

# Hot Off the Press! 12/21/14

**advent** [ˈadˌvent] noun  
the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event

IN THE CHURCH, ADVENT SPIRITUALLY PREPARES US FOR THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARRIVAL IN ALL OF ETERNITY — JESUS THE CHRIST BEING BORN IN THE FLESH...GOD'S UNMERITED PRESENT TO THE WORLD.

**“The best of times and the worst of times...”**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent surrounded by all the World's and the Church's lovely trappings of Christmas, we may be tempted to forget the real *picture* of Christ's birth. The manger sits in stark contrast to the glitter and glitz. Eugene Petersen's *Message* paraphrase puts it this way: John 1:14

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son.

Jesus came *in the fullness of time*, but it took a long time for this to happen. Around us, the World says, “Be happy...it's Christmas time.” But many people this Christmas are lamenting — crying out, longing, hoping, asking God to show up in *their neighborhood* or to show up in the circumstances of those they love and pray for, including themselves.

They may have turned away from God or feel abandoned in their grief and struggle. Those who awaited Christ's birth more than 2000 years ago shared such feelings. Psalm 22 — verse 1 says, *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?* Psalm 54:1-2 cry out: *Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might. Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.*



Israel 'actively lamented.' The Prophet Isaiah spelled out the details — God's people searched the Scriptures, established traditions that helped them to acknowledge how God acted on His people's behalf in the past; were specific about their need, confessed their sin; asked for God's forgiveness and help; and affirmed their trust in Him that He would respond.

When Jesus arrived, Israel was weary of waiting. Yet, some of those who were looking for God to answer their prayers would:  
1. Travel to a back-water town filled to overflowing with strangers, only to lodge in a cold stable with animals [Mary & Joseph];  
2. Encounter supernatural beings who challenged them to abandon their jobs and their peaceful rural solitude [Shepherds];  
3. Leave their familiar surroundings and go to a distant land by following an astronomical phenomenon [Magi].  
In the Bible, Matthew 1-2:12 and Luke 1:1-79 tell the story. They all met at a manger to witness the arrival of a child unlike any other.

Today, wise men and women still come to the manger. They trust that whatever their lament, Jesus has come into *their neighborhood*. Thru hospitality, they meet and share Him — the pure, sinless, spotless Savior of the World. The Good News is that those who receive Him are freed from their sins and transformed by God's great love revealed through the Holy Spirit. In gratitude, they cannot help but join the angels in singing: *Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace among men and women with whom He is well pleased.* Luke 2:14.

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ADVENT SERIES BY SHARLYN STARE - starecvg@aol.com GRAPHIC - Adoration of the Magi by Gentile da Fabriano, 1423 AD

**Manger - Creche - Nativity Scenes**

When I was a child, our family could only afford a short Christmas tree. My father sat it upon two beer cases which left plenty of room underneath. *The star* hung from the lower branches of the tree. Our Nativity (the one with a sheep with a toothpick leg) sat underneath with the train village. Our family wasn't very religious, but our Manger scene of the Incarnation not only completed the Christmas decor, but offered a tangible tool for reflecting on the source of our joy.

Our Baby Jesus didn't arrive until Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, mother would remove all the 'supporting characters,' wrap them in newspaper comics and put them in a basket. The Christmas Story would be read before dinner the next day. After we ate, the basket would appear. Each diner would pick a wrapped figure and tell about it as if he/she was that person. Over the years, Mary, Joseph, the Wisemen and Jesus became *old friends*. Later, I came to know Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

The Nativity scene appears in 2nd Century Roman catacombs frescos. 1223AD, St. Francis of Assisi Italy created the first living Nativity scene with animals only. He used it to preach to the people about the *King for the Poor*. Overwhelmed with the Love of God, he was unable to utter Jesus Christ's name. St. Francis called Him the *Babe of Bethlehem*.



Half a century later, the first stationary Nativity scene with all the humans was crafted in marble. German Prince Albert, husband of England's Queen Victoria, introduced a life-sized Nativity to the court. Manger scenes became *the fashion*. They seem to be limited only by the imagination. [Pictured is one made from book pages.] **This year how might God use your Nativity Scene to reveal His love story in your neighborhood?**

**Adult Spiritual Formation Update**  
by William Custer

We have an exciting lineup of classes for the winter months! On January 4 there will be just one class, Finding God in China. Then the new series of classes below begins on Sunday, January 11. Several of these classes run for 11 weeks until Palm Sunday, others run for 6 weeks followed by different classes for 5 more until Palm Sunday. After Easter we will begin a six-week all church study.

