

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29th, 2015

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Emory & Henry Students*

INTROIT *I Was Glad*

+CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 25*

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

One: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

All: **In you we place our trust, O God. Do not let us be put to shame.**

One: Make us to know your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths.

All: **Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation!**

+HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #8

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Savior, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. But who can endure the day of your coming? We confess you as Lord, yet our paths remain crooked; our ways, rough. We lose sight of your ways, believing that our primary purpose in this life is to collect and consume more and more. We are self-centered, squandering the opportunities you give us to help others, to make the world a better place. Forgive us, O God; show us your tender mercies. Awaken us to your coming and refine us with the fire of your Spirit that we may live as people of light, and walk in ways of peace, to your glory and praise. Amen.

+ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

+RESPONSE *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward for the Time for Young Disciples. Afterward, children ages 5 thru 3rd grade may go to Worship Our Way (W.O.W.) while children in 4th grade and older are invited to worship with their families.

+HYMN *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* #11

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Malachi 3:1-4 p. 841 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Advent Alleluia* *arr. Christopher*

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:1-9 p. 52 NT

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED **Tim Reynolds**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from The Confession of 1967*

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in us as sin in the sight of God. In sin, we claim mastery of our own lives, turn against God and one another, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. We lose our humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without God's forgiveness. Thus, we all fall under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than those of us who assume that we are guiltless before God or morally superior to others. God's love never changes. Against all who oppose him, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God took upon himself judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring us to repentance and new life.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory

+Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592

+Prayer of Dedication

+HYMN *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* #10

+BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *May The Grace*

+POSTLUDE

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

THIS MORNING...

- the liturgist is Fred Holt
- the acolytes are Lila Godfrey and Kaylee Arney
- the bell ringer is Milo Leidig
- Big W.O.W. leaders are Kurt & Amber Moran
- Little W.O.W leaders are Alicia Arney and Summer Allen
- the nursery volunteer is Jan Hardman and Sarah Allen
- the sound board tech is Rick Ratliff



WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

Elders: **Matt Crum & Joey Lamie**

VISITORS: We are delighted to have you with us this morning and hope you feel at home. Please let us know a bit about you by filling in your information in the Friendship Register. **A Nursery is available** for infants and children through age 4. If you need directions an usher can assist you.

HEARING DEVICES are available for the hearing impaired from an usher.

THIS MORNING WE BEGIN AN ADVENT SERMON SERIES based on Charles Dickens' beloved tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The series is called *The Ghosts of Christmas* and seeks to discover what this classic Christmas story, which is as relevant as it has ever been, has to say to us today as we examine, one by one, the ghosts that appear to Ebenezer Scrooge. Perhaps we, ourselves, will even be haunted by these ghosts as we prepare for the coming of Christmas.

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS:

Nov 29	Luke 3:1-9	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: Marley's Ghost</i>
Dec 6	Isaiah 61:1-3	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: The Ghost of Christmases Past</i>
	Luke 4:16-21	
Dec 13	Luke 1:39-55	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: The Ghost of Christmas Present</i>
Dec 20	2 Timothy 1:6-7	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: The Ghost of Christmases Yet to Come</i>

WE ARE IN NEED OF A VOLUNTEER to run the sound board on the 1st Sunday of each month. We will train you and you will need to be able to commit to being here 15 minutes early and staying 15 minutes after the service. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tim or Rick Ratliff.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED: If you, your family, your group of friends, Sunday School Class, Fellowship Group, or any other combination of folks are interested in lighting the candles on the Advent wreath on please let Pastor Tim know. We have no one signed up beyond today.

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT WILL BE ON Saturday, December 5th at 8:00 p.m. The choir will be accompanied by Joey and a 9 piece professional orchestra. Afterwards, there will be a reception in the parlor. There will be no nursery this year. As always, concert is free, but donations to Faith in Action are appreciated.

BOOKLOVER'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PROGRAM – Friday, December 4th at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary **everyone** is invited to come and enjoy music by Tuesday Reynolds, Joey Trivette and student musicians from Southwest Virginia Community College.

ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER ART: The drawing on the cover of this week's bulletin is called "Marley's Ghost" and was drawn by Fred Barnard (1846-1896) as part of the 1878 publication of *A Christmas Carol*. Barnard illustrated many of Dickens publications, including *David Copperfield* and *A Tale of Two Cities*.

WE WELCOME SCHERY COLLINS TO WORSHIP TODAY, she is filling in while Dr. Trivette is out of town.

