

CHURCH CONCERNS

If we walk in the light as he himself [God] is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." (1 John 1:7, NRSV). Greetings and welcome to this gathering of the family of God. Let us all engage in sincere worship and fellowship with God and one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ One For Third Street. Every 5th Sunday we are asking you to remember to help provide supplies for our Church by picking up one additional item for the Church when you purchase one for yourself or household. Please look at the list on the bookmarks in your bulletin today. You can donate these items at any time, but certainly by the 5th Sundays. WE NEED PAPER TOWELS!

CHANGE FOR MISSION: Don't forget to drop off your pocket change in the container as you leave the Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

Christmas Day! Jesus Christ is born!

Sunday School, 9:45 am.

Christmas Worship Service, 9:30 am.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2016

New Year's Eve

SUNDAY, January 1, 2016

New Year's Day

Sunday School, 8:45 am.

Worship Service & Communion, 9:30 am.

UPCOMING

January 11, 2017 - Lunch & Learn, 11:30am.

January 16, 2017 - M.L. King Birthday

January 18, 2017 Caring for Others Pantry, 10am – 12pm.

February 4, 2017 - CAM Truffles & Trivia Fundraiser, 6pm.

Thank you for your contributions on Sunday, December 18, 2016.



POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias during the advent season. It was greatly appreciated and enhanced the atmosphere of our congregation during this Holy time of year. May you have a season filled with joy and blessings from God.

Rev. Eddie & Mrs. Gayle C. Deas

In Memory Of

Violet Friday

Deborah, Letha, Mamie & Sara
Gussie Orr Williams
Allen Littlejohn, Sr &

Family Members
Mr. & Mrs. James Matthew &

Mamie M. Armstrong
Louis & Lorena Corry
William A. Friday
Deceased Family & Friends
Josephine Whitesides

Given By

Carolyn Carter

Carlos Stroman III
Arlene June & Family

Elizabeth W. Littlejohn

Teretha M. Jackson
Lois C. Camp
Jeraline Truesdale
Charles Whitesides
Starla Littlejohn

**They shall name him
Emmanuel, *Matthew 1.23***



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Reverend Eddie Deas, III – Pastor
Miss. Nautica Kendrick, Worship Assistant

Our Vision: *We are God's Servants impacting, changing and growing lives spiritually in Church and Community.*

Sunday, December 25, 2016 **9:30 A.M.**
Christmas Day
Jesus is Born!

PRELUDE

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: Rejoice!

PEOPLE: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Leader: those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

PEOPLE: For a child, has been born for us,

Leader: a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;

PEOPLE: He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

CAROL: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" #31, PH

The Advent Wreath: The Christ Candle

Leader; Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. Christ comes to dispel the darkness, to give us life and to shine as a beacon of salvation to the world. Christ's light is an eternal flame that sets ablaze hope, peace, joy and love in the heart of every believer. Let us celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, the Light of the World!

SCRIPTURE READING: Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

PEOPLE: We light the Christ Candle this Christmas Day, proclaiming that Christ, the Light of the World, cannot be hidden, cannot be extinguished and cannot be overcome, for our Savior born this day comes to conquer

evil, sin and death for all time.

(The Christ Candle is lit in silence)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Lord God of Christmas, we stand on the threshold of another year. We thank you for giving us another year of life. You have given us many gifts during the last year; and yet we realize that we have often failed to use those gifts or our lives as creatively and constructively as we might have.

Now give us the care to shape the moments of this next year into tender, gentle expressions of concern. May the year be fulfilled with achievements: wrongs corrected, friendships deepened, the disheartened encouraged. Help us to energize your love, even as you became love to us. For we ask these things in his name. AMEN.

CHORAL RESPONSE *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #2193, SF (Sung twice)*

Lord, listen to Your children praying,

Lord, send Your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to Your children praying,

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: As Mary, Joseph and Jesus settled in Nazareth, ... In the name of the babe of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, we are now made new and whole.

PEOPLE: Thanks, be to God!

***WELCOME & SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: Because we know God's grace through Jesus Christ, we know God's peace. As a sign of that peace, let us share it with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23

The Escape to Egypt

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

The Return to Nazareth

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. (NIV)

REFLECTION

Rev. Eddie Deas, III

How Christmas Works

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION**

TITHES & OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CAROL:

"Joy to the World" #40, PH

***CHARGE AND BLESSING** **POSTLUDE**

*Indicates those who are able, may stand

***PH – Presbyterian Hymnal; AAHH – African American Heritage Hymnal: SF – Sing The Faith

All Songs, and Call to Worship and Confession of Sin are on the PowerPoint Slides.