

Love our endless Story

Advent and Christmas 2007

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16

“The Story of Joy”
Dorisanne Cooper

Isaiah 35.1-10, Luke 1.46b-55

“Caroling, caroling now we go . . .”

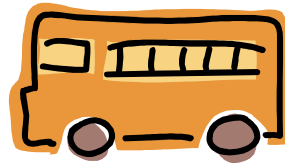
Caroling and Chili Supper

Wednesday, December 19
load the bus at 5:30 p.m.

We'll sing to people we love who don't
always get to come
sing with us at church.

A fun time for all ages ...

stay for a bowl
of chili afterward



cost \$2/person
to offset
the cost of the bus

Advent Missions

As our Advent banner proclaims, God's love is endless. Through Lake Shore's missions tree, you are telling the story of God's love in over a hundred ways.

- Remember that all gifts need to be under the tree by this Sunday, December 16. Make sure they are labeled with your missions tree number.
- If you have time to wrap gifts the first of next week or deliver packages later in the week, please e-mail Catherine or Sharlande.
- If you have *new* items at home that would make a great gift for one of the recipients of our missions tree — socks, candles, jewelry — something that's an extra for you but would be a real gift to someone else, please place your *unwrapped* items under the tree.
- Libby Bellinger says that Central Texas Senior Ministry needs folks to pack emergency boxes for days when the weather makes it impossible for drivers to deliver food to Meals on Wheels recipients. Let Sharlande know if you'd like to join a group doing this missions activity.
- This is a good time of year to give to the Shalom Children's Center in honor or in memory of someone you love. Call Annette Brister or look in next week's newsletter for details.

Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 16
4:00-6:00 p.m.

at the home of
Steve and Sharon Fontaine

200 Winding Creek Lane
McGregor

A time for visiting and Christmas treats

Children are welcome (see Children's Corner
inside for childcare information)

Directions to the Fontaines' house: Take Hwy 84 West past the Speegleville light and past McGregor Executive Airport. Get in the left lane and turn left at Stone Creek Ranch Road. Drive into the subdivision on Stone Creek Ranch Road until you get to Winding Creek Lane. Turn left and follow the half circle around to 200 Winding Creek Lane. The house is on the left.

Love . . . Our Endless Story

Each Sunday during the Advent and Christmas seasons, Lake Shore members will tell a different story about how they have experienced God's hope, peace, joy, or love in a different place in our world. On the Sunday of peace, Alice Baird read this story by Erin Cline.

I did not notice her at first—a middle-aged woman with a large basket resting on her hip, strands of hair falling in her face and sticking to her bronzed cheeks and forehead, and worn sandals on her feet. After spending the morning working in the fields, she had walked from the other end of this rural Chinese village to bring offerings for a local religious festival. When she arrived, she planted herself in front of the feast table and surveyed the bountiful offerings of steamed buns and cakes, dried fruit, salted vegetables, and a whole roasted pig. Then she demanded, “Why isn’t there space for my things here? Move these things and make room for my offerings! Move them now!” The other village women, who had sacrificed a day’s wages and labored in the blazing heat over the past several hours setting up for the festival, slowly began to surround her.

“You’re too late! There is no room!” These words rolled off of one woman’s tongue abruptly in the local village language. “No room!” Another woman added. “No room here!” And she fanned her fingers toward the road, indicating that the woman with the basket should take her offerings and leave.

The woman with the basket glared at them, and did not budge from where she was standing. “You have room for everyone else’s things, and you can’t make room for mine?!” As she spoke, she began gesticulating wildly with one hand, as she supported her basket with the other. “This festival is for the village, and it is my village too! You will make room! Make room now!” With this command, she set her basket down with a loud THUD, and it seemed as though the disintegrating heels of her sandals sunk deeper into the dusty ground.

As the women continued to argue loudly, the Daoist priest who was officiating at the ritual that day slowly and quietly approached the table. He watched the women for a moment, and then he looked at the table. Slowly, silently, and ever so subtly, he began to inch different plates, baskets, and bowls around the table. Then he reached into the woman’s basket (which had been abandoned in favor of the argument) and began placing her offerings onto the table in the small spaces he had cleared. At first, no one noticed what he was doing. Then some of the women stopped arguing and began to help him. The woman with the basket remained disgruntled and did not help them, but eventually she fell silent.

As I stood there watching, I realized that perhaps more than anything else, peacemaking is about making room...room for dissenting opinions...room for conversation...room for Palestinians and Israelis...room for the poor, for widows, orphans, and prostitutes...room for the offerings of those who are difficult and demanding...room in a stable for weary travelers on their way.



On Thursday we shared our story of love from morning till night.

Left: Carolyn Rodabough and one of our young guests making paper chains at the Food Pantry Christmas Breakfast.

Right: Three children celebrating at the Family Self-Sufficiency Christmas Party. They are showing the new flashlights Lake Shore members brought on Children’s Sabbath and wrapped last Wednesday night.



A Timely Message from the Finance Committee

As we each begin to settle into the Advent season with all of its wonderful images, smells, and sounds, it is also the time of the calendar year when we try to wrap up our giving to the Church. All of us would agree that 2007 has been quite a year in the life of our church and we have, perhaps, gotten a clearer picture of what can be accomplished when we find a common goal.

Unfortunately, not all of the needs of the church are quite so glamorous as the playground. We have the ordinary and day to day needs to be met. In addition, we still have the need to try to meet our obligations to the various mission related programs who look to us for *their* support. With just three more Sundays in this year, I would ask that each of us try to complete our giving for the year. Through Sunday, December 2 the budgeted needs for the church is \$401,959 and our actual receipts is \$353,426. These next few weeks will be vitally important as we move into the next year, so please begin making those end of year contributions.

Also, please remember that the checks must be **postmarked or brought by hand to the office by December 31** in order to be counted for 2007 contributions. Thank you for all that each of you does throughout the year to make Lake Shore the kind of church we are, where we surround others with God's kind of love.

Yours truly,
Don SoRelle, Finance Chair

Children's Corner

Advent is such a family time at Lake Shore. Parents, your children are welcome to come to the Christmas Open House on Sunday the 16th and on the bus for caroling on Wednesday the 19th; however, if you want childcare, please make reservations! We will staff according to the reservations we have. The reservation notebook is in the hallway next to the Missions Tree. Childcare will be available for all ages of children from 3:45 – 6:15 p.m. on

Good News

David Tonghou Ngong graduates from Baylor this week with a Ph.D. in Religion. His dissertation is "The Material in Salvific Discourse: A Study of Two Christian Perspectives." We celebrate with him and Prudencia and all those who have come from as far away as Kansas City and Cameroon for graduation.

Richard Aslanian recently completed editing a volume of seventeen art songs by the German-American composer Felix Wolfes, set to the poetry of Herman Hesse. He accomplished this project in fulfillment of his 2005 sabbatical from Baylor. This is the final volume which completes a set of eight volumes he previously edited, published by Theodore Presser Music Corporation.

Prayer Concerns

Madelyn Powell broke her leg Thursday. Our prayers are with Maddie and her parents, Andy and Michelle.

Coke Held is at MD Anderson this week for radiation therapy for lung cancer.

Linda Olson is scheduled to return to Waco from Atlanta on Thursday. She continues to recover from a serious car accident.

Kay Bailey's mother received a discouraging medical report last week.

Jack Swingler has moved to Buckner Villa in Austin where he will be close to his son.

Pattie Herbert had an episode of heart spasms and had a cath at Hillcrest on Tuesday. She is scheduled to go home Wednesday.

Nancy Chinn's mother, Louise Chinn, of Fredericksburg, VA, has been hospitalized.

Thank you . . .

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the time away to bond with our little Zoe. We have felt your support through meals, cards, calls, and prayers. Thank you to everyone who pitched in an extra hand to make the children's ministry run smoothly in my absence. We are so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful family of faith!

Love,

Rachel, Mike, Anastasia, and Zoe

Jim and Lori Hooper wish to express appreciation to our Lake Shore family for your expressions of concern and caring during Jim's recent hospitalization for a heart procedure. The actual success of the procedure will not be known for 3-4 months. Your prayers brought us through this time.

And from Self-Sufficiency Families ...

My family and I thank you so much for your help in making our meetings possible to be here at your church.

The Parker Family

Thank you so much for all your work and dedication. May God bless you as much as you have blessed us.

Meme Webb

... see others on the bulletin board.

Fontaine Family Honored

Lake Shore celebrates the Fontaine family's good news. The Fontaine family will be honored as the Greater Waco Interfaith Conference Humanitarian Family of the Year on January 8, 2008 at Knox Hall at 6:30 p.m. Ray Cannon, Jay Losey, and the church office have tickets. The deadline for purchasing your \$20.00 tickets is January 3.

Our Church Staff

Richard Aslanian, Music Director
Charles Conkin, Interim Minister to Youth
Dorisanne Cooper, Pastor
Emily Gist, Interim Director, Lake Shore Baptist Children's Center
Pattie Herbert, Custodian
Jo Polansky, Financial Secretary
Sarah Randles, Interim Office Manager
Rachel Sciretti, Minister to Children
Sharlande Sledge, Associate Pastor



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MINISTRY AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, December 15

10:00 — French Christmas Cooking Class
5:15 — Youth Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 16

9:30 — Sunday School
10:45 — Worship
4:00 — Christmas Open House

Monday, December 17

12:00 — Newsletter deadline

Wednesday, December 19

8:30 — Staff Meeting
5:30 — Caroling on the Bus & Chili Supper
7:30 — Choir Rehearsal

Looking Ahead

December 24 — Christmas Eve Service
December 30 — No Sunday School; Worship at 10:45

Office closed from noon
December 24-January 1

**Wednesday Night Supper
December 19, 2007**



*Chili Supper
(after caroling)*

**Extended Care
Visitor Cards/Offering
Sunday, December 16**

Infants: Karyn Miller
Toddler: Jerri & Mackenzie Love
Preschool/K: Barb Francis
Martie Sauter

Visitor Cards: Travis Burt
Kameron Seibel

Offering: Ashley Thornton, Hope Rouse, Sarah Randles, Judy Bowman

Ushers: Donna McMullen
Missy Davis

Youth News

Breakfast – Morin

Sunday Night Meal – Open House at Fontaines

Save the Date: We will be attending Passport in Macon, Georgia July 13-18.

Sign up for the Mid-Winter Retreat on January 18-20. The cost is \$95. Please sign-up and start getting your money in. If you need a scholarship please let Charles know. If there are any adults that would like to volunteer to attend the Mid-Winter Retreat, I am in need of some chaperones.

Wednesday Night: Chili and Caroling

Saturday Christmas Party: Bring a white elephant gift. Be at the Teen House at 5:15. We will be back at the Teen House at 9:30.

Attention Adults: If you can help with the progressive dinner, please contact Charles Conkin or Barb Francis.

Coming Up:

Dec 15: Christmas Party and Dinner

Dec 19: Chili and Caroling

Jan 18-20: Mid-Winter Retreat @ Bridgeport

Weekly Budget Report

Your contributions to our budget help fund our mission work, church programs, human resources, and physical facilities. Weekly budget needs for our 2007 budget of \$435,456 are \$8,374.15.

<u>Year to date needs</u>	<u>Year to date received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$410,333	\$358,681	\$(51,652)