

The Monthly



M
E
S
S
E
N
G
E
R

Of Heritage
Congregational
Church
Berea, Ohio

December 2011
&
January 2012



Holiday Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday Worship During Advent - 10:30 a.m.

Advent I - November 27th
Lighting of the Advent Candles

Advent III - December 11th
"The Re-gifting Gifts"

Advent II - December 4th
Communion Sunday

Advent IV - December 18th
Chancel Choir Cantata

Advent V - December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:45 p.m. - Saturday, December 24, 2011

Hanging of the Greens - Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

The church sanctuary and fellowship hall will be decorated for Christmas.

This will be followed by a "homemade soup" lunch.

There will be homemade "Christmas Cookies-Bars" for dessert.

Christmas Cantata - Sunday, December 18th
at 10:30 a.m.

The Chancel Choir of Heritage Church will present

"Sing and Rejoice"

by Robert Thygersson



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 24th at 6:45 p.m.

A service with family and friends:

Familiar carols will be sung at 6:45 p.m.

There will be special music, a message and will close with

"Silent Night" as the sanctuary is lit by candles.

Jesus was born giving His people "Hope".



Hand Bell Choir - Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day
at 10:30 a.m.

They will be playing "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

By J. Baptiste Calkin, words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



FOCUS ON CHRIST



by Dr. Patrick F. Hunt



Here we are again. The Christmas season is upon us and we have renewed a recurring theme that seems to abound every year. Do we say, "Merry Christmas", or "Happy Holidays." Is it "Jesus is the reason for the season." or "There are many reasons for the season." The reality is that no matter what the rest of society wants to focus on, I choose to focus on "the **CHRIST** in **CHRIST**mas." This season is no different than any other time for those who are without Christ. It simply verifies what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV) "**14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.**"

Most of the world cannot focus on Christ because they cannot see Christ as being any more important than any other great figure in the history of the ages. He is an historical character like Aristotle, Socrates, Siddhartha Gautama (Buddhism), Muhammad or any other philosopher or religious figure. Therefore they do not celebrate him as having ascendancy over the world and all that it contains. I see Christ as that because I believe in the authority of the Christian scriptures. There, I am told the following:

Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV)

"15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

Therefore, if the above is true (it is), then whatever others may do and say about this particular season will have no bearing on what I do and say. Of course, I would wish that everyone would see Christ as I see Him. I would wish that all people over all the earth would celebrate Him as the creator God who emptied Himself and became obedient unto death upon the cross. I would wish that they could lift Him up as the promised Messiah. Alas, that will not be the case. They will do other things that give them a reason for celebration. They will remove his name from cards, plays, songs, and displays. They may choose to say, "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". That still does not change my celebration and my worship. I stand with Joshua as he made the following declaration to the Nation of Israel:

Joshua 24:14-15 (NIV)

"14 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness.

Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped

beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."



Merry Christmas!

Heritage News...



"Hanging of the Greens"

Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

Join us at the church to help decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall for advent. This will be followed by a "homemade soup" lunch. **We ask everyone to bring their favorite cookies to share.** We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m. No Women's Bible Study in December and No Men's Fellowship Breakfast.



Mayflower Guild's Annual Christmas Tea

Wednesday, December 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Mayflower Guild would like to invite all the ladies of the church and their friends to attend the Christmas Tea. We will have a program entitled; **"MIRACLES", the Three Preludes to the First Noel** presented by Jacquelyn Mayer with Bev Thomas accompanying on the piano. If you are interested in attending please see Joann Veroche for your ticket/s. It is a \$10.00 donation per person. We are looking forward to a special time of food and fellowship.

Celebration Potluck

Sunday, December 18th
Following the morning
worship service.



Everyone is invited to come.

Please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall if you can attend and what item you would like to bring: potatoes, veggies-salad, or dessert.

The meat will be provided.

"Jack Frost Festival of Lights Parade"

In Downtown Berea

Saturday, December 3rd
at 6:00 p.m.



Chancel Choir Presents

"Sing and Rejoice"

By Robert Thygersson
Sunday, December 18th
at 10:30 a.m.



The Annual Christmas Cantata will be presented during the morning worship service. We are looking forward to this service. Leah Frank will be directing and playing the piano/organ. There will be a drama to go along with the cantata.

Live Nativity at St. Andrew's Church

Friday, December 16th

&

Saturday, December 17th

6 - 8 P.M.

Cookies and cocoa served inside.



Hand Bell Choir

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

By J. Baptiste Calkin

Words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Sunday, December 25th
at 10:30 a.m.

Bev Thomas will be directing the Hand Bell Choir. They will be playing during the morning worship service

Mayflower Guild Meeting

Wednesday, January 11th at 10:00 a.m.
Hostesses: Laverne Chown & Sue Waldron
Please bring a salad or sandwich, dessert and beverage will be provided.



“The Deacon’s Bench”



*A Most **Blessed Christmas** to You and Yours*

This month's issue will carry us through the ending of one year and the beginning of a new year.

*Every year consists of days of **89,400** seconds.*

The choice is ours to use or lose. Once past they can never be repeated. There are no 'reruns' in eternity's time line.

