

The Shiloh Spirit



Wallace Charles Smith, D.Min.
Senior Minister



The Pastor's Pen

On this the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the last of our Advent candles. The others have been purple or dark blue, and represented repentance. The one for today is pink, representing joy. No Christmas Carol represents this better than *Joy to the World*. It says the Lord has come; let Earth receive her King.

Our Lectionary Scriptures for today pick up the notion of joy's fulfillment. *Micah 5: 2-5* speaks of the location of the Savior's birth which would take place in Bethlehem, the tiniest of cities in Palestine, but the place where the greatest story ever told would commence.

Psalms 80 indicates that the bread of God's presence, kept in the Temple, was intended to make the people's faces shine with God's glory. However, through disobedience the bread of the presence has been replaced by the bread of tears. The Vine that God brought out of Egypt and planted in Palestine has been overrun by wild beasts. But the psalm ends with the word of hope that God will turn to Israel again and send her his servant who would save the nation, and that God would never again desert his people.

Hebrews 10:5-10 reminds us that all the sacrifices of animals could not cleanse Israel, because they needed to be performed year in and year out. However, the great High Priest, Jesus the Christ, performed the ultimate sacrifice. He gave himself to die for humanity's sins. Now we need never slaughter animals for atonement because Jesus paid it all.

Luke 1:47-55 is the song Mary sings in response to her cousin Elizabeth's blessing. Elizabeth, upon learning of the child Mary is to bear, blesses her. In response to that blessing Mary sings "My soul magnifies the Lord because God scatters the proud and exalts the lowly. He satisfies the hungry with good things."

The joy in these texts emanates from divine surprises. Bethlehem, an insignificant city, is the site of a great blessing. A tiny vine brought from Egypt grew to become a great nation. Learned and powerful priests could not make humankind right with God, only God's son who came to us as a lowly carpenter from an unimpressive city named Nazareth could save our souls. Mary, a peasant girl, not a princess in a palace, was the one God chose to be the mother of His only begotten son.

We can all sing on this fourth Sunday of Advent *Joy to the world the Lord has come*. This is our hope, our fulfillment, and our joy

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Sunday, December 20, 2009

Reading Through The Bible

December 27

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-54

January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22

January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

New Members Received by
Haggai Circle



This Week at Shiloh



Sunday, December 20, 2009

Deacons' Morning Prayer - 7:30 a.m./Deacons' Room

Church School Christmas Program (9:30 a.m.)	Sanctuary
DCCF Credit Union	LL/FLC
Guest Hospitality - Haggai Circle	HHS/FLC
Antioch Circle Meeting	216/FLC
Ever Ready Circle Meeting	COH/FLC
Gideon Circle & Golden Deed Circle Meeting	HHN/FLC
Grace Circle Meeting	LL/FLC
Hope Circle Meeting	TF/FLC
King's Messengers Circle Meeting	208/FLC
Progressive Circle Meeting	1363 Underwood Street, NW
Youth Council Meeting	Library/FLC

Monday, December 21, 2009

11:00 - Funeral Service for Douglas Dove.....Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

11:00 - Funeral Service for Emitte T. McGriff.....Sanctuary

December 23, 2009 - No Activities Scheduled

December 24-26, 2009 - Administrative Office & FLC Facilities Closed



Sunday, December 27, 2009

Deacons' Morning Prayer - 7:30 a.m./Deacons' Room

DCCF Credit Union	LL/FLC
Alpha Class	Gym/FLC
Caleb Class	Sanctuary/P Street Side-Rear
E.L. Harrison Class	COH/FLC
Ever Ready Class	Library/FLC
Excelsior Class	Sanctuary/Center
Genesis Class	RBC/FLC
John A. Miles Class	208/FLC
Littlejohn Class	Gym/FLC
Silent Mission Class	Gym/FLC
Waldron/Gill Class	Gym/FLC
Walker Memorial Class	216/FLC
Nursery & Pre-K Classes	LLA&B/FLC
Elementary & Upper Elementary Classes	LL/FLC
Jonathan Class	Sanctuary/Balcony
Middle School Class	RBC/FLC
Senior High Class	TF/FLC
Guest Hospitality - Helping Hand Circle	TF/FLC
Omega Circle Meeting	216/FLC
Sacrifice Circle & Torch Bearers Circle Meeting	HHN/FLC

