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# Church Visitor



Central Christian Church, Enid, Oklahoma    December 2, 2009    Vol. 73 No. 47  
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## Advent, Waiting with Hope

Advent (from Latin, *adventus*, meaning “coming towards”) is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. The First Sunday of Advent (November 30) marked the beginning of the church’s year.

Advent and Christmas focus both on the *past*—the coming of Jesus as an infant born into poverty in Bethlehem, and the *future*—the coming of Christ in glory to fulfill God’s loving purposes for humanity. This past and future orientation is reflected in the readings appointed in the church for each Sunday of Advent.

Advent this year comes at a time of anxiety and hope. Many of us are struggling and are afraid for our future. It's not easy to hope when times are bad. Mary, as she waited for the birth of her child into an uncertain world, knew how to live with hope—to believe the promises of God. So Advent is a time when we wait, with Mary, for the birth of new life into a world living in shadows.

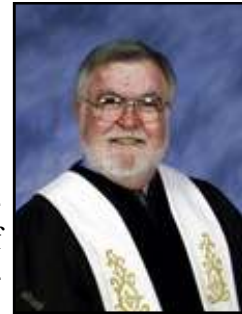
During this holy season, you are invited to use the wonderful Advent Devotional Book, written by members of Central. They are available at the Welcome Center. We will also begin each service of worship with a sense of anticipation and hope by lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. Won't you join your church family as we gather to worship and prepare, once again, for the coming of Christ.



**\*\*\*\*R&R has now joined the Sunday MORNING worship schedule!\*\*\*\***

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## ...According to John



There is an article in an older issue of *The Christian Century* entitled “Good News.” Among other things, the author lists eight traits of growing congregations. This isn’t rocket science. We all could probably figure out most of them, but I want to mention one in particular: “loving relationship among the members of the church”.

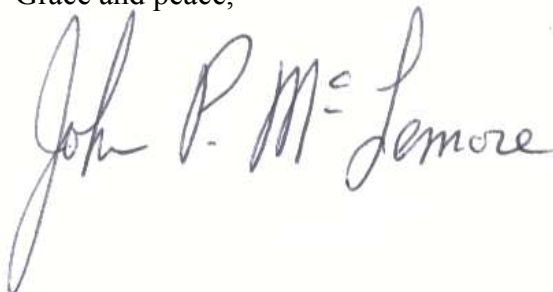
During this Advent season we send and receive numerous greetings with LOVE being the most popular. Year round we talk about God’s love for us, but that message reaches it’s apex during Christmas.

Jesus tells us to show the world we are his disciples by loving one another. Every church I have attended mixed the idea of “love” and “friendliness” and each one claimed to be a friendly congregation. Frankly, I know few faith communities that are truly “friendly” and even fewer that exhibit “loving relationships among the members.” Most churches display a shallow, conditional, narrow understanding of what it means to love. Even at Central, I hear criticism, complaint, even animosity that is rooted in events ranging from last week to twenty years ago. A new day, however, is before us.

As we approach Christmas 2009, may we lay aside those burdens and sins of the past, by accepting God’s love for us, and then, by loving one another. The message of Christmas is one of love and hope. God loves us and dwells among us. We now can love one another. We can look past the history, the resentment and the mistrust, living in the light of God’s love.

Can you imagine what this congregation would be like if we intentionally expressed unconditional love toward one another? Can you imagine the impact on peoples lives, church and un-church alike? Can you imagine God’s love for the world being expressed through us? May this Advent season draw us toward such a community expression.

Grace and peace,



In case of an emergency please call Rev. McLemore any time in the office at 233-1214. If you are unable to reach him at the office, his cell phone number is (580)402-2522, or you can reach him by calling his home 233-4214.

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## Advent Study

Our four week study continues Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Don't think if you missed the 1st Wednesday you can't come. The study will be about *A Christmas Carol*, the Charles Dickens classic, with Christian insights and discussion questions. Childcare will be available.

Call Sally Wheeler on her cell phone at 747-4142 or email her for more information at [sallyw@centralenid.org](mailto:sallyw@centralenid.org).

## Guild Dinner December 7, 2009 6pm

## Pictures

We are missing between 60 and 70 individuals or families for the pictorial directory. If you didn't get your picture taken last year, your situation has changed or you're a new member, Sally will be taking pictures after church Dec. 6 and Dec. 13.

## Centour Luncheon December 13, 2009

The Centour Christmas Luncheon will be Dec 13, 2009 immediately following the 10:15am worship services. The menu is: chicken alfredo, dill green beans, rhubarb crisp and a Christmas dessert.

A short Christmas program by Bea Simpson will follow the meal.

## Saturday, December 5

9:00-12:00—Work Day sponsored by the Education & Property Committees (Childcare provided)

5:30—Saturday Service of Communion

## Sunday, December 6

### Second Sunday of Advent

8:00—Chapel Worship

9:00—Sunday School

10:15—Sanctuary Worship

10:15—R&R Worship

3:30—Chi Rho, 4:45—Youth Choir,

5:15—CYF

## Monday, December 7

12:00—Noon Prayer Service

6:00—Guild Dinner

## Tuesday, December 8

12:00—Noon Bible Study

3:15—Greenbrier Service

5:00—Kids Central Board

6:30—CWF Agape

7:00—Quilt Central

## Wednesday, December 9

10:00—CWF Naomi, Ruth, Sarah

1:30—CWF Esther, Lydia

6:00—Adult Bell Choir

6:30—Advent Bible Study, Rm 109

6:30—Choir

6:30—Youth Group

## Thursday, December 10

6:30—Board Christmas Dinner

## Saturday, December 12

5:30—Saturday Service of Communion

## Sunday, December 13

### Third Sunday of Advent

9:00—Sunday School

10:15—Sanctuary Worship-Choir Cantata

3:30—Chi Rho, 4:45—Youth Choir,

5:30—CYF

## SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

November 29, 2009

Saturday Service of Communion . . . . .	0
Chapel Service . . . . .	32
Sanctuary Worship . . . . .	169
R&R . . . . .	65

## VAN DRIVER SCHEDULE

December 6, Mack Allison  
 December 13, David Dell  
 December 20, Heath Wallace

### Current Lectionary

Sunday, December 06, 2009

Second Sunday of Advent

**Readings:**

Malachi 3:1-4  
 Luke 1:68-79  
 Philippians 1:3-11  
 Luke 3:1-6

Color: Violet

CHURCH VISITOR (USPS 112-800)  
 Published weekly except week of December 25.  
 By Central Christian Church  
 1111 W. Broadway, Enid, OK 73703-5897  
 Periodical Postage Paid at Enid, OK.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CHURCH VISITOR, 1111 W. Broadway

## Diaconate Schedule

December 6—Team 3

December 13—Team 1

December 20—Team 1

Homebound Communion **December 6**

## EARLY SERVICE DEACONS:

Dec 6—Glenn & Linda Crabbs

Dec 13—Jay & Janet Lohmeyer

Dec 13—Jay & Janet Lohmeyer



Our congregation is continuing to pray for other churches in our area. This week we have been asked to pray for **Elm Flat Christian Church, Cleo Springs**. Please keep them in your prayers this

## R&R Speakers

December 6—Rev. Sherry Shaw

December 13—Meeting in the Sanctuary for the Choir Cantata

We're still collecting warm clothing!  
 Bring **hats, gloves, scarves and coats** to the church for the Warmth Project sponsored by CACS.

~ Sunday ~ December 6, 2009 ~

Chapel Worship . . . . .	8:00am
Sermon . . . . . "Prepare the Way" . . . . . Rev. John McLemore	
Scripture . . . . .	Luke 3:1-6
Sunday School . . . . .	9:00am
Sanctuary Worship . . . . .	10:15am
R&R in the Chapel . . . . .	10:15am

Elders: 8:00am —Don Angle; 10:15am—Willa Jo Fowler, Gail Novak

## The Christmas Food Tree

The Christmas Food Tree is up and looking good. The Tree committee decided to list names, of those donating food items and those who would still like to make a monetary donation in honor or in memory of someone special, in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 20.

For those making a monetary donation, please make your check out to the church with the Horn of Plenty in the memo section and turn it into the office.

Please be sure to sign the register next to the Food Tree. We can't list your name or even know who donated, if you do not sign the register.

Thank you for your donation to the Horn of Plenty. Every little bit (or can of food) helps. We don't always get to see the faces of those being helped, but as the song goes, "we can only imagine."

God Blesses us all, in many ways.

