrounded by folk who package themselves so that they might be acceptable. But acceptable to whom? I seem to have forgotten to or for whom I might need to re-package myself, and at this point I truly want to live justly and walk honestly with God and all His created order.

Go with me to the stable: the animals are settling down, all of them resting with the new human parents and their new baby. Barbara Crafton says: "grace has drawn you to the birth of someone who doesn't try to package himself. Someone who just *is* and *is* what He *is* and shows it." Look at the possibility opening up: we don't have to be gift-wrapped; we need hide nothing about ourselves. On this holiday, join me in celebrating the birth of Christ as the One who says we can give ourselves to each other, just as we are. And that will always be a great gift.

Love and blessings from the Averys and our "critters."
Merry Christmas!

Thank You, WHBC

Dear Weatherly Family,

For the many, many cards and get well wishes, thank you to each of you. The telephone calls helped so much - to hear a familiar voice from home was so welcome. For the many who made the trip to UAB to visit and who prayed those special prayers, you lifted us up, closer to the light and love of God. Thank you again.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

Love,

Mary Anne, Ray and Steve Gargus

Dear Weatherly Friends,

How does one begin to thank you for all of the prayers, cards, notes, calls, and words of encouragement you have given me over the last several months? My healing continues and I am grateful for all the many prayers and well wishes that you have graciously offered. I am very blessed!

In Christ's love,
Dottie

Dear Friends at Weatherly Heights,

Thank you for hosting the Sing-a-long *Messiah*. It is such a joy to come and sing *Messiah* with no rehearsal to worry about! Thank you for providing our community such a lovely Christmas gift.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas Season,
Donna Clark

Just in Case You Ever Wonder

Given by Sam Sarkisian
In memory of Glenn Steele



The Weatherware is published in the church office. **Deadline for articles is NOON FRIDAY.** You may submit an article by email to pat@weatherly.org, typed or handwritten to the church office. Please include your name and phone number with your article in case there are

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