Discipleship News

Notes From Our Members

Dear Pastor Smith – It's about time to put my thoughts in writing to let you know that my prayers have been with you and family. I am so glad to hear that you are improving and back in the pulpit. God knows when you need rest even when you think you must keep going ☺. Although my associate membership at St. Paul UMC (San Antonio, TX) has been a blessing I can't forget from where I came. Having joined Shiloh in 1946, married and became a widow at an early age (in my thirties), the church became my rock forever. I forward a check, by the grace of God's goodness, for the request you made some time ago for members to support Shiloh's special needs, at which time I could not comply, but did not forget. Thanks be to God. Happy Holidays to all in the family. Love and blessings,

Frances Jasper

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of Douglas Dove (King's Messengers Circle), Deaconess Ruth T. Moore (Berean Circle) and Emmite T. McGriff (Dorcas Circle).

Circles Leading Prayer & Praise Service

(Thursday Evenings)

December 24CHRISTMAS EVE
December 31WATCH NIGHT SERVICE
January 7.Golden Rule & Grace Circles
January 14.....Haggai & Helping Hand Circles

Circles Receiving New Members

December 20Haggai Circle
December 27Helping Hand Circle
January 3Hill Climbers Circle
January 10Hope Circle

Circles Serving Breakfast

December 20Ever Ready Circle
December 27Excelsior Circle
January 2.....Faith Circle
January 10Fellowship Circle

From Our Ministries....

End of Year Contributions

*** In order to receive tax credit for 2009, contributions must be received in the Church Finance Office no later than December 31, 2009 ***

Attention Mutual Aid Members

Please meet with Annie Johnson TODAY from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Heritage Hall. Business of importance

Church School Lessons

At-A-Glance

December 27 (Matthew 2:7-9, 16-23) **Magi Confirm Messiah's Birth** – King Herod inquired of the Wise Men where the king of the Jews had been born. The Magi searched for Jesus by following the bright star. When they found Jesus, they concluded that He was worth seeking.

January 3, 2010 (Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17) **Proclaimed in Baptism** – The prophet Isaiah prophesied John the Baptist's ministry. Though Jesus came to him to be baptized, John felt he needed to be baptized by Jesus. However, Jesus showed humility and obedience to God when He came to John for baptism. Then a voice from heaven confirmed Jesus as the Son of God.

January 10, 2010 (Matthew 4:1-11) **Strengthened in Temptation** – Jesus' time of temptation followed the high moment of His baptism. During His temptation, He recited Scripture. The devil tried to test Jesus' power and authority as God's Son, but Jesus did not fail. All of us face temptation in life. How can we overcome it? Jesus' experience of overcoming temptation set an example for us.

Family Life Center Foundation Appreciation

The Henry C. Gregory III Family Life Center Foundation is grateful for the tremendous generosity and support received from Shiloh members throughout 2009. The Family Life Center Foundation Board of Directors and staff were deeply saddened by the sudden passing this year of beloved board member, Bradley Grogan. Shaken also by the departure of the former Executive Director, Reverend Jackie Thompson, the Family Life Center Foundation ends the year, nonetheless, excited over the promise and potential of what will surely be a great New Year.