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY

Elders: **Georgia Crews & Rachel Fowlkes**

DURING THE COMING WEEK, Stephen Minister trainees will have a chance to review and put together all they have learned about care giving. Upon commissioning on December 13, they will be prepared to meet with care receivers. Please call Pastor Tim at the church or Stephen Leader, Toni Oliver, (276-206-3321) if you would like to be assigned a Stephen Minister or know someone that may benefit from their care.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH
Elders: Alicia Arney, Kay Bunn & Mimi Hull

FRIENDS OF SANTA will be giving out goodie bags and gift cards to those who need extra assistance during the Christmas season. YOU CAN HELP with the application and distribution process November 30th, December 1st, December 2nd, December 3rd and December 4th at St. John's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. If you are interested and available, please call Sue Croghan at 276-608-0547 for more information.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU for the congregation's generous response for the *Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Ministry*. Sixty-three boxes filled with Christmas joy were delivered to Boone, NC for delivery to needy children around the world.

OUR ANNUAL MITTEN TREE will be located in the Narthex beginning today until the week following Christmas. Contributions of warm hats, mittens and scarves will be taken to Faith in Action for distribution to needy families.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with Social Club!! Heartfelt thanks to the *After-School kids* who made the "turkey" candy favors for each table; to *Dean* for cooking a complete turkey dinner with dressing and the works; to *Tim* for providing dinner music on the keyboard; to *Joe* for calling the bingo game; and to all the *church members* who donated prizes (which were very popular!); and to the *numerous volunteers (from kids to adults)* who came to set up, serve, and clean-up. We are so blessed to serve this great group of folks.

KNITTERS NEEDED for prayer shawls ministry, please contact Gypsy Holt at 628-3442 for more information.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP
Elders: Danny Wilson & Kate Shockley

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: We are currently studying the book of Daniel. We invite you to come explore this book with us on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE AVAILABLE on the table in the Narthex. This year's Advent Devotional is special because it was written by members of our own congregation! Created specifically to be a companion piece to Pastor Tim's Advent sermon series, *The Ghosts of Christmas*, these Advent Devotionals are meant to be used in preparation for the season of Christmas. It includes reflections on Christmases Past and Present from some of your fellow members at Sinking Spring, tips on how to celebrate a simpler and more meaningful Christmas, and a list of Worship & Service Opportunities available during the Advent season. We invite you to use these devotionals by yourself, with your family, or with your friends as a way to prepare yourself for the wonder that is Christmas.

THE ELEMENTARY AFTER SCHOOL children will go to Commonwealth Assisted Living in Abingdon to sing for the residents this Wednesday, December 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

THE CHILDREN will present, *A Christmas to Believe In* on Saturday December 12th at 5:30 p.m. Come see how the children convince one unbelieving narrator that Christmas is real.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY, Sunday, November 29th
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 1st
 8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall
 8:00 p.m. Al Anon next to Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 2nd
 3:00 p.m. After School
 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir
 6:00 p.m. Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Orchestra Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 3rd
 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Shoney's
 6:15 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
 8:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 5th
 8:00 p.m. Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 6th Communion
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
Elders: Danny Brown & John Legard

Stewardship & Attendance for November 22, 2015
 Attendance: 162
 Offering: \$3,209.00

THE HUNGER OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED NEXT SUNDAY

CHURCH BULLETINS are now available on our website! The link to view is <http://www.sinkingspring.org/worship.html#ws>.

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: Mazie Cook, Helen Napps, and Reed Cooke (Commonwealth Assisted Living), Hazel Warden (Abingdon Rehab) and Don Preston

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE NEW CONCERNS:

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONTINUED CONCERNS: Charles Henninger, Richie Hooker, Sherrye May, Ernie & Mary Barr, Bunn Family, Charlene Armstrong, Cathy Day, Rosemary Sweet and Jill Minnick

AND FOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: Joseph McGraw, Mark Widener, Walter Holcomb Jr., John Nowell II, John Nowell III and Dexter Bevis

*Names remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer

Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church
Organized 1772

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



SINKING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

136 E. Main St. + Abingdon, VA 24210

Church Office: 276.628.3361

Email: office@sinkingspring.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

www.sinkingspring.org

Ministers: Members & Friends of the Congregation
Teaching Elder: Tim Reynolds pastor@sinkingspring.org
Director of Music: Arch Snyder agstonsilcoach@gmail.com
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