If we chose to 'use', then we have to make the choice of 'how to use.'

In these economic times the battle is going on in full force to finish a depressing year in a blaze of bright glitter and glitz.

To bring smiles of self gratification in the gain of temporary material "things."

Better to retreat from the secular into the spiritual loving, healing hands of our Savior.

The ONE who came into this world as a warm adorable, cuddly babe to be cradled into our hearts.

Oh, that we might use the New Year to learn of Him. To learn how HE would have us to serve, to heal, to bring comfort and peace so that we might follow HIM beyond the rainbow and find out "The Best is Yet to Come!"

I invite you to come and join us into deeper smaller group study in 2012.

In closing out 2011, I would like to share with you something an old English Bard once penned.

"And as the Old year slips away...He kindly with him takes...The pages we have blurred and marred... with failures and mistakes. The blighted hopes and needless fears... are gone beyond control... And ours

once more the fair, clean page... The New Year brings to all!"

"Live in harmony in the Lord... Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say REJOICE... The Lord is near." Philippians 4:2-5



Shirley Coy



Heritage Congregational Church
485 West Street
Berea, OH 44017

Time Sensitive Mail



Heritage Congregational Church

485 West Street, Berea, OH 44017

Dr. Patrick F. Hunt, Pastor

Sunday Worship Schedule:

10:30 a.m. - Worship

11:30 a.m. - Fellowship and Coffee Hour

Heritage Church Office: (440) 826-1641 or 826-1648 (Fax)

Secretary's Hours: 9:00 -12:00 Noon M-F

Pastor's e-mail: pastor.heritage@att.net

Secretary's email: heritage.sec44017@att.net

Call for more information about weekly Bible Studies and activities

Our Internet Website: <http://www.heritagechurchberea.org>

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Every Sunday this month: 10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship Service 11:30 am - Fellowship Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Merry Christmas & Blessed New Years!</p>				1 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir	2	3 10 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens & Soup Luncheon 6 p.m. – “Jack Frost Festival of Lights Parade”
<p>4 <i>Advent II</i> Communion Sunday 10:30 a.m. – Worship Svc. Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast At the High School 8-2 p.m. 6 30 p.m.–A.A. Mtg. Heritage</p>	<p>5 *Annual Reports. Due* 12:00 Noon – Diaconate Mtg.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 <u>No Bible Study</u></p>	<p>8 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 “633” & Praise Band Playing at City Mission Christmas Dinner</p>
<p>11 <i>Advent III</i> 10:30 a.m. – Worship Svc. 3 p.m. – Berea Care Nursing Home Service 6 30 p.m.–A.A. Mtg. Heritage</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 1 p.m. – Mayflower Guild Christmas Tea <u>No Bible Study</u></p>	<p>15 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir</p>	<p>16 <i>Poinsettia’s Delivered</i> 7:30 p.m. Lake Erie Monsters Hockey Game Youth/Adult Outing</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 <i>Advent IV</i> 10:30 a.m. – Worship Svc. Chancel Choir Cantata (Morning Worship Svc.) “Celebration Potluck” (Following Morning Worship Svc.) 6 30 p.m.–A.A. Mtg. Heritage</p>	<p>19 7 p.m. – Trustee Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 <u>No Bible Study</u></p>	<p>22 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 6:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>
<p>25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:30 a.m. – Worship Svc. Bell Choir Playing (Morning Worship Svc.) 6 30 p.m.–A.A. Mtg. Heritage</p>	<p>26 Church Office Closed 7:30 p.m. – Cabinet Mtg.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <u>No Bible Study</u></p>	<p>29 6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year’s Eve</p>

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Communion Sunday</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>New Year's Day</i></p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – A.A. Mtg. Htg.</p>	<p>2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Messenger Articles Due</i></p> <p>7 p.m. – Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 a.m. – <i>No Men's Fellowship Breakfast</i></p> <p>10 a.m. Taking Down of the Christmas Greens.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>3 p.m. Berea Care Nursing Home Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – A.A. Mtg. Htg.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>10 a.m. – Mayflower Guild Meeting</i></p> <p>7 p.m. – Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. – Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>Annual Reports Available</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – A.A. Mtg. Htg.</p>	<p>16</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Church Office Closed</i></p> <p>7 p.m. - Trustee Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7 p.m. – Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10 a.m. – Women's Bible Study Group</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"2012 Annual Meeting"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Congregational Meeting</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Following morning svc.</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. – A.A. Mtg. Htg.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00-2:20 p.m. – BW Class</p> <p>7:30 p.m. – Cabinet</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:15-11:35 a.m. - BW Class 1:00-2:20 p.m. – BW Class 2:40-4:00 p.m. – BW Class</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7 p.m. – Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – Prayer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Messenger Assembled</i></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>*Pick up your Messenger</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – A.A. Mtg. Htg.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00-2:20 p.m. – BW Class</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:15-11:35 a.m. - BW Class 1:00-2:20 p.m. – BW Class 2:40-4:00 p.m. – BW Class</p>	<p><i>Every Sunday this month:</i></p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship Service 11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour</p> <p>Happy New Year 2012!!</p>			