



The Messenger

December 16, 2012

A Wonderful Advent / Christmas Gift

Sometimes we take things for granted or we think that they just happen. This past Sunday morning and Monday evening the Christmas musical drama *Searching For a King* was presented. The presentation was excellent both times. The message was clear and powerful. As I watched and listened, I thought about all of the hard work, time, energy and effort of so many people that went into this Advent/Christmas gift to our church community.

The children and those who worked with them practiced their songs over and over. People built the set pieces. Black plastic had to be taped over all the windows to darken the sanctuary. The sound had to be right. The lighting had to be right. Parts had to be learned and memorized. Costumes had to be secured. Musicians had to learn and rehearse the music. The choir rehearsed countless times and stood during the whole presentation. I want to thank everyone who helped make this wonderful musical drama possible.

I want to especially thank David Warlick, our Minister of Music and Worship Arts, and Christie Barr, our Praise Team Leader and our Director of Drama. I, along with many others, have been truly blessed this Advent/Christmas season by your efforts. God bless you all.

Jim

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. James W. Smith..... Senior Minister	Christie Umpleby Preschool Director
Rev. Noel C. Perez Hispanic Minister	Mike Jones Church Administrator
Rev. David Warlick..... Minister of Worship Arts	Stephen Thompson .. Sound & Maintenance
Mark Ashby..... Youth Director	Elaine Smith Finance Secretary
Sallie Minick Children's Director	Anne Hunter Church Hostess
Alwen Yeung Pianist/Accompanist	Connie Brodess Secretary
Christi Barr Praise Team Leader	Lyn Dozier Secretary

Americus First United Methodist Church

December 16, 2012 — 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Third Sunday of Advent

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

Mark Watford

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jim Smith

(Please fill out your communications card and place it in the offering plate later in worship.)

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Parker Reeves, Acolyte

***HYMN OF PRAISE #196** — *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Michelle and Ben Andrews

Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath, the candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE. Now we light the third candle of Advent. This is the candle of JOY. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of His birth.

From the Book of Isaiah we read these words: "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy." (Isaiah 65:18).

From the New Testament, the words of Paul to the people of the church at Galatia: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-25). Let us pray:

We joyfully praise You, O Lord, for the fulfillment of Your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank You for the gift of salvation through the birth of Your Son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see Your glory as You fill our lives with Your living Spirit. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER #895

Rev. Jim Smith

CHORAL RESPONSE — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

(Lewis H. Redner)

ANTHEM — *Morning Star with Emmanuel* (Kendrick; David T. Clydesdale, arr.)
from *Searching for the King*
Morgan Minick, Soloist

TITHES and OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Jim Smith

OFFERTORY — *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*
Handbell Choir

(Anna Laura Page, arr.)

***DOXOLOGY #95**

Children dismissed to Children's Church.

***CAROL OF PREPARATION #230** — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
(Sing only stanzas 1 and 4.)

SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 3:1-14

Rev. Jim Smith

THE MESSAGE — *Advent: A Call to Repent*

Rev. Jim Smith

***CAROL OF RESPONSE #217** — *Away In a Manger*
(Sing only stanzas 1 and 3.)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jim Smith

***POSTLUDE**

Ricky Arnold, Sound Tech Pat Duff, Media Tech

* Please stand as you are able.

Please see an usher for an assisted listening device.

Americus First United Methodist Church
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

December 16, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Advent: A Call to Repent”

Luke 3:1-14

Rev. Jim Smith

Praise Team

Christi Barr, Leader/keyboard and vocals
Paul Farr, percussion; Keith Pinckard, bass guitar; Stephen Thompson, lead guitar;
Chris Barr, rhythm guitar; Jonathan Beckum, acoustic guitar; Pam Cannon, vocals

Ross Youngdale, Media Tech

Travis Warlick, Sound Tech

DECEMBER 16, 2012 GREETERS AND USHERS

9:00 Greeters for December 16, 2012

Angelyn Tripp and Millie Trussell

Acolyte for 11:00 December 16, 2012

Parker Reeves

11:00 Greeters for December 16, 2012

Front Door – Janis and Julian Webb

North Door – Nancy Stallings and Paul Fitzgerald

South Door – Joan Anderson and Lutrelle Perry

11:00 Ushers for December 16, 2012

Jay Cliett, Bill Bird, George Ellis, Bill Kipp, Floyd Martin, Ted McMillan,
Bobby McNeill, Brian Parkinson, Kevin Reeves, Sparky Reeves, Sonny Shealy,
Brian Simmons, Bobby Strange, George Torbert, and Rusty Whaley



MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of
Mary Alice and Joseph Daniel
David C. Daniel
Easton Hulme Kinnebrew
From Carolyn and Joe Daniel

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our church is hosting the
Community Christmas Dinner
on Tuesday, December 25, at noon in the Social Hall.

Thank you so much for your responses
to bring food and to help serve the meal!

We still need 2 more turkeys and 2 more hams and more side dishes.
Please call the church office (924-3169) if you can help.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BIG CHURCH BAGS: pick up one for your child and return it after the service or take it with you to Children's Church.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 - 2:00-5:00 PM

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS IN SOCIAL HALL

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Holly Roquemore Bickel, Sue Bradley, Gale Brown, Jule Brown,
Beth Carroll, Freddie Dudley, Marnita Hinton, Bryan Keefer,
Cooper Kurth, Walt Grant, Jessica Goddard, Steve Griffin, Carey Harbuck,
Darrel Harbuck, Mary Hunt, Anne Hurst, Norinne Lowell, Jack Partain,
David Peak, Ginger Perkins, Brenda Stanfield, Charlie Smith, Rodney Vance,
Betty Teasley, Hazel Waller, and Julian Webb

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

NO SUPPERS December 19 and 26 and January 2
Suppers resume on Wednesday, January 9.

OUR RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

Membership: 954

Total Worship Attendance: 349

Combined Worship Attendance 256
UMYF24
Benevolent Fund YTD\$9,496
Budget Giving\$8,596
Budget Giving YTD\$572,197

Sunday School Attendance 135
Growth Group (Dec. 2-8) 63
Hispanic Worship Attendance..... 93
Hispanic Offering..... \$500
Hispanic Offering YTD..... \$33,060

Reminder:

*You may make donations to the church by automatic draft.
To do so, just call Elaine in the finance office at 924-3169.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 15 10 AM—NOON PARKING LOT
Bring cookies for prisoners.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 - 2:00-5:00 PM
CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS IN SOCIAL HALL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 5:00 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
In the Sanctuary
*Christmas Eve offering will go to the
Friends on a Mission Homeless Shelter in Americus.*



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 — 12:00 NOON
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER
In the Social Hall

POINSETTIAS

POINSETTIAS GIVEN AFTER DECEMBER 2

In Honor of Kay Ansley by Sue Bailes
In Honor of Valerie and Pat Duff by Ann Westbrook
In Honor of Ann Entrekin by Sue Bailes
In Honor of Sunshine and Billy Key by Mary Lynn and Sonny Shealy
In Honor of Jerry Quillian by Black Kitty and Friends
In Honor of Diane and Jim Smith by Sue Bailes
In Honor of Diane and Jim Smith by Sue Bailes
In Honor of Leslie and Matt Stewart by Anonymous

In Memory of The Honorable Judge Griffin Bell by Carolyn and Joe Daniel
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Blair by Mr. and Mrs. Billy Blair and Family
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Denham by Carol and Mike Denham and family
In Memory of James S. Espy from Buddy, Cherilyn, Caroline and Allison Guth
In Memory of Jane and Evan Guth from Buddy, Cherilyn, Caroline and Allison Guth
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hogg by Frances Scoggins
In Memory of Norma Hooks by Sue Bradley and Family
In Memory of Easton Hulme Kinnebrew by Carolyn and Joe Daniel
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morton by Frances Scoggins
In Memory of Mrs. Roy Parker Jr. by Liza Parker
In Memory of Roy Parker III by Lisa Parker
In Memory of Coy Lou Ryan by Ann Westbrook
In Memory of Matthew Scoggins by Frances Scoggins
In Memory of Mr. Roy Witherspoon by Carol and Mike Denham and family

