

December 14, 2008 / 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

J. William Harris, Pastor

John G. Hipp, Pastor Emeritus

**We gladly welcome all worshipers on this third Sunday of Advent. May we all prepare for the joyous celebration of the coming of our Lord, Jesus the Christ.**

We Turn Our Thoughts Toward God

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Open Our Eyes, Lord"*

Choir

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

\*Hymn of Advent: 211 (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

THE ADVENT CELEBRATION

\*Hymn of Praise: 220

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

Proclaiming the Word

\*Psalter: 847 – Psalm 126

\*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: 230

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

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: 950 – I Thessalonians 5:16 - 24

ANTHEM

*"He Is Born / King of Kings"*

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 846 – John 1:1 - 8, 19 - 28

This is the Word of God for the people of God

***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

*"Don't Get Grandparents Started"*

Dr. Bill Harris

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn of Commitment: 240

*"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*"My Peace"*

Choir

\*RECESSIONAL

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

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

TODAY:

9:30am Altar Prayer

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Morning Worship

THIS WEEK: \*\*\*\*\*

Tues., Dec. 16, 6:30pm –

Cub Scouts

7:00pm – Wisewood Neighborhood Meeting

Wed., Dec. 17, 7:00pm –

Bible Study

7:45pm – Choir Practice

NEXT WEEK: \*\*\*\*\*

Sun., Dec. 21, 10:00am –

Children & Youth Christmas Party

Wed., Dec. 24, 7:00pm –

Christmas Eve Service

Thurs., Dec. 25, Merry Christmas!!!

SERVING OUR LORD:

Today

Next Week

Nursery:

Volunteer

Volunteer

Acolyte:

Andrew Joseph

Andrew Joseph

**Preparation for Worship:** *Lord of all, enable us to always be ready for the fulfillment of history when "the coming of the Lord is near." Make us holy, as you are holy. 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 Sammy Harrison** was received from Earl & Rachel Harrison.

**A Memorial for Irene McClain** was received from Earl & Rachel Harrison.

**The Willing Workers Class** gave a gift to the Church Budget in honor of: Buck Anders, Nina Mathis, Mary Deloach, Jesse Nance, Carol Hipp, Ray Snelling, Rev. John Hipp, and Nancy Trustee

**The Children & Youth Christmas Party** will be next Sunday, Dec. 21, at 10:00am, during the Sunday School hour. This is for the children and youth who attend Sunday School regularly.

**Our Christmas Eve Service** will be here at Mathews at 7:00pm on Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a combined service with Harris UMC. Invite your family and friends to worship with us as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

**Newsletter** – If you have any information for the January/February newsletter, please have it into the church office by Monday, Dec. 22. Please write it on a piece of paper or send it by e-mail to [mathews@mathewsumc.org](mailto:mathews@mathewsumc.org). (If you tell it to me in passing, it may not be remembered and will not be in the newsletter.)

**Church Contributions** – All Tithes & Offerings and other contributions for 2008 need to be in by Sunday, Dec. 28. Contributions received after that date will be recorded for the 2009 year.

**Offering envelopes for 2009** are now available and can be found on the tables in the vestibule and near the secretary's office.