

December 28, 2008  
 J. William Harris, Pastor  
 John G. Hipp, Pastor Emeritus

**On this Sunday after Christmas, it's with continuing joy that we gather to praise Almighty God. With warmth and happiness, we welcome all to the house of God.**

We Turn Our Thoughts Toward God

PRELUDE  
 CALL TO WORSHIP  
 WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING *(Please register your attendance.)*  
 INVOCATION  
 \*Hymn of Praise: 249 Choir  
*"There's a Song in the Air"*

Proclaiming the Word

\*Psalter: 861 – Psalm 148  
 \*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: 240 *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

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: 935 – Galatians 3:26 - 4:7

ANTHEM Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 816 – Luke 2:22 - 40  
 This is the Word of God for the people of God  
***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON: Dr. Bill Harris  
*"The Burden and Blessing of Christmas"*

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn of Commitment: 217 *"Away in a Manger"*  
 \*BENEDICTION  
 \*CHORAL RESPONSE 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:** \*\*\*\*\*

**Wed.,** Dec. 31, 7:00pm – No Bible Study

**Thurs.,** Jan. 1, Happy New Year!!!

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

**Sun.,** Jan. 4, 9:30am – Blood Pressure Screening  
 3:00pm – Emerald Gardens

**Tues.,** Jan. 6, 6:30pm – Cub Scouts  
 7:00pm – UMW Circle #1  
 7:00pm – Trustees

**Wed.,** Jan. 7, 7:00pm – Bible Study  
 7:45pm – Choir Practice

SERVING OUR LORD:	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Nursery:</b>	Volunteer	
Volunteer		
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Andrew Joseph	Andrew Joseph

**Preparation for Worship:** *Dear Lord, on this first Sunday after Christmas, remind us that the Christ child can live in us if we surrender constantly to him. 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 Bill & Eddie Hodges** was received from Jimmie Hodges.

**New Roof** – Have you noticed the new roof on the church? It took four days and many hard-working men to get it completed on Dec. 18. Thanks to all who contributed to the Building Fund to help with the purchase of this new roof.

**Church Contributions** – All Tithes & Offerings and other contributions for 2008 need to be in today. Contributions received after today 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.

**Children's Goody Bags** – We need volunteers to make goody bags for Kids of the Kingdom time. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the pastor's office. Please sign up for the month(s) you wish to help.



**Worthy of note ...**

A young boy wrote to his aunt after Christmas: 'Dear Aunt Ruth, I want to thank you for all the gifts you have sent me in the past, and all you intend to send me in the future. Love, Eugene.'  
 (No doubt, he will grow up to be a diplomat.)

