

November 30, 2008 / 1st Sunday of Advent

J. William Harris, Pastor

John G. Hipp, Pastor Emeritus

We greet one and all in the name of Jesus Christ. On this first Sunday of Advent, may we all prepare spiritually for Christ's birth. The light shines in the darkness!

We Turn Our Thoughts Toward God

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING *(Please register your attendance.)*

*Hymn of Advent: 211 (1st verse) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Choir

THE ADVENT CELEBRATION

*Hymn of Praise: 196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Proclaiming the Word

*Psalter: 801 – Psalm 80:1 - 7

*Affirmation of Faith: 881 – The Apostles' Creed

*The Gloria Patri: 70 – "Glory Be to the Father"

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS:

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY: 95 – "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

*Hymn of Preparation: 382 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison):

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: 599 – Isaiah 64:1 - 9

ANTHEM

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 809 – Mark 13:24 - 37

This is the Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Mr. Beau Lockaby

Responding to the Word

*Hymn of Commitment: 217

"Away in a Manger"

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"We Will Stand"

Choir

*RECESSIONAL

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

TODAY:

9:30am Altar Prayer 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Worship

THIS WEEK: *****

Tues. , Dec. 2,	6:30pm –	Cub Scouts
	7:00pm –	Circle #2
	7:00pm –	Trustees
Wed. , Dec. 3,	7:00pm –	Bible Study
	7:45pm –	Choir Practice
Thurs. , Dec. 4,	11:30am –	VIP's
Fri. , Dec. 5,	6:00pm –	Willing Workers Class Christmas Party
Sat. , Dec. 6,	6:00pm –	Chug Matthews Class Christmas Party

NEXT WEEK: *****

Sun. , Dec. 7,	9:30am –	Blood Pressure Screening
	3:00pm –	Emerald Gardens
Mon. , Dec. 8,	6:30pm –	Greenwood Writer's Guild Christmas Dinner
Tues. , Dec. 9,	6:30pm –	Cub Scout Pack 905 Christmas Party
Wed. , Dec. 10,	7:00pm –	Bible Study
	7:45pm –	Choir Practice

SERVING OUR LORD:	Today	Next Week
Nursery:	Volunteer	Volunteer
Acolyte:	Andrew Joseph	Andrew Joseph

Preparation for Worship: O God, on this first Sunday of Advent, help us prepare for the celebration of your Incarnation in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We come humbly into your loving presence. Amen.

Welcome to all who visit with us today. Your presence enhances our worship of Almighty God. Please sign a visitor's card, found in the pew racks, and give it to an usher during the offering, or sign the pew register pad found at the end of each pew. You are always welcome at Mathews.

A Memorial for John Cox was given to Mathews UMC by his family, in remembrance of John & Dutsie's 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 29, 2008.

Today is United Methodist Student Day. This special offering awards scholarships and loans to students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities. Please use the envelope provided in your bulletin to help prepare students to unite faith with knowledge.

"A Connie Maxwell Christmas" – December 4-6, 2008, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. Everyone is invited and the admission is free. You may drive through the campus to enjoy the lights, Christmas music, and the live nativity scene, or you can take a ride on a horse-drawn wagon to enjoy the same. For more information, call 1-800-868-2624 or visit www.conniemaxwell.com.

*Please stand (if your health permits), as a means of giving honor to God.