As this year comes to an end, the Family Life Center Foundation is seeking more volunteers for the Male Youth Program and the Debutante Cotillion Program. Our new Executive Director, Lorraine Holmes Settles, has been a blessing to the Foundation and this community. However, more funds are needed to keep requisite programs alive. Your 100% tax-deductible contributions are appreciated and welcome. Please make checks payable to the Family Life Center Foundation and leave it in an envelope at the Security Desk, attention Reverend Crystal Kuykendall. If you would like to bless your new year and many other lives as a volunteer, please contact Lorraine H. Settles (202 232-4288 ext. 21). The Family Life Center thanks you in advance for your support and generous contributions. To God be the glory!

Kennedy Center Performers Shine in Community Messiah

Patrick McCoy

December 14, 2009 – Washington Examiner

Below is a reprint (*permission granted December 16, 2009*) of an article published in the December 14, 2009 issue of the Washington Examiner related to the Shiloh Senior Choir Messiah Concert on Sunday, December 13, 2009

It is not uncommon to experience the unparalleled musicianship of performers who have performed at the Kennedy Center out in the D.C. community. Thomas Dixon Tyler, who served for many years as Artistic Director of the Washington Performing Arts Society Children of the Gospel led The Senior Choir of Historic Shiloh Church and chamber orchestra in a performance of Messiah by G. F. Handel. The accomplished organist/pianist/singer Evelyn Simpson Curenton gave solid organ support to the involved performance forces. Curenton also has enjoyed a long association with The Kennedy Center under the auspices of Washington Performing Arts Society. Featured in the beginning of the program was a glorious setting of "Joy to the World" by composer and conductor of The Washington Chorus, Julian Wachner. For those who may not be able to make it to the NSO Messiah or the Sing-Along Messiah at The Kennedy Center, I would encourage you to consider the presentation at Shiloh next year.

Soloists for the performance were soprano Millicent Scarlett, mezzo-soprano Sylvia V. C. Twine, tenor Rodrick Dixon and bass-baritone Charles E. K. Parris. The soloists were all of professional stature. Most notably, soprano Millicent Scarlett and tenor Rodrick Dixon were the standouts. Dixon's well focused tenor displayed authority and confidence, particularly in the aria "Every Valley" and "Thou Shalt Break Them". In "Rejoice Greatly," Scarlett sang the melismatic runs with pristine accuracy and gave noticeable contrast between the A and B sections of the aria. In "He Was Depised" Twine brought the listener into the anguish of Christ, singing with great warmth and conviction. Making his "Shiloh Messiah debut" Parris, a former student of Maestro Tyler was at his best in "Why Do the Nations" singing with accuracy. Though not possessing a robust, resonant bass, Parris displayed devout musicianship that will aid him in his promising career. Musical genius and keyboard extraordinaire, Everett P. Williams, former organist at Shiloh rendered a rousing medley of carols on the church's Casavant Organ to full effect.

Under the direction of Maestro Tyler, the well-prepared choir sang beyond the expectation of the "average" church choir sound. Precise diction, seamless phrases and tasteful use of dynamic contrast were all trademarks of this magnificent performance. Each year, a new dimension is added to the Shiloh presentation of Messiah. Breathtaking images accompanied the rendering of the oratorio.

The Music/Worship Ministry has copies of DVDs of the Messiah – just in time for the holidays – Should anyone want to place an order you may do so by contacting Dr. Hattie Davis (202/882-3510) or obtain an order form from Dr. Davis today.

About Our Members.....

Congratulations to Reverend Crystal Kuykendall, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Henry C. Gregory III Family Life Center Foundation, educator, attorney, motivational speaker, business owner and now, talk show hostess. Reverend Kuykendall will host her own show, "Magnifying the Power of Merchants of Hope" on **Voice America Variety**, every Friday evening (7:00 – 8:00 pm) beginning January 8, 2010. Each show will re-air on Saturday mornings at 7:00 am. Visit www.voiceamerica.com and click on the show. With outstanding guests, who will address critical issues of our time, this show will provide a forum whereby success strategies are shared and problems related to youth violence, social justice and education are addressed in an upbeat and entertaining forum. You can also join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter @merchantradio.