AFUMC YOUTH

December Schedule

Sunday, December 16, at 4:00p: UMYF Progressive Dinner

www.afumcyouth.com

Check out the website for photos, and videos.
facebook: americusfumcyouthgroup

Mark 404-406-7730

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 16, 2012

- 7:45 a.m. Praise Team Practice in Social Hall
- 7:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast in the Social Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Social Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:40 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Worship Service in the Hispanic Worship Center
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Praise Band Practice
- 2:00 p.m. Music Committee
- 4:00 p.m. UMYF Christmas Progressive Dinner



Monday, December 17, 2012

- 12:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Lunch & Meeting in the Social Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Banquet in Social Hall

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

- 12:00 p.m. Young at Hearts Catered Luncheon in the Social Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

- 2:00-5:15p.m. Children's Birthday Party for Jesus

Friday, December 21, 2012

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 23, 2012

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Social Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:40 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Worship Service in the Hispanic Worship Center

*The church office will close December 21, 24 and 25 and New Year's Day.
Bright Beginnings Preschool will close December 17-January 2.*

UNITED METHODIST MEN

This Sunday, December 16
7:45 a.m. in the Social Hall
Steven Shellhouse will be the speaker.

THANK YOU

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank sto the prayer shawl ministry for the beautiful shawl wrap that you made for me. It will keep me warm on the cold days we have ahead. It touched me deeply that you remembered me. Thank you again,

Florine Bailey

SAMA FOOD BANK DONATIONS



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR FOOD AND MONETARY DONATIONS.
KEEP IT COMING! (500+ items so far)

**Food will continue to be collected for distribution
in 2013.**

Charge Conference TALKING POINTS

"Let the Redeemed Say So"

2012 Spiritual Focus: Evangelism & Witness

"As the District Superintendent, I commit to pray for your church each day, be available to work with your pastor and leadership, and continue to encourage us to make a difference in the kingdom of God."

Dr. Wayne Mosley, Americus District

Bishop

James King and the Americus District Superintendent Wayne Moseley, in trying to encourage and support United Methodist Churches in the South Georgia Conference, have asked for input from as many people as possible. Every church has been asked to consider the following seven questions. **Please take some time to pray about and answer the questions below. Please bring or email your responses to the FUMC office by December 19 at the latest.**

1. *What are the needs of your church?*
2. *What are the needs of your community?*
3. *What do you do best as a church?*

SEE BACK



TALKING POINTS

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4. *What do you not do well?*
5. *What can your District Superintendent do to help resource your church?*
6. *What do you see as obstacles to growth (physically, spiritually) in your local church?*
7. *Where are the opportunities for your church to witness and make a difference in the kingdom of God?*

2012 Poinsettias Given in Honor of

Juanita Adams and Lester Adams by Vickie Dozier

****Kay Ansley by Sue Bailes**

LaVerne Comer by Mary and Reggie Comer and Family

****Valerie and Pat Duff by Ann Westbrook**

****Ann Entrekin by Sue Bailes**

Nyla, Jim, Jay, Joy and Abby Franklin by Virginia and Marion Franklin

Our Grandchildren Hawkins Raybon, Gates Raybon and Fleming Gatewood
by Billie and Jim Gatewood

Our Grandchildren by Reba and Sam Hunter

****Sunshine and Billy Key by Mary Lynn and Sonny Shealy**

Mary Earle Mackin by Mary and Reggie Comer and Family

Our granddaughter, Kathryn Nichols, by Sue and Bill Dupree

Liza Parker by Jean and Wes Wheeler

Nell and Carroll Purvis by Millie and Ricky Trussell

****Jerry Quillian by Black Kitty and Friends**

Lenette Roquemore by MaryLen and Carson Walker and Family

Julie and Steven Shellhouse by Elaine and Donald Smith

****Diane and Jim Smith by Sue Bailes**

****Leslie and Matt Stewart by Anonymous**

Our Family by Janis and Julian Webb



2012 Poinsettias Given in Memory of

****The Honorable Judge Griffin Bell by Carolyn and Joe Daniel**

****Mr. and Mrs. James R. Blair by Mr. and Mrs. Billy Blair and Family**

Our Son and Our Parents by Stella and Louis Bridges

Buell Carlan by Nancy Carlan

Cathy Carter by Robin and Frank Lowrey

Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Cliett, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hobbs

