



The Spirit of Shiloh

December 2011

Shiloh Presbyterian Church

Vol. 2011 / No. 12

A TOWN IN GALILEE CALLED NAZARETH

It was “the other side of the tracks,” if there had been tracks in first-century Palestine. Nazareth was only four miles from the thriving city of Sepphoris with its luxury villas, markets, temples, and Roman theater. You can still walk among the amazing ruins at Sepphoris (Zippori) to this day. You can see Sepphoris from Nazareth, and by car it’s only a ten-minute drive; but in Mary’s day it was an hour’s walk to Sepphoris from Nazareth. Sepphoris was where the “haves” lived. Nazareth was for the “have nots.”

Nazareth doesn’t even show up on first-century lists of villages in Galilee. It was considered by the Jewish population of the region as insignificant, or worse. In John 1:46, Nathaniel asked, when told that Jesus was from Nazareth, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

A woman, who grew up in poverty, once described for me the formative years of her childhood. She lived in a trailer park at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale. Children teased her at school, calling her “trailer trash,” a name they had learned from their parents. Forty years and a law degree later, she was describing how it felt as a child to be made to feel small and insignificant.

When I think of Nazareth, I think of her story. If the tradition is correct, Mary’s family lived in the cheapest form of affordable housing at that time: a cave. Mary’s village was considered of “no account.” But it was precisely here that God came looking for a young woman to bear his Son.

God routinely chooses the humble and the least expected in and through whom he might do his greatest work. Mary recognized this in Luke 1:46-55, when she praised God because he “looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant” while he “scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.”

Many of us live in Sepphoris. But God’s choice of a woman from Nazareth to bear the Christ leads us to see the importance God places on humility; calls us to repent of any ways in which we, like Nathaniel have said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”; and even invites us to reconsider how we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

As you are preparing for Christmas, here’s a suggestion: What if this year you recalibrated? What if this year you decided to give away a bit more to people in need and spend a bit less on yourself and your immediate family?

Our family made a commitment several years ago to donate to organizations serving the poor and those in need an amount equal to the total of what we spend on family and friends at Christmas. This decision forces us to reduce what we spend on people who don’t really need anything, so that we can give to those who truly stand in need. In the process, we’ve found greater joy in our Christmas celebration.

—Adam Hamilton, *The Journey: A Season of Reflections* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011)
...and now part of the Wednesday evening study for Food for Body & Spirit



OPERATING BUDGET NOTES

Jan. 1—Nov. 28, 2011

Income \$ 118,712

Expenses \$ 104,803



Please pray for the following members of our congregation...Mike Crean, Margie and Ralph, Jeannie and Beth, Richard and Wilma, for Marilyn and Jerry, Helen, Frances, Cleo Bartlett, Hazelene, Bonnie and Sara.

Friends and Connections... Warren Brannon, Robert Bullis, Holly, Tammy, Frances Kellam, Jeannie, David, Benita Hicks, Dave, Donna and family, Chris Keeter and family, Tammy Smith, Ben Tyler, Tyler Carmichael, David Jr., Ann Isley, Betty Boman, Yvonne Loy and Skip Loy, Mary Williams and Lala Ward, sister-in-law of Bert Mckinney.

If you know of someone that needs to be put on the prayer list, always ask their permission first, then call the church office at (336) 524-9900 and leave a message.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dec. 01 Brent Mills | Dec. 15 Suzanne Gale |
| Dec. 05 Megan Kluttz | Dec. 15 Linda Dixon |
| Dec. 08 Ron Schwarm | Dec. 19 E. P. Webster |
| Dec. 10 Mike Crean | Dec. 27 Helen Hartman |
| Dec. 11 Chris Mills | Dec. 28 Celeste Bell |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 01 | Brian & Melanie Lewis |
| Dec. 18 | Art & Kay Hunkins |
| Dec. 20 | Mike & Carolyn Crean |
| Dec. 24 | William & Lucy Shoffner |
| Dec. 31 | Ralph & Margie Thomas |



November Circle Attendance:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Earnest Workers: | 7 |
| Friendship: | 6 |

December Circle Meetings

- Earnest Workers: Dot Clapp, Chair
 Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 10 am at the church
 Friendship Circle: Lisa Kluttz, Chair
 Monday, Dec. 12th, 7 pm w/Lisa Kluttz

Bible Study: Lesson Four

“Greatly Honored are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice; Scripture: Matthew 5:6, Luke 6:21a-25a, Psalm 107: 1-9

Dates to remember:

- Family Caregiver Education Series sponsored by Alamance Eldercare:
 Dec. 5th: Stay Safe: at Home and in the Community
 Jan. 17th: Adaptive Equipment for Mobility & Other Issues

Both programs will be held at Kernodle Senior Center, 1535 S. Mebane St, 11:30 am -1 pm or 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Thanks to the congregation for your support of the annual PW Thank Offering received on Nov. 20th. A total of \$107 was received. The offering will be used by PCUSA for grants that will meet critical needs for persons who are hurting. At least 40% will fund hospitals and health ministries.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESSES

November 19's basket and bake sale raised nearly \$1,700 for Barium Springs Home for Children. Congratulations to Barbara Kluttz, Beth Snow and all those whose hard work made the event a wonderful experience. Meanwhile, BizLink's fundraising luncheon on November 17, one corporate sponsor of which was Shiloh, raised more than \$2,700 for Loaves & Fishes. Congratulations to Kay Hunkins and all her colleagues for an effort that benefited one of the most important agencies in Burlington.

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:45 am Mass Class 11 am Morning Worship 4:00 pm Choir	5 MEALS ON WHEELS WEEK 4 pm Boy's Choir 7 pm Cub Scouts	6 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #19	7 10 am Women's Bible Study 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit	8 6 pm Shiloh Prayer Weavers	9	10
11 9:45 am Church School 11 am Morning Worship 4 pm Choir 5:15 pm Session	12 4 pm Boy's Choir 7 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Friendship Circle	13 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #19	14 10 am Earnest Workers Circle 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit	15	16	17
18 9:45 am Church School 11 am Morning Worship 7:00 pm Christmas Concert	19 4 pm Boy's Choir 7 pm Cub Scouts	20 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #19	21 10 am Women's Bible Study 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Congregational Christmas Dinner (turkey & ham provided) bring sides	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 4 pm Candlelight Service
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 11 am Morning Worship	26	27	28 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit	29	30	31

FLOWER ORDERS DUE DECEMBER 4

This year we are buying our poinsettias and other flowers from the Burlington Boys' Choir. It is one of their most important fundraisers, and while it means we will be spending a little bit more, helping them is an important part of our community outreach.

Your order must be in to Jean or Carl by Sunday, December 4. You can order a choice of sizes and a variety of colors. See Carl for color photos of the plants.

7-inch Poinsettia: \$12.00 each (+ cover: \$13.00)

Red	Burgundy
White	Ice Punch
Pink	Shimmer Surprise
Maroon	

8-inch Poinsettia: \$18.00 each (+ cover: \$19.00)

Red	Monet Twilight
White	Ice Punch
Pink	Shimmer Surprise
Maroon	

10-inch Poinsettia: \$27.00 each (+ cover: \$28.00)

Red	Monet Twilight
White	Ice Punch
Pink	Shimmer Surprise
Maroon	

7-inch Paperwhite Narcissus: \$20.00 each
(+ cover: \$21.00)

Approx. 5 bulbs per pot with 2 stalks per bulb and numerous blooms

Amaryllis: \$20.00 each (+ cover: \$21.00)

Color can be red, pink, or white depending on which is closest to blooming. One bulb per pot with 2-3 stalks and 3-4 blooms per stalk

Order forms are available at Shiloh. Make checks payable to Burlington Boys' Choir. Give your order form to Carl or Jean.

WHAT IS A CHRISMON?

A chrismon is one of a number of Christian symbols intended to represent aspects of the person, life or ministry of Jesus Christ and the life, ministry or history of the Church through a single image, emblem or monogram. The term "chrismon" comes from the Latin phrase "Christi Monogramma", meaning "monogram of Christ". The literal monogram of Christ is made up of the Greek letter X ("chi") superimposed on P ("rho"), the first two letters of the word "Christ." Chrismons can be found in all sizes, any sort of construction, and are used in numerous applications. Often, the P is formed to look like a shepherd's crook, and the X like a cross, symbolizing Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd of his flock, the Church. Perhaps most commonly, chrismons are used to adorn Christmas trees during Advent and Christmas, where they are made from various materials ranging from needlepoint to woodwork and metalwork. They can also be found as decorations in and outside of Christian church buildings and homes, and even found on gravestones and personal stationery.

CAMPUS WORKDAY DECEMBER 3

We will have another workday, primarily outdoor, on Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Bring heavy-duty tools, including chain saws, if you have them.

CONGRATULATIONS, LISA!

Lisa Kluttz, who has a Doctorate of Pharmacology, has become Board Certified as a Pharmacotherapy Specialist. There are about 8000 pharmacists with this credential (fewer than 300 in North Carolina). Pharmacotherapy is that area of pharmacy practice that is responsible for ensuring the safe, appropriate, and economical use of drugs in patient care. The pharmacotherapy specialist has responsibility for direct patient care, often functions as a member of a multidisciplinary team and is frequently the primary source of drug information for other healthcare professionals.

Thank You!

Both Jerry and Marilyn deeply appreciate the visits and the pretty gift basket, the poinsettia, and cards that have been sent by our Shiloh family to Marilyn during this difficult time. Thank you so very much.

With Christian Love,

Jerry and Marilyn Shannon.

THANKS TO THE SHARPES

Gay and Larry Sharpe bought the new, taller (a lot taller!) Christmas tree and candle treatments for the windows...and they installed them on the day after Thanksgiving. We are so appreciative of these beautiful new additions to the sanctuary. Also thanks to Lisa Klutz for climbing to the top of the ladder to hang the chrismon ornaments.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DAY

We will not have Sunday School classes on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, but we will have worship at our usual time of 11:00 a.m. The church will be open and coffee will be on by 10:00 a.m. that morning.

Likewise, we will cancel Sunday School classes on the following Sunday, January 1, but still have worship at 11:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

Our annual Congregational Christmas Dinner and Party moves to a different night of the week this time...and closer to Christmas. We will celebrate on Wednesday evening, December 21, with great food, music, games, and fellowship. Roast turkey and baked ham will be provided. You are asked to bring an appropriate side dish or dessert. Please have your food to the church by 6:00 p.m. or as soon after as possible so that we can begin eating around 6:30. This event has been a lot of fun every year, so be sure you and your family are there to enjoy all of it!

NEW SCHEDULE FOR USO TREATS

Sunday, December 11, is the deadline for individually wrapped treats for the troops at the Charlotte airport this Christmas season. Actually, Priscilla will leave early Wednesday, the 14th, so if you want to make special arrangements to bring her something on the Monday or Tuesday before, call her. This is an important mission of service at this time of year and greatly appreciated by our men and women in uniform. Thanks, Priscilla, for making it possible for us to participate.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 4:00 P.M.

Our Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24, will begin at 4:00 p.m. so that you can bring your families and still have a traditional gathering at home afterward. Communion will be served during worship. The Artley Family String Ensemble and other musicians are invited to participate.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT DEC. 18

Our annual community Christmas concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. It promises to be another amazing musical treat. Already committed are the Burlington Boys' Choir, the Cathedral Brass, Sandy Russell, and April Martin, who will be home from Italy where she is studying voice. We will be mailing out about 2,500 invitations, so make your plans to be here early and get a seat!

NEW FBS STUDY

On Wednesday evening, November 30, Shiloh's Food for Body and Spirit group began a new study entitled "The Journey", a series of five videos filmed on location in the Holy Land based on Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. In each video, Hamilton retraces the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey. There is an extra 13-minute feature on the DVD entitled "The Holy Land Today." Even if you have not attended an FBS session before, you are welcome to come in to see these videos. Supper begins at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening.

THE CULMINATION OF “STOP TRYING”

On November 20, we finished the sermon series about “The Inside-Out, Upside-Down Gospel.” During this series, we considered the fact that the institutionalized “gospel” has been so co-opted by the Kingdom of Earth that the good news of Jesus sounds counterintuitive to our habits of thought. What is supposed to make sense in how we’ve been told to live out our faith makes no sense at all. The Bible challenges us to stop trying the same old stuff and “take hold of the life that really is life.” (1 Timothy 6:19)

Many of us, if not most, are tired of the same old thing. So how do you take hold of the life that really is life? First of all, you have to *stop trying*. Stop trying means that we must stop trying to substitute the way the Kingdom of Earth urges us to understand what our faith is all about. These sermons encouraged us to stop trying to do those things that we have been told to do:

- Stop trying to fix our lives. Following Jesus is about a new life. The new life is *real* life. Fixing our old lives is not the same as the new life.
- Stop trying to apply the Bible to life. The Bible is not a tool to apply to the life we have already planned. Instrumentalism (using the Bible as a tool) is a backwards faith. Instead, we should try to apply our lives to the Bible.
- Stop trying to apply common sense to faith. Common sense is a lot of hooey. Common sense cancels itself out by offering contradictory advice. Instead, faith embraces an uncommon sense.
- Stop trying to find God’s will for our lives. God does not have a plan for us to approve. What God offers has to be taken on faith. It requires that we trust God one step at a time.
- Stop trying to bargain with God. There is no substitute for what God invites us to do. That is the difference between belief (acceptance of certain facts) and faith (being willing to accept what God invites us to do). The invitation to us is “just do it”.
- Stop trying to plan according to our own resources. God promises everything we need in abundance. Doing God’s will requires more than our own resources because God wants the glory. Realizing that fact takes the onus off ourselves and urges us to yield to God’s will.
- Stop trying to make comfort and security our goals. Comfort and security are by-products of a different goal. God promises us that if we seek his kingdom first, he will provide for our needs, including comfort and security. In abundance!
- Stop trying to compare what others believe to what we believe. We are not to set ourselves up as judges of others. It’s their needs, not their beliefs, that matter. If they are not against us, then they are for us.
- Stop trying to put everybody on a spectrum. That’s what the Sadducees and the Pharisees were always doing. Jesus was neither a Sadducee nor a Pharisee nor a middle-of-the-roader. Jesus rejected any Kingdom of Earth spectrum. As Jesus’ disciples, we should do the same.
- Stop trying to impose your preferences on other people. Love does not insist on its own way (1 Cor. 13). The point is not *our* will, but God’s.
- Stop trying to redefine the past, control the present, or design the future. We are to accept ourselves for who we are, and accept others for who they are. What that means is that we have to relinquish control, or certainly relinquish our idea that we must control everybody else.
- Stop trying to be good. Being good is not the same as being holy, which means set apart for a special purpose. Doing good is what we are commanded; that is our special purpose. And the ultimate question is this: are we going to accept God’s invitation, or not?

Our charge is to stop trying to make our faith, and the world, a result of our own will, and to yield ourselves to God’s will...that it may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

HEALTH POINTS

As the flu season gets underway, here are a few reminders of how you can stay well. These steps could help you protect your family.

- Get vaccinated. A yearly vaccine is the number one line of defense against the flu. It is recommended for most people ages six months and older.
- Wash up. Put a stop to viruses and other germs with regular hand washing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer instead.
- Don't be too touchy-feely. Try not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
- Wipe 'em out. Viruses can survive on surfaces for days. So use a household disinfectant to clean objects that people handle frequently, such as door knobs, remote controls and computer keyboards.
- Steer clear. As much as possible, avoid people who are ill.
- Lay low. If you are sick, except for medical visits and other necessities, avoid going out until you are better. A general guideline: stay home until you are fever-free for at least 24 hours—without the

help of a fever-reducing medicine.

- Cover it! Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your arm (elbow bend) and follow up with a thorough hand washing.

To get the latest information on the 2011-12 flu season including where to find flu shot clinics near you, visit www.flu.gov.

Doctors can prescribe antiviral drugs to treat the flu. These are most effective when given in the first couple of days of the illness. They can be especially important for the people who are very ill, or who are at high risk of serious complications from the flu such as pregnant women; young children; adults age 65 and older; people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart and lung disease; and people whose immune systems are weakened by cancer, HIV, or other diseases. Talk with your doctor now or as soon as you feel ill to see if antivirals may be right for you.

Have a great Advent and Christmas season and stay well so you can enjoy it.

Judi

LESSONS & CAROLS

Shiloh's annual Festival of Lessons & Carols will be celebrated on Sunday morning, December 18, at 11:00 a.m. The Festival is a format for a service celebrating the birth of Jesus. The traditional story begins with the fall of humanity, continues through the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. This is all told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir music.

An English bishop, Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, first designed the order of worship in 1880, specifying the readings and carols to be used. He conceived the service as a way to keep the men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world, and now there are numerous variations of music and scripture readings. The best-known version is broadcast live annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve featuring carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College. The service was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928, and, except for 1930, has been broadcast every year since, even throughout World War II.

CUT THIS OUT AND POST IT!

Saturday, December 3	9:00 a.m.	Campus workday
Sunday, December 4	9:45 a.m.	First Sunday Fellowship and Mass Class
Sunday, December 11		Deadline for Christmas treats for the Charlotte USO
Sunday, December 18	11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Festival of Lessons & Carols Community Christmas Concert
Wednesday, December 21	6:00 p.m.	Congregational Christmas Party
Saturday, December 24	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service with communion
Sunday, December 25	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Day worship (no Sunday School)

The Spirit of Shiloh
Shiloh Presbyterian Church
2638 Grand Oaks Blvd.
Burlington, NC 27215

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