

CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERIAN GOOD NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 12

December 2010

Advent, Music and You

by Sondra Tucker, Music Director

As this year draws to a close I have been reflecting on the wonderful music that our church has experienced together. I looked back on my music column from December 2009 and found this:

"It is no coincidence that people come to church more at Christmas-time. I believe we have a need to connect with our past and to keep our faith traditions alive for our children and grandchildren by singing the hymns and carols we love so much. It is part of what makes our faith real and abiding."

John Hirling and I have carefully planned the carol singing for the time of Advent and Christmas, and have taken pains to make sure that we don't leave out a cherished carol. Of course, your part is to come to each worship service, so that YOU don't miss out on one of your personal favorites!

This is a time for me to thank everyone who has participated in the music ministry



Ben, Sondra and Roger Tucker

of our church in 2010: the members of the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, our instrumentalists, our Young Ringers and Young Singers, and Youth Praise Band. In fact, the largest choir in our church is the full congregation as we sing together. So, thank you all for lending your voices to the grand chorus of praise!

Years ago, a colleague of mine wrote a parody of the carol "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," which she titled: "God Rest Ye Church Musicians." I kept a copy of it for years, but sadly, I finally lost it. It went something like this:

God rest ye church musicians, let nothing you dismay.
Remember all the madness will end on Christmas Day!
The carols and the anthems will all be put away,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

The rest of the stanzas talked about how all the extra rehearsals, special music, and plans culminate in grand presentations, then we barely get a breather, and we have to start thinking about Easter! It's true, and it helps to have a little laugh about it.

All kidding aside, it is a privilege to work with all the dedicated musicians here at ChristChurch. Roger and I wish you all a blessed Christmas.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CONTENTS	Page
Advent, Music and You	1
Advent Events and Calendar	2
John's Musings	3
The Tidelanders	4
To the Church Triumphant Dale Beck	4
Adult Ministry	5
Biking Enthusiast Wendell Hearne	6
December Birthdays	6
Youth Ministries	7
Christmas Eve	8

**Newsletter Deadline
December 21**

Vision Statement:
*Trusting in God's guidance,
ChristChurch Presbyterian
invites all to join us as we
Gather joyfully,
Grow spiritually and
Give passionately
in service to Christ,
each other and our
community.*

Advent Events and Calendar

Saturday, December 4, 5:30pm - Family Event
Old Time Christmas Tree Farm - Spring, Texas

Sunday, December 5, 10:15am - Worship:
Advent Communion
CDC students sing
Handbell Choir rings

Wednesday, December 8, 6pm - 8pm - Youth Mission Event
Christian Community Service Center's
Jingle Bell Express at
Bellaire United Methodist Church

Saturday, December 11, 7pm - Adult Social Event
Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall

Sunday December 12, 10:15am - Worship:
Selections from Handel's "Messiah" performed by our Chancel Choir with orchestra
Congregational singing of "Hallelujah Chorus"

Sunday December 12, 5pm-7pm - Youth Social Event
Christmas Party - The Townsend Home

Sunday, December 19, 10:15am - Worship
Festive Advent with carol singing

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
6pm - Christmas Eve luminary-lighting and refreshments
7pm - Christmas Eve Worship: Lessons and Carols with Communion

Sunday, December 26, 10:15am - Worship



Special Music - Handel's *Messiah*

The Chancel Choir will present selections from George Frederic Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday morning, December 12. Soloists will be Ashley Johnson, Brittane Lewis, Austin Dean, and Tyson Ruhmann. "Messiah" will be accompanied by a small chamber orchestra.



John's Musings



Rev. John Hirling

Happy New Year! On Sunday, November 28, 2010, we welcomed the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the Christian Year. Advent comes from a Latin word meaning 'coming' and celebrates three 'comings:' the coming of God in Jesus breaking into human history that we celebrate in the holiday of Christmas; the coming again of Jesus when "every knee shall bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord," (Phil 2:10-11) usually called the Second Coming; and the coming of Christ into the hearts and souls of believers who desire communion with him today and every day. That's a lot to think about.

I like the Advent season. I can't say I'm overjoyed with the lectionary texts that pop up at this time of year with their "signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken." (Luke 21:25-6) Thankfully, the season culminates in "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10b).