**Finding God in Ancient China – January 4 Only**

Would you believe that ancient Chinese religion believed in one god who looked very much like the God of the Bible? But then things changed and Chinese religion worshipped many gods and the dragon took on special significance. When and how did this all come about. Come, hear and watch Dave Snyder and William Custer search an ancient empire and find vestiges of the Eternal Kingdom. Offered at 10:10am.

The winter series that begins January 11 will include the following:

- **Intro to the Life and Teachings of Jesus**
- **Hosea: Prophet of God's Love**
- **The Five Languages of Love**
- **Cat and Dog Theology**
- **Intro to the Apostles Creed**

Visit the registration desk in the Atrium for more details and to sign up.

**CHPC Christmas Schedule**

**Wednesday, December 24th**  
**Christmas Eve**

CHPC Offices are closed  
**Family Service at 5pm**  
**Candlelight / Communion Service at 8pm**

**Thursday, December 25th**  
**Christmas Day**

CHPC Offices are closed  
**Feast of Love Dinner from 12:30pm - 3:30pm**

**Friday, December 26th**  
CHPC Offices are closed

**Children and Worship**

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children's Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service. Then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service.

This week's helpers are:  
10:00am Jason McSwain, Jony Wiers, Josh & Ian Scheid  
Michelle Dyson will greet

**21. sunday**

9:00am Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
10:00am Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30pm ACA Meeting	Clubroom
6:30pm CRASH	BC 205 & 206

**22. monday**

**23. tuesday**

**24. wednesday**

CHPC Offices Closed

5:00pm	Family Christmas Service followed by refreshments in the atrium.
8:00pm	Candlelight / Communion Christmas Service followed by refreshments in the atrium.

**25. thursday**

CHPC Offices Closed for Christmas

Feast of Love  
Christmas Dinner  
12:30pm- 3:30pm

**26. friday**

CHPC Offices Closed for Christmas

**27. saturday**

2:00pm Praise Dancers	BC Lobby
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**The following assistive devices are available**  
Please ask the ushers if you need wheelchair seating or special hearing equipment. Also, hand-capped accessible bathrooms are located to the right of the platform in the hallway leading to the White House parking lot.

December 21 - December 27 calendar

## Announcements

**Celebrate and prepare your heart** for Advent with special music of the season by CHPC worship musicians just prior to service each Sunday during Advent.

**Love to bake Christmas cookies? Or Not?** We are looking forward to having a time of fellowship following our annual Christmas Eve services. Bring a few of your favorite homemade or store-made treats to share after our Christmas Eve services at 5 and 8pm. We'll have something warm for you to drink while you visit and share a few Christmas memories with your friends.

**Advent/Christmas Decor:** Honor your loved ones by contributing to poinsettia plants and greens used during December. Donors and honorees will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins. *Contact Sam Routzon by Dec. 22nd. Ext. 1125 or sroutzon@chpc.org.*

**Year End Giving** The CHPC Finance Office will be open until 5pm. on December 31st to accept 2014 charitable donations. Sending checks through the mail will also be credited to 2014 if postmarked by 12/31. As always, please make Janis McLemore aware of any stock gifts. Thank you for your much-needed support as we connect, serve & celebrate His kingdom on earth.

**Christmas Gift Idea** give a 'Summer Ministry Experience' to the kids and adults in your life. Youth Camp is the week of July 6; Swim Ministry the weeks of June 22, July 13 and July 27; Super Summer Service for Jr and Sr Highs June 14-20. Interested in a 'gift certificate' for any of these, contact Sam Stare (542-2442 or starecvg@aol.com) free gift box included with every certificate.

**Global Worker Christmas Gifts** Bless our Global Workers this Christmas. Your contributions are used to purchase Amazon gift cards for each family. Visit the Mission table on Main Street. Use one of the red or green envelopes, or put a check directly into the offering plate by 12/21. Be sure to specify it as 'Global Worker Christmas.' (these contributions are not tax deductible.)

**Perspectives On The World Christian Movement** Have you discovered your part in God's plan for saving the world? Find out more about the Perspectives On The World Christian Movement course starting in January at four churches in the Tri-State area. Visit CHPC's Main Street by the Global Workers' Christmas table. Or contact: Barry Stare bestare@aol.com 513-382-5897 www.perspectives.org.

**Help will be needed** after 2nd service on January 4th to bundle and take trees down and transport the Christmas decorations back to storage.

**Lectionary Readings** for 2015 are in the information rack in the Atrium.

## Children and Youth

**Children and Worship will be held today in Great Hall Rooms 1 and 2. Please pick up your children there after the service!**

**CRASH** Christmas party is tonight from 6:30-8:30pm. Bring a white elephant gift (something funny from your house or inexpensive from a store) and a friend (we want everyone to invite at least one person) and come ready to have a great time celebrating the birth of Christ.

## Serving in our Community

**Feast of Love** is in need of hams, applesauce and desserts for our Christmas Dinner. Volunteers are needed as well. Contact Bev if you have any questions.

**Deck the Trees with hats and mittens** So that we can give them all away. Please donate new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to our Feast of Love trees in the Artium. We will donate these items to area schools to warm the heads and hands of the children. Donations will be accepted through Christmas Eve.

**Treehouse Mentoring** needs more women and men to work with a child grade 4-6 at Pleasant Hill Academy, 5pm to 6pm Tuesdays. We have a waiting list of kids who want to get in! Contact Colleen Scheid 513-505-9826 or scheidison@gmail.com.

**CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION AND GIFTS** The Deacons want to thank everybody for their support of the Thanksgiving Food Collection. Over 366 families were served because of your generosity! Now it is time to start on the Christmas one. We will be collecting the instant mashed potatoes and canned sweet potatoes (same as last time) again on Dec. 7, 14 and 21. We will be collecting gifts for children from infants through age 17. Toys are good, but we could also use gift cards, disposable diapers, toothpaste, detergent or other hygiene items. Questions call David Welch 258-3808 or email dwelch@comey.com

**Lord's Bounty Applications** for scholarships and grants (for non-profit groups) are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to 5852 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224. Completed applications are due January 31, 2015.

## Prayer Page

*"... without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers," - Romans 1:9*

### **CHPC Community**

Nancy Wolf Ron Wolf  
Bill Wooten Dottie Zimmerman  
Loretta Burns Steve Burns

### **Staff**

Alan McKinney - Sound Team Leader

### **Officers/Leadership**

David Freas - Deacon

### **Home Bound/Health Center**

Marjory Klusmeier

### **Ministries**

pureHOPE

### **Global Workers**

### **In the Military**

Adam Steveley US Army Chris Jaeger USMC  
Cary Jaeger USMC Kirk Kalmbacher US Coast Guard  
Zach Scharf Army National Guard Nyjoel Baker Eielson AFB, AK  
Danny Holian US Navy Pilot Will Connor US Army  
Peter Leugers US Navy Amanda Leugers US Navy  
Joey Nieberding US Army

### **College/Career Students**

Katy Verhagen Victor Onyegbulum

### **Children and Youth**

Peace loving: "Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace." (Rom. 14:19)

### **Hamilton County JFS Featured Child**

Ryan



**December 21, 2014**  
**Christmas Change**  
*Hope For All*  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Smith

### **Welcome to**

*College Hill Presbyterian Church*

We're glad that you're worshiping with us today. Please let the ushers know if you have any special needs. There are many opportunities for worship, personal growth and service at CHPC. If you are a visitor, stop by the 5-Minute Party table to find out more about us. Please return, and be part of our dynamic church family!

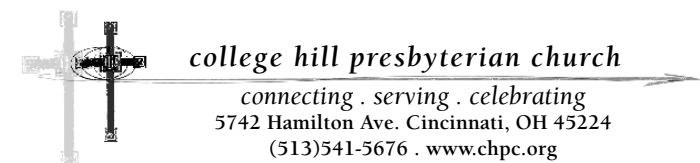
### **Upcoming Services**

**December 24th** 5pm Family Service  
8pm Candlelight / Communion Service  
**December 28** Christmas Change  
Change For All  
**January 4** Cat and Dog Theology  
Guest speaker: Dr. Luke Kuepfer

### **Order of Today's Service**

Prelude  
Carols  
Welcome & Opening Prayer  
Carols  
Passing of the Peace  
Scripture & Sermon  
Pastoral Prayer  
Offering / Closing Song  
Announcements  
Benediction  
Charge and Blessing  
Postlude

Please see an usher for a lyric sheet for the this service.



Building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