### Thank You

To Central Christian Church Family,  
The Interracial Women's Club of Enid thanks you for letting us use your church for our 40 year celebration in October. We appreciate your kindness and hospitality. May God continually bless you.  
IRWC of Enid

The book signing party for Mary Johnson Dec. 6th is postponed until further notice. She has not gotten any of the books, so there are no books to sign.....

### Giving Report

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	O/U BUDGET	Y/T/D GIVING	Y/T/DBUDGET	O/U BUDGET
11/1/2009	\$12,330.74	\$9,416.66	\$2,914.08	\$471,005.30	\$480,249.91	(\$9,244.61)
11/8/2009	\$11,520.39	\$9,416.67	\$2,103.72	\$482,525.69	\$489,666.58	(\$7,140.89)
11/15/2009	\$4,914.98	\$9,416.66	(\$4,501.68)	\$487,440.67	\$499,083.24	(\$11,642.57)
11/22/2009	\$9,876.97	\$9,416.67	\$460.30	\$497,317.64	\$508,499.91	(\$11,182.27)
11/29/2009	\$8,794.21	\$9,416.66	(\$622.45)	\$506,111.85	\$517,916.57	(\$11,804.72)
TOTAL	\$47,437.29	\$47,083.32	\$353.97	\$506,111.85	\$517,916.57	(\$11,804.72)



#### ELDERS

Burl Bartlett  
Becky Meyer  
Gary Hula  
Tom Stout  
Sherry Shaw  
Chuck Pritchett  
Max Johnson  
Pat Novak

#### DEACONS

Lawrence Yunker  
Stephani Yunker  
Terry Henneke  
Tammy Hromas  
Lori Hunter  
Aaron O'Banion  
Tim McAnally  
David Chael  
Macy Hula





Veterans honored with a Day of Remembrance in November.



Pony Express leaders commissioned.



Addison Phillips, Ethan Easter, Meleah Meyer and Paige Waldrip pose in front of the Education Wing Christmas Tree. Alex Angleton hangs a Christmas on the tree.



### **Thank You**

To the wonderful members of Central Christian, I want to thank you for the generous donation of hats and coats you provided for the McKinley students. It has been a joy to see the student response. Your project warms heads, hands and hearts. You are a special 'Church Neighbor.'

Sincerely,  
Jan Robinson,  
Principal

## KIDS CORNER

- ★ WOW!!! You guys and gals are totally AWE-SOME!! Sunday's Christmas tree ceremony was great! Yeah for Sierra Yniguez and Brent Tilley for bringing a friend and sharing their lines so that their friends could participate!
- ★ Are you ready for a new Memory Verse? Well first, pull out your Bible and read **Matthew 2:1-12**. Now, here is the part we'll put to memory:

***On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.  
(Matthew 2:11)***

- ★ Yay Molly Bloom! She sang with the Enid Symphony last weekend! Great Job!
- ★ We will begin a **new rotation Sunday!**
- ★ December 5 we will be having a WorkDay at the church... the main job? Painting our new Kids Time/ Sunday Morning meeting room! See you at 9am!!
- ★ December 20 will be our Christmas Party!!
- ★ Hey, if you have a Christmas program coming up, and you have a part, let me know!! I'd love to come see you in it!!
- ★ Parents and church family! I'm still looking for a few teachers to add to the Kids Time rotation! If your interested give me a call... who knows, I may be calling you! Sally Wheeler

## Coffee Stains

Ahh. December is finally here and now it really does feel like Christmas is near. The first Sunday of Advent has passed and we continue to prepare.

I ask you to consider Mary today. She had more advanced notice than anyone else about the coming of the Christ child. If you ask any mom I am sure they will tell you about the anticipation and the excitement. I can remember the excitement when Luke was born. We wanted the surprise and boy we got it, a boy! I wonder how Mary felt knowing all that was to come, knowing she would have a son, knowing that the Holy Spirit could land her in BIG trouble. What about the unknown, would Joseph dismiss her, where would her son be born, how would her son become a king like David? Still we prepare, like painting the nursery for the coming of a newborn, we ponder the questions. We reflect and give pause to the mystery of this season. I pray Christmas is new and exciting for you in a special way. Gods grace be with you, JW.

### ACOLYTES – December 6

Sierra, Nicole  
(Substitute – Meg)

### TEACHERS—December 6

All grades, Video, Kacy Wallace

### KIDS TIME – December 6

Sue, Lois, Rachel, Katherine,  
Sarah, Brent