Like the season of Lent, Advent offers us an opportunity for preparation. If I ruled the world, we'd prepare for the 12 Days of Christmas – that period between Christmas Day and Epiphany. I admit to some sadness that our Christmas emphasis generally begins shortly after Halloween and ends on December 25th rather than beginning December 25th. I feel we lose something by moving too quickly – a sort of burn out that expresses itself in "Thank God, it's over," rather than "Thank God, it begins!" This is one of those areas in which I'd be happy to be wrong.

I believe that it is also important to remember that for many people this isn't the 'season to be jolly.' More relationships break up this time of year than any other. For many people, this will be their first Christmas without a loved one. My dad died Christmas Day 1988 so I have some sense of that challenge. Interestingly, my mom died on Easter Sunday 2004. Some families are separated by the distance of miles, others by the distance of brokenness. Could there be a relationship that you could help heal this season?

Synonyms for 'advent' include 'onset,' 'beginning,' 'commencement,' and 'start.' That's where advent touches us especially this year for ChristChurch Presbyterian is at a new beginning. Our journey together is just beginning. The torch of the Vision Transformation Team has been passed to the Session and we now look for the best ways to implement our Vision Statement:

Trusting in God's guidance, ChristChurch Presbyterian invites all to join us as we
Gather joyfully, Grow spiritually and Give passionately
In service to Christ, each other and our community.

In the not too distant future, you will elect your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and they will begin the important task of seeking a new installed pastor. The Committee on Ministry will assign one or more experienced people to work with your PNC. The greatest gift I could possibly give to you in this upcoming year is to help you discover and be able to articulate exactly who you are and where you believe God is calling you – as individuals, certainly, but especially as a community. One of the PNC's earliest responsibilities will be to write a Church Information Form (CIF). An honest, open and accurate CIF goes a long way toward assuring that the person called is the best possible fit. My prayer is that you will find someone whose vision coincides 'on all fours' with that of ChristChurch.

This is an exciting process and my prayers and efforts are with you. This is also an exciting season and I look forward to all the wonderful festivities planned we have planned.

Grace & peace

John

The Tidelanders

Barbershop Chorus Practices at ChristChurch

The Houston Tidelanders Chorus, the Houston Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, is an all male a cappella 4-part harmony chorus. You may have run into them on campus, where they practice on Monday evenings. Here's a message from the Tidelanders:

Hello from the Houston Tidelanders. We are the men's barbershop chorus that rehearses at your church on Monday nights.

We appreciate being able to use your facilities, and we thought you might like to know what we're up to.

Currently, the chorus and our quartets are rehearsing for our Christmas show, which will be at Houston Baptist University on Saturday, December 4.

We're also learning a new choreography package that we'll use at the Barbershop Harmony Society's international competition in Kansas City in July 2011.

Singing Valentines and our Spring Goodtime Shows are right around the corner.

We have about 60 men on our risers, and we're always looking for more men who like to sing. If you'd like more information about our chorus and quartets, our shows, our recordings, or especially about singing with us, please look us up at www.HoustonTidelanders.org. Thank you for letting us be a part of your community.



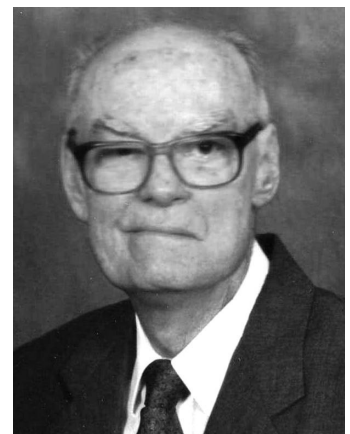
The Houston Tidelanders, with more than 90 active members, are led by Vickie Dennis, musical director.

To the Church Triumphant

"Death is swallowed up in victory ... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." -- 1 Cor. 15:54-57

Joseph "Dale" Beck

Joseph Dale Beck passed away October 30, 2010. Dale had many accomplishments. Among them include that he served in WWII, graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in electrical engineering and spent his career at Brown & Root. Dale leaves behind his wife Ruth, children Kenneth Beck, David Beck and Susan Rogers; grandchildren Cheryl Loth, Kristy Allen, Jesse and Sarah Rogers; and great grandchild Travis Allen. Dale will be greatly missed. Please keep Ruth and the Beck family in your prayers.



