

# Word of Hope

**MOUNT HOPE**  
United Methodist Church



## Pastor McGill Writes. . .

### *The Greatest Visit, the Greatest Light, the Greatest Life*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...*

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

--John 1:1, 14

God has visited man on many different occasions down through time. He first visited him in the Garden as He walked and talked with Adam in the cool of the day. Centuries later, He talked to Noah about the destruction that was coming upon the earth, and He communed with Abraham.

God visited Moses through the burning bush, Saul on the road to Damascus, and the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos as He pulled back the curtain of time, revealing the future.

All of these were great visitations. But the greatest and most glorious visit God ever made to man was when Jesus Christ was born!

Jesus came to earth as a babe, born of a virgin. He grew up and lived a sinless life, and He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power. Then He went about doing good, performing many miracles until He was finally crucified on a cross. There, sus-

ended between heaven and earth, He bore the sin of the world in His own body and accomplished what He and come to do.

Now people don't usually talk about Jesus' death at Christmastime; they talk about His birth. You'll hear people tell the story of how that angels sang "peace on earth; good will toward men" when Jesus was born, and they'll say that Jesus came to bring peace to the nations. But that is not why He came.

You see, Jesus was with the Heavenly Father all along (John 1:1). From the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, Jesus was there. When God said, "Let Us make man in Our image," Jesus was there. And when man fell, Jesus stood at the portals of Heaven and watched him drift further and further away from the Creator.

The man that God had made was dying and going to hell. The world was lost. So in the fullness of time God sent His Son to redeem humanity by giving His life for us!

John 1:4 reads, "In Him was life; and the LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN." Jesus was that Light. He was the great Light that shined in the darkness, and He is the true Light who lights every person who comes into the world (vv.5, 9).

Verse 7 goes on to say that John the Baptist was sent "...to bear witness to the Light, that all men through Him might believe." But John was not the only one called to bear witness to the Light. You have been called to be a witness, too, so that through you, many might believe.

This Christmas season, I want to encourage you to let your light shine so that men may know the power and the glory of the only begotten Son. And let everything you do this holiday bear witness of Jesus.

When you visit neighbors and relatives, remember Christ's birth, which was the greatest visit ever made. Every time you stop to admire the shimmering lights on a Christmas tree or outdoor display, think of Jesus' life, the greatest light to ever shine. With every present you exchange with a loved one or friend, don't forget a much greater exchange that took place over two thousand years ago. And thank God for sending His Son to die for you, because Jesus made it possible for you to receive the greatest gift of all – eternal life!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Pastor McGill*

December 2010

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#### Special points of interest:

- ◆ *5th: 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion, Poinsettia Deadline*
- ◆ *9th: Busy Beavers Christmas Luncheon*
- ◆ *12th: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Baptism, Living Nativity*
- ◆ *19th: 4th Sunday of Advent, Cantata*
- ◆ *20th & 21st: MHCC Christmas Program*
- ◆ *24th: Christmas Eve celebration services*
- ◆ *25th: Merry Christmas!*
- ◆ *26th: Worship at 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.*
- ◆ *1st: Happy New Year!*



**BAPTISMS**

October 24, 2010

*Nicