



*The Word that took root
in the darkness of Mary's womb,
that took flesh and
walked around in this world,
that emerged not only
in the laboring of a woman
but also in the laboring
of generations to follow,
the ancient Word
that springs forth anew
—this Word seeks to dwell deeply in us,
to be born into the world through us
in this and every season.
— Jan Richardson*

Advent and Christmas 2006

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10

“Word Among Us: Peace”

Luke 1.68-79

Coronation Mass

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Service of Light in the Darkness

3:00 p.m.

Christmas Open House

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

at the home of Tom & Carole Hanks

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17

“Word Among Us: Joy”

Luke 1.39-45

**Christmas Caroling on the bus
and Chili Supper**

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24

“Word Among Us: Love”

Luke 2.1-12

Christmas Eve

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00 p.m.

From Our Associate Pastor . . .

During the first week of Advent our preacher, Veronica, said that this is life's nature, that lives and hearts get broken, those of people we love, those of people we'll never meet. She said the world sometimes feels like the waiting room of the emergency ward, and that we, who are more or less OK for now, need to take the tenderest possible care of the more wounded people in the waiting room, until the healer comes. You sit with people, she said, you bring them juice and graham crackers.

Over the last few years in many January-to-November worship bulletins, we've quoted that paragraph from Anne Lamott's book *Traveling Mercies*, minus the first words: "During the first week of Advent."

A lot happens "during the first week of Advent." During the first *day* of the first week of this Advent, we watched the sun throw light onto a different corner of the iridescent Earth on our banner every time we looked at it; we heard footsteps clicking on the tile floor as the candle-lighters approached the wreath. After church we crowded the halls, picked up our Advent books, and chose ornaments from the missions tree.

After the last chair was stacked and the last table rolled out for the craft workshop, after the last meditation book was picked up, I walked into the sanctuary to turn out the lights. The candles were extinguished; the tree lights, unplugged; the organ, quiet for another week. The physical energy and anticipation of the morning had gone out the door with the congregation.

But beauty and sunlight remained; so did the memory of the plaintive words we'd sung but an hour before: words like "come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight;" words like "bid envy, strife and

quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace." "Veni Emmanuel" we sing on the first Sunday of Advent. Only then. It is the right song for the day.

Veronica, Anne Lamott's pastor, knew what she was saying and *when* she was saying it. She knows everything's not okay for everyone in December, even those bravely singing about hope and peace and joy. She knows that lives and hearts that were broken, bruised, and chipped during the year are extra tender and vulnerable right now. She's acutely aware that appeals to help people we will never meet continue to our mailboxes. Her words remind us that in some years "the clouds of night" are heavier than they are in other years and that Advent has to be about more than just getting ready for Christmas.

So how *do* we move through these weeks of Advent? Isaiah said we should "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." John the Baptizer echoes the prophet's cry. And as much as I try to understand their words on a spiritual level, I can't help but think of a straighter, less congested I-35, not a path through the Judean desert. I need more helpful directions for today.

So does everyone who has spent time in the emergency rooms of life in 2006. Veronica suggests practical ways to live Advent. Take tender care of people. Sit with them. Comfort them. Watch over the wounded. Feed the hungry. Share food with people you love.

Together, we wait for the Healer to come.

Prayer Concerns

David Tonghou's sister in Cameroon has been ill for several months.

Waco Show Choir visits Lake Shore

Wednesday, December 13

for our after dinner entertainment including some of your favorite Christmas tunes. Thanks to the Smallwoods for helping to coordinate this extravaganza.

A Service of Light in the Darkness

Sunday afternoon

December 10, 3:00 p.m.

An interlude of community worship and meditation
An opportunity to bring all that we feel and experience before God
A time of quiet and simplicity during a busy season
A time of hope that life as we know it can change from season to season

Annual Bereshith Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 10

after worship
at the home of
Reagan & Glenda Ramsower
1616 Estates Dr.

Bring a side dish or dessert to accompany the chicken from Bush's. On Sunday morning, let Kathy Gardner know how many from your family will attend.

Children's Corner

Toddler, Preschool, & Kindergarten Cookie Bake:

This Saturday, December 9, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the church. Decorate cookies – some to eat and some to share – and make a Christmas ornament.

Infant & Toddler Sunday School:

The infants and toddlers will make a very special Christmas gift for their parents on Sunday. Please make every effort to have your children in Sunday School for this memorable experience.



Thank you to everyone who participated in preparing Lake Shore for Advent again this year.

The Advent book would not be possible without all the writers who shaped their thoughts and stories into the “Word Among Us” for our annual collection of Advent writings. Pam Allen created the cover art for the book, and Donovan McNeil formatted it. Book preparers include Catherine Davenport, Celia Dupree, Jerri Love, Bruce Neatherlin, Judy Prather, Bert Reyna, Hope Rouse, and Becca Sharpless.

The Advent banner was crafted by Joyce McKee, Sandy Sadler, and Bobbee Watts. The sanctuary is adorned by fourteen of our twenty-five banners, greenery, and the Chrismon tree. Thanks to Catharine Campbell, JoLeen Eiklenborg, Steve Fontaine, Karen Matkin, Joyce McKee, Bruce Neatherlin, Hope Rouse, Becca Sharpless, and Pam Smallwood for their help Saturday morning.

Pattie Herbert and Sandy Sadler made the ornaments that decorate our Missions Tree, and Catherine Davenport coordinated the projects for the tree this year.

Thank you to all who helped.

Missions Tree

The Missions Tree in the hall still has plenty of ornaments from which to choose. Each one represents a way you can help show the Word Among Us in our community and our world through gifts of time, money, or service to others. Here are a few new examples of ways you may choose to give:

- * Bring a turkey for our Christmas baskets
- * Hygiene kits with soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, for the people staying at the Meyer Center
- * Bring dolls and dishes for classrooms at LSBCC
- * Buy blue jeans and a basketball for a ten-year-old boy
- * Adopt a child through the Shalom Children's Center
- * Buy a box of Dr Pepper and a sweater for a resident of Care Inn

Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 10
5:30–7:30 p.m.

at the home of
Tom & Carole Hanks
5804 Westlawn

Children are invited. Childcare will be available at the church for infants, toddlers, or preschoolers. Please sign up on the form in the Sunday School hallway.



Poinsettias for Advent

You may give a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary during Advent. Please complete the information in this box and send it, along with \$12, to the office by **Friday, December 8.**

We will place the poinsettias in the sanctuary on December 17, so that they will still be fresh for Christmas.

I would like to add a poinsettia(s) to the sanctuary during Advent:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

I have enclosed a check for _____

I have enclosed cash in the amount of _____

Our Church Staff

Richard Aslanian, Music Director
 Dorisanne Cooper, Pastor
 Aaron Garcia, Organist
 Pattie Herbert, Custodian
 Caryl Miller-Compton, Administrative Secretary
 Heather Robards, Director, Lake Shore Baptist Children's Center
 Mike Sciretti, Minister to Youth
 Rachel Sciretti, Minister to Children
 Sharlande Sledge, Associate Pastor



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MINISTRY AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 10

9:30-Sunday School
 10:45-Worship
 3:00-Service of Light in the Darkness
 4:30-Deacons' Meeting
 5:30-Open House

Monday, December 11

5:30-Yoga

Tuesday, December 12

5:30-Yoga

Wednesday, December 13

8:30-Staff Meeting
 5:30-Supper

Looking Ahead:

12/17-Youth Progressive Dinner
 12/20-Christmas Caroling

Wednesday Night Supper

December 13



Joan's Spaghetti
 Green Salad
 Garlic Bread
 Pie

Advent Words and Writers

We regret that three writers' names were omitted in the first Advent books distributed: Bobbee Watts, "Heartsongs," December 11; Louise Powell "Present," December 21; and Sharlande Sledge, "Yes," December 30.

Women of the Church

The December meeting of Women of the Church will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, at the home of Bessie Baxter, 3005 Wood Lake. Please bring an item for refreshments . . . cookies, chips, fruit, etc. Please bring a guest. If you have any questions, contact Carol Bice, 772-0609.

Youth News

Sunday Morning:

Breakfast at 9:30: Smallwood
 Sunday School: Angel Visits Mary

Sunday Night:

Church-Wide Christmas Open House: No Dinner Teen House

Wednesday Night (13th):

Waco High Show Choir

Next Sunday (17th):

Progressive Dinner

Coming Up:

12/20-Church-wide Caroling
 12/22-Movie Night: "The Nativity," TBA
 12/27-No activities
 12/31-No Sunday Night Activities
 1/7-Mid-Winter Retreat Prelude at FBC Waco
 1/14-Mid-Winter Retreat

J2A Slumber Party

The J2A girls will have a slumber party this Friday night at Kathy Gardner's house. Bring your sleeping bags! Call Kathy or Capucine Morin for details.

Extended Care
Sunday, December 10

Infants: Genie Dyer
 Toddlers: Sarah Randles
 Preschoolers: The Miller-Compton
 -Reynolds Family

Weekly Budget Report

Your contributions to our budget help fund our mission work, church programs, human resources, and physical facilities. Weekly budget needs for 2006 are \$7,865.17. Receipts last week were \$ 5,485.00.

| <u>Year to date needs</u> | <u>Year to date received</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| \$ 377,528.31 | \$ 328,083.29 | (\$ 49,445.02) |