by Janice and Jay Cliett

****Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Denham by Carol and Mike Denham and family**

Ben Easterlin III by Joyce Easterlin

****James S. Espy from Buddy, Cherilyn, Caroline and Allison Guth**

Jane and Evan Guth from Buddy, Cherilyn, Caroline and Allison Guth

2012 Poinsettias Given in Memory of

Mary Hardin by Franklin Hardin and Family
Lin Hardin by Franklin Hardin and Family
Our Parents by Ann and Bill Harris
**Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hogg by Frances Scoggins
Steve Hollis by Julie and Steven Shellhouse
**Norma Hooks by Sue Bradley and Family
Leila and Paul House and Eunice and Hamp Franklin
by Virginia and Marion Franklin
Our Parents by Reba and Sam Hunter
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hunter, Sr.
by their Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
Steve Jones and Adele and Ed Jones by Jo Jones
**Easton Hulme Kinnebrew by Carolyn and Joe Daniel
Bob B. Mann, James Hawkins Gatewood and
Virginia Crisp Gatewood by Billie and Jim Gatewood
Eleanor Lowery by Sylvia and Donnie Roland
**Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morton by Frances Scoggins
Betty Moyd by Marilyn and Harold Jacobs
Mary Niblack by Lyn Dozier
Roy Parker III and Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Wheeler by Jean and Wes Wheeler
**Mrs. Roy Parker Jr. by Liza Parker
**Roy Parker III by Lisa Parker
Robert S. Perry by Lutrelle Perry
Becky, Jimmie and Jim Ray by Ann and Bill Harris
Becky Ray by Millie and Ricky Trussell
E.M. Roquemore, Sr., by MaryLen and Carson Walker and Family
Coy Lou Ryan by Robin and Frank Lowrey
**Coy Lou Ryan by Ann Westbrook
**Matthew Scoggins by Frances Scoggins
Rev. and Mrs. Travis A. Warlick by David and Travis Warlick
Our Parents by Janis and Julian Webb
Marthalyn and Wick Wetzel by Lyn, Billy and Will Dozier
**Mr. Roy Witherspoon by Carol and Mike Denham and family

**Notes poinsettias
added since
December 2
bulletin.



*You may pick up your poinsettias
after the Christmas Eve services,
or you may leave your poinsettias
for the Christmas Day lunch at the
church.*

CALENDAR DATES FOR 2012 & 2013

2012

December 15, 2012

Cookies for Inmates
Parking Lot 10 a.m.—noon

Sunday, December 16, 2012

United Methodist Men
Breakfast & Speaker
Steven Shellhouse

December 17-January 3, 2012

Preschool Closed for Holidays
Bright Beginnings Preschool

December 19, 2012

Children's Birthday Party for Jesus
Social Hall 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 24, 2012

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service at 5:00 pm
Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25, 2012

Christmas Day Community Dinner
Social Hall

January 12 and 13, 2013

Lay Speaker Training
Basic and Advanced
Heritage/Bass UMC, Macon

January 21-23, 2013

"Poems, Prayers and Promises"
Warmth in Winter for Older Adults
Epworth by the Sea

January 27-30, 2013

"Let the Redeemed Say So"
Epworth Winter Camp Meeting
Epworth by the Sea

Friday, February 8, 2013

Valentine's Banquet
Music Arts Committee

February 8-9, 2013

Disciple Covenant Conference
Bishop James King

March 15-16, 2013

Spring Consignment Sale
Bright Beginnings Preschool

2013

January 11-13, 2013

**"A Summons to Ministry:
Is God Calling Me?"**
Epworth by the Sea

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00a to 5:00p

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to noon

Friday is

Jim's, David's, and Mark's day off.

Finance Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon