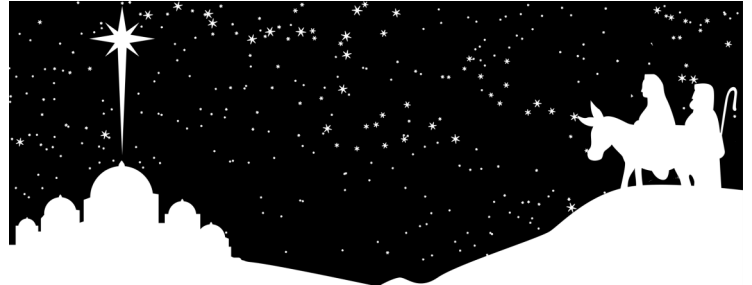


Small Talk

from the Children's Ministries of St. Luke's

EARLY WINTER 2011

Coming & Going



I love our theme for Advent this year! With all the chaos that the weeks before Christmas always bring for my family and for yours, “coming and going” conjures up such a realistic visual image. I can imagine the constant arrival and departure of our church family on Sundays and Wednesdays; the holidays errands that make me feel like an ant hauling crumbs back to my tunnel; the arrival and departure of family and friends as we all seem to move from place to place during the busy weeks of December; the boxes of Christmas decorations that must find their way out of the attic and then back up again; and even the cooking and enjoyment of all those holiday goodies. It comes and it goes.

But along with all of those things – *actually, especially with all of those things* - “Coming and Going” gives me the peace that comes with knowing Christ came to this earth, left it, and then came back so that we would never again be without His eternal love. The constant arrival of Christ overcomes everything else.

I hope that you'll each download from our web site or pick up a hard copy of this year's Advent Devotional Guide for guided reading, questions for reflection and family conversation, prayer, and personal devotions from church staff and members for these days of “Coming and Going”. And remember that St. Luke's offers many ways for your family to celebrate Christ's ongoing presence among us. Many of them are shared on the following pages, but see the devotional guide for our complete listing. Please “come” and be a part of it so that you can “go” and share the Good News!

Catherine Anne

Advent Activities

FEAST Advent Event for ALL STOP HUNGER NOW!

Wednesday, November 30

The whole family can come help package 10,000 meals in partnership with an international relief organization. Join us for dinner in the Great Hall at 5:45 or come in time for the start of our meal-packaging at 6:30. Child care is available.

Adult Christmas Party with Child Care!

Saturday, December 3

Come enjoy some “grown-up” fellowship while your children are playing happily at church! Drop them off in Sheppard Hall as early as 4:15 p.m. (maybe sneak in some shopping?), and pick them up by 9:15 p.m. It’s only \$10 a family! Please contact Beth Underhill at bunderhill.mail@gmail.com for reservations, which are necessary. The party is from 6:30-9 p.m. at the home of Dan & Sally Joyce.

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Sunday, December 4

To the casual observer, it may look like Craft-a-Palooza, but to the children and adults present it looks like a joyful and creative noise to celebrate the birth of our Savior! All children, toddlers through fifth grade, will find lots to create and take to share the Bethlehem story. Join us from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall... and parents, please plan to stay!

FEAST Advent Event for ALL Christmas Trivia Night!

Wednesday, December 7

Back by popular demand, this family-friendly evening is guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit! We’ll have dinner at 5:45 and then enjoy fellowship as we search our Christmas memories for the answers to some very interesting questions! Child care is available.

Chrismon Presentation

Sunday, December 11

Each year, members of our Presbyterian Women lovingly sew a “Christ Monogram” ornament for each child in our congregation. These beautiful gifts will be presented during both worship services. The Cherub Choir will be adding their angelic voices to 11:00 a.m. worship, so you can also look forward to that!

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18

Come celebrate the Nativity of Christ through scripture and song during our 11:00 a.m. worship! We will have extra worship fun packed into each Worship Notebook to enhance the experience for children of all ages. Our nursery will be open for younger children, but we do encourage our Faithful Friends to remain in worship on this special day.

Live Nativity with Animals

Monday, December 19

Bethlehem comes alive on our front lawn from 6:00 to 7:30 pm! Our furry friends from the Little Red Barn will surround the Holy Family, wise men, angels, and shepherds. We need children, youth, and adults to put on costumes and be a part of the scene. Please contact Mary Kent at 770-671-0645 if you can help!

Church-Wide Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, December 20

All ages and voices are invited to join the chorus! We’ll meet at church at 6 p.m. to ride together and raise our voices in song for our homebound members. We’ll be back at the church around 8 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

There’s no way to escape the joy in this lively and beloved worship experience. All children, who wish to do so, may participate in the Christmas story as it unfolds before us. We do need several children, adults and youth to help in other ways, so please contact cathomas@slpres.org if you can lend a hand, either “in the scenes” or “behind.” Worship begins at 5:30.

Christmas DAY Worship!

