

December 20-27, 2009

Today, Dec. 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	8:45 am Informal Worship	Sanctuary
	9:35 am Hospitality Time (informal)	
	9:45 am Church School for all Ages	
	9:45 am Ensemble Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:35 am Hospitality Time	
	11:00 am Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
	12:00 pm Hospitality Time (informal)	
	12:15 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Monday, Dec. 21	9:00 am Men's Biking Group	
Tuesday, Dec. 22	9:30 am Lectionary Class	Room 14
Wednesday, Dec. 23		
Thursday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
	Office closes at noon	
	4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
	10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service	Sanctuary
Friday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
	Church Office Closed	
Saturday, Dec. 26	8:00 am Men's Breakfast	@ Plum Delicious
Sunday, Dec. 27	First Sunday after Christmas	
	10:00am Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00 am Hospitality Time and Retirement Party for Office Manager Sue Mattson	Atrium

For information on any church activities, events, or committees, call the office, 425-746-6111, or email us at office@newportpres.org or visit our website, www.newportpres.org

Welcome to Newport Presbyterian Church *Welcoming in Spirit; Progressive in Theology* December 20, 2009

If you are visiting today, welcome!

- Please look in the Friendship Folders or the table in the Narthex for our visitor cards and ribbons. We invite you to wear the blue ribbon so we can get to know you, and to fill out the card and leave it in the offering plate. Please pick up a welcome bag in the narthex.

If you attend regularly

- Please give anyone wearing a blue "Visitor" ribbon your warmest Newport welcome.

Today at Newport

- **FOOD SALE:** Stop by the table in the narthex and purchase some food for the Renewal Food Bank today.
- **FRIENDSHIP COUNTER:** Please stop by today and sign cards for those in our congregation who need a greeting, a prayer, or a boost.

All-Church

- **CHRISTMAS EVE:** We will have two worship services, at 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. **The 4:00 p.m. service** is a family-friendly service for all that will include the Handbell Choir, a vocal ensemble and a nativity drama. Traditional carols will be sung and the service will include individual candle-lighting. **The 10:00 p.m. service** will include music by the Chancel Choir, and carol singing accompanied by a string quartet. Pastor Jim Patten will preach and the service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion and individual candle-lighting.
- **UPCOMING SERVICES:**
 - Sunday, December 27:** One service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a retirement party for Office Manager Sue Mattson. No Sunday School.
 - Sunday, January 3:** One service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School.
- **OFFICE HOURS:** The office will close at noon on Christmas Eve, and be closed all day Christmas Day. Dec. 28-31 we may be working shorter hours, so call before you come. Friday, January 1, the office will be closed all day.
- **CARE NOTES:** We have received some new Care Notes; some deal with Christmas. They are located on the wallboard in the narthex. Look them over and take any you feel will be helpful. These are available to you through Newport's Stephen Ministry.

Adults

- **LECTIONARY CLASS** meets Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., in Room 14 on the Lower Level. All are invited to come regularly or occasionally to discuss with the pastor the scriptures to be used in worship each Sunday. Park in the lower lot if you want to avoid the stairs.
- **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES** meet each Sunday at 9:45.
FAITH STORIES: Pastor Jim Patten is leading a lively literary discussion of short stories published in the book *Faith Stories*,” edited by C. Michael Curtis. We will continue to read the following stories: 12/13-“Full Day” (159-168); 12/20-“The Comedian” (77-89). We meet in the Chapel.

Volunteer and Mission Opportunities

- **HOPELINK’S TWELVE DAYS OF GIVING:** HopeLink is asking people to consider giving a \$12 donation (for the 12 days of Christmas) this December. With need up, and overall donations down, this would make a huge difference in their ability to help more families. For information go to www.hope-link.org and click on the *Twelve Days of Giving* banner at the top of the page.

Mission & Peacekeeping News

- **MISSION INFORMATION:** Instead of hanging a bulletin board on our clean new walls, the M & P Committee will be showing slides of NPC’s mission activities. Projects displayed will include the Bridge Ministries celebration, disaster reconstruction, the Mayors’ Day of Concern, food banks, furniture drives, Sophia’s Way, Christmas Gift Fair and other items of interest. There is always something going on and we want the congregation to know how its donations are being spent and where our time and energy goes with respect to helping the community. The next slide show will be today during the coffee hour (between the services). Look for us in one of the conversation nooks near the coffee and snack tables.

Save the Date

- **Meekhof Lecture** with Tony Robinson January 15-17.
- **Congregational Meeting** January 24.
- **Annual Lay Musicians’ Benefit Concert** at First Congregational Church on Sunday, January 31.
- **Creative Arts Show** The Celebration of Newport’s Creative Talent event will be Sunday evening, February 7. Start creating or selecting now for this festive appetizer supper and art show.

Prayer Concerns and Support Opportunities

- **We have an active Prayer Chain.** If you have a concern for which you would like prayers, contact Carib Smallman, 206-588-1277, or Judy Schwab, 425-391-4167. To be listed in the printed list of prayer concerns, contact the church office, 425-746-6111.
- **PEACE CANDLE:** The votive candle on the communion table is a prayerful reminder of those in danger in the Middle East, including our military and civilians and the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and other nations.
- **IN OUR PRAYERS:** **Daryle Harvey** (health concerns); **Lynne McClintock** (diagnosed with MS), **Wes Sikkema** (health concerns); **Jon Welsh** (son of Barbara & Bob Welsh—cancer)

50th Anniversary Celebration History Tidbits

- 12/15/63—Congregational meeting voted to increase the Session from six to 12 members.
- 12/74—Christmas cards with picture of Sanctuary decorated for Christmas on sale at 20 for \$2.25
- 12/20/87—Sunday evening “A Sacred and Secular Christmas” concert was presented by the Sanctuary and Handbell choirs.

BAHAI ADULT CLASS

The Bahai Spiritual Assembly of Newcastle that recently taught an adult class at Newport has invited any who would like to learn more about what Bahai’s believe in a 90-minute weekly class lasting 8 to 10 weeks on “Reflections on the Life of the Spirit.” It will meet at the home of Simin and Parviz Rahmany at 7627 118th Ave SE, Newcastle starting on December 17th at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested please RSVP Simin at 425-254-8857.

About our Chrismon Tree

The tree in our sanctuary is a “Chrismon Tree.” The word “Chrismon” is an ancient Latin word which means Christ-Monogram. In other words, a Chrismon is a symbol of Christ. A Chrismon ornament is always white, gold, or white and gold combined. White represents God’s purity and gold symbolizes God’s majesty and glory. The following Chrismons are found on our tree:

4 Point or “Natal” star – shaped like a cross to symbolize the purpose of Jesus’ birth.

Manger – symbolizing Jesus’ birth.

Shepherd’s Rod – Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd.”

Butterfly – resurrection hope, old life to new, “...if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation.”

Latin Cross – represents the instrument of crucifixion become the symbol of Christ’s victory over sin and death.

Gospel Cross – the arms and legs of this cross stretch wider at the outer edges to show the good news being proclaimed to the corners of the earth.

Four Candles – represent the advent candles as we wait and prepare for the light of the world. A crown is used with the candles indicating that we live in expectation of the king.

Dove – the descending dove symbolizes the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Shell – a traditional symbol of baptism and in particular of Jesus’ baptism.

IHS – a monogram of the first three letters of Jesus’ name in Greek

IXOYC – used by the early persecuted christians to secretly symbolize their faith in Jesus Christ, the letters 'IXOYC' are the Greek initials of the words for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. They also spell the Greek word for fish.