Dale Beck

Adult Ministry

Better Bunch

Come join us for the December Better Bunch trip on Wednesday, December 15. We will leave the church at 9:30am to tour Miss Ima Hogg's estate, Bayou Bend Collections and Gardens, and to Chatter's Café and Bistro for lunch.

Cost for the trip is \$8.50 plus lunch. Friends and family are welcome to join us.

Sign up form will be in the Gathering Space or contact Barbara Buckley at 281.498.0483 or wtuckley@juno.com.

Future dates are Thursdays, January 20, February 10 and March 10.

TGIF

TGIF is a monthly gathering of adults who enjoy getting together for food and fellowship at the end of a long week. Instead of TGIF this month we're having the Christmas Candlelight Dinner Saturday, December 11 in the Fellowship Hall.

TGIF will resume in January.

Men's Breakfast

Calling all men of the church. Join us Saturday, December 4 in the Fellowship Hall for our Men's Breakfast. We're serving coffee and sweet rolls. For more information contact Keith Cox.

Parents' Night Out

Bring your children to the Fellowship Hall, Friday, December 3. They will be treated to dinner, a movie and fun in a safe environment. Children ages 3½ through 5th grade are welcome. For more information contact Sue Cox or Barbara Buckley.

Wednesday Night Dinner

Join us each Wednesday evening for dinner in the Fellowship Hall. For \$3.00 per adult and \$1.00 per child, enjoy an evening meal with your church family and friends.

Presbyterian Women's Group

The Presbyterian Women's Group will meet Tuesday, December 14 at 9:30am to study *Horizons: Journeys Through Revelation- Apocalyptic Hope for Today*; Lesson 4. Meet us in West Wing room 1. If you have any questions please contact Burnette Boyett at 713-668-8848.

Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Women's Study & Prayer Group meets each Tuesday from 5:30pm-7pm in West Wing room 5. For more information contact Janette Hearne at janettehearne@gmail.com.

Day Literature Circle

The Day Literature Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in West Wing room 1. There will be no meeting in December. Join us January 18 to discuss *Armadillo - A Novel* by William Boyd. For information contact Doris Neville @gordon-neville@att.net.

The Lydia Circle

Lydia's Circle book club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10am in private homes of circle members. This month the circle will meet December 21 at the home of Wandell Card for a holiday celebration. The book club will resume January 18 with *Blessing* by Anna Quindlen, hosted by Clara Welsh. For more information please contact Jo Chelf at HJChelf@sbcglobal.net

Ladies' Book Club

The Ladies' Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm. However, they are taking the months of November and December off. Join us next month on January 25 when we will discuss *Wish You Well* by David Baldacci. If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Seward at lucy-seward@msn.com or Mylene Bole at mbole@swbell.net.

Friday Night Bridge

No Friday Night Bridge in December. Check back next month for January schedule.



2010 Session

ChristChurch Presbyterian

Class of 2010

Jay Bole, Judy Bucher, Liz Gentry,
Pam Stoops, Remi van Comper-
nolle

Class of 2011

John Becker, Amy Gremillion,
Priscilla Kennedy, Woody Speer,
Roger Tucker, Craig Wooten

Class of 2012

Homer Borgstedte, Sue Cox,
Brad Eaves, Aileen Fleming, Karen
Persely

Class of 2013

Richard Bell, Mylene Bole, Fred
Cook, Anne Reed, Gretchen Sparks
Youth Elders: Matthew Bole,
Lubna Obou

Clerk of Session

Janice Schessler

Moderator

Rev. John Hirling

CCP Good News Contributors

Barbara Buckley, Sue Cox, Aileen
Fleming, Drew Harrison, John
Hirling, Priscilla Kennedy, Dorothy
Mares and Sondra Tucker

Editors: Aileen Fleming and
Priscilla Kennedy

Around the Church

Wendell Hearne Finishes 40 Miles in the Tour de Tuscon



Wendell Hearne crossing the 40 mile
finish line in the Tour de Tuscon.

On Saturday, November 20, Wendell
Hearne suited up, with about 1,400 other
bike riders, for the 40 mile course of the
Tour de Tuscon.

Among the 29 participants aged 71 years
or older, Wendell finished 13th.

The Tour de Tuscon also included 109
mile, 79 mile and 66 mile races. Wendell's
two sons finished the 109 mile race.

Congratulations Wendell!

December Birthdays

Ashley Broadhurst	2	Anita Bettis	22
Chi Chi Okoro	3	Paul Kehoe	23
Janice Zimmerman	6	Richard Levesque	25
Ruth Beck	8	Edie Neighbors	26
Clemence Deane	9	Rirri Job Obou	26
Harold Hibbs	9	Dana Barkley	27
Ernest Anane-Sekyere	10	Julie Gremillion	27
Sean Little	10	Kristen Sparks	28
Ashlee Lobe	10	Barbara Yantis	28
Carolyn Kelly	13	Lucy Seward	30
Bronwen Rowe	14		
Ethel Bean	15		
Anne Young	16		
Peter Biar	17		
Emmanuel Okoro	17		
Laura Shely	18		
T.P. Boyett	19		



Youth Ministries



CHRISTCHURCH
Presbyterian

Spotlight on Elementary Sunday School

Our Elementary Sunday School children are preparing for Christmas this year by looking at two passages from the book of Isaiah traditionally read in preparation for Christmas.

Isaiah writes in a troubling time in the history of Israel and Judah, when Assyria and Egypt loomed threateningly on their borders, and temples to Baal and Asherah polluted from within.

Isaiah writes in judgment on the rulers of the time, but also predicts a time when Jerusalem shall once again know peace and prosperity.

Isaiah 9:6-7 proclaims

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

Though Isaiah most likely did not predict a birth 700 years in the future, the names he gives tell Christians who Jesus is

to us, and what it means that he has come down to earth.

Our Elementary Sunday School class will learn the importance of Jesus' coming for us through learning through art, storytelling, and prayer. Students will learn about the many names for Jesus in the Bible, and how each of them helps us to understand more about Jesus and why he came down to us.

Isaiah's prophecy helps us to deepen our understanding of what it means that Jesus is a Messiah, giving us a glimpse of His glory.

Good News is a monthly publication of ChristChurch Presbyterian, and is sent to members, visitors, and friends.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to:

ChristChurch Presbyterian
5001 Bellaire Boulevard
Bellaire, TX 77401

Bulk mail postage paid at Bellaire, TX
USPS #105.

All articles for submission should be sent to churchadmin@ccpres.org. Issue deadlines are the 20th of the month.

All material is subject to editing for space and content; every effort will be made to include all articles.

STAFF DIRECTORY

John Hirling

Interim Pastor
jhirling@ccpres.org

Drew Harrison

Director of Youth and
Christian Formation
dharrison@ccpres.org

Sondra Tucker

Director of Music
stucker@ccpres.org

Linda Weise

CDC Director
lweise@ccpres.org

Diana Lee

Financial Administrator
dlee@ccpres.org

Dorothy Mares

Office Administrator
dmares@ccpres.org

Church Office

Phone 713-667-6574
Fax 713-667-6583

Child Development Center (CDC)

713-668-9869

VIC-SW

Volunteer Interfaith
Caregivers SW
713-772-8181

Website

www.ccpres.org

Presbytery of New Covenant

713-526-2585
www.pbyofnewcovenant.org

Youth in Action

November has seen the Youth of the church coming together for friendship and fun every week, on Sundays for Fellowship and on Wednesdays for Starbucks and a quick coffee break.

Since Fellowship has begun we've played Human Foosball, Spy vs. Spy, and even Sardines, all the while learning about God and each other. And Wednesdays at Starbucks involve live conversation and hot drinks.

December Youth Events

December 4
The Old Time Christmas Tree Farm

December 8
Christian Community Services Center's annual Jingle Bell Express. A program to give food and toys to families in crisis.

December 12
Youth Christmas Party at the Townsends.

For all events, contact Drew Harrison at dharrison@ccpres.org for more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT CHRISTCHURCH

A festive evening is in store! At 6pm we will meet, set out and light luminaries in front of the sanctuary, followed by fellowship time with wassail and Christmas cookies. At 7pm we will have a service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion. All are welcome!



CHRISTCHURCH *Presbyterian*
5001 Bellaire Boulevard
Bellaire, TX 77401

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Bellaire Tx
Permit #105

Address Service Requested

Join us on Sunday!
Christian Education 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am

Address Label