Sunday, December 25

It’s not every year that we get to celebrate Christmas with our church family on December 25...but this is a special year! Don’t worry about dressing up; just come and enjoy Continental Breakfast at 10:00, a Christmas carol sing-along at 10:30, and Worship at 11:00. Joy to the world!



Chase the Chills at Sunday School!



St. Luke's offers classes for children of all ages each Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Here's what's in store:

December 4th: Happy Birthday, Jesus! for all Ages
Advent crafts to make, take, and share—and, of course, birthday cake!

December 11th and 18th:

Godly Play will be “wondering” about Advent and working on a special Christmas craft.



Faith Journey will explore “Why Do We Call It Christmas?”, the latest installment from Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer, through video clips and interactive lessons. We will gather in the Attic and stay there for the entire class.

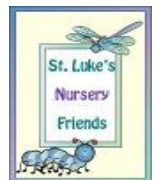
January/February:

Godly Play will be “wondering” about Jesus in the Temple, The Cleansing of the Temple, The Baptism of Jesus, Jesus in the Wilderness, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, the Parable of the Sower, and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

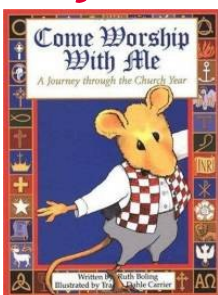
Faith Journey: Children in first through fifth grades will love our “never the same thing twice” approach to learning! Each week we will begin together as a large group at 9:30 (usually in “The Attic” on the Great Hall stage) for music and a sneak peek at our lesson. Then, about 9:45, we depart to our age-level classes so that we can explore the story with art, movies, science, storytelling, or games. Our first “tour” in 2012 will be “Jesus in the Temple”. Other special events and units include a service project on February 19, joining our church family in a special six week Lenten study of “24 Hours that Changed the World”, a post-Easter exploration of “The Baptism of Jesus”, and two special Sundays of May Missions.

Nursery Friends

We are so blessed to have fantastic child care professionals taking care of our infants, toddlers, and twos—and fantastic parent volunteers to help out with our three-year-old class! Child care is available each Sunday morning from 8:30 until 12:15, and on Wednesday nights from 5:00 until 7:30. A huge thank-you to our volunteer Nursery Supervisors **Mindy Shelton, Christine Crutchfield, Leslie Hamlin, Taylor Vivian, Marcy Williams, Amanda Dunnick and Robin Einarson**. And if you haven't yet signed up for your winter volunteer shift, please do so by visiting our web site and logging in. For more information, please contact Robin Einarson, bradandrobin@bellsouth.net.



Faithful Friends



Everyone is having fun in our worship education classes for Pre-K and Kindergarten children! Thanks to all our parent volunteers who take turns teaching to make this important program possible. This fall, we have learned about Confession, the Gloria Patri, Scripture, sermons, thanking God for our blessings, the Doxology, hymns, the Apostle's Creed, and prayer. Our goal is to help children understand, appreciate, and enjoy the worship experience.

The winter/spring semester will bring a special focus on the sacraments of baptism and communion in addition to other aspects of our Christian worship traditions.



Second Semester Round-Up!

Our welcome mid-week break will return on Wednesday, January 18! Dinner will once again begin at 5:45, and classes will run from 6:30 until 7:15.

Here's what our kids will be doing:

Preschool – Tooty Fruity!

Our threes, Pre-K, and Kindergarten students will be exploring the Fruits of the Spirit in creative and engaging ways. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control will be presented with Bible stories, crafts, games, and other activities. If you have a child in this age group, you will be asked to teach the class just once during the semester so that all families can take advantage of our full Wednesday night offerings.



Younger Elementary—ISRAEL GETS A KING!

Our first, second, and third graders will be continuing their incredible walk through God's word with Phil Vischer's entertaining and tremendously informative DVD-based series, "What's in Bible?" Our stories will come from First and Second Samuel. As in the first semester, we will use a combination of video segments, small-group activities, and large-group activities to achieve relevant Bible understanding.

Older Elementary

The fourth and fifth-grade crowd will move further into their adventure through Narnia as they continue their study of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. This is more than just a book discussion, though...this unique class also weaves traditional Christian beliefs and practices into every session.



FEAST for ALL brochures listing classes for all ages, dinner details, supply fees, and registration forms will be available by mid-December at www.slpres.org or in our main lobby. Please complete and return with payment to the Christian Education office by Monday, January 16. More and more families are discovering that our Wednesday night ministry is a great way to re-charge and reconnect...we hope you'll join the crowd!

Memory Verse

But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid. I bring you
good news of great joy. It is
for all the people."

Luke 2:10

Let the Children Sing!



Cherub Choir

Cherub Choir
(4 years ~ 1st Grade)
Room 203
Wednesdays, 5:15-5:45 p.m.
Director: Kristy Whitener

Westminster Choir

(2nd ~ 5th Grade)
Choir Room,
Wednesdays 5 to 5:45 p.m.
Director: Clair Maxwell



Westminster Choir



"Because they didn't have e-mail then. That's why God sent an angel to proclaim the baby's birth."



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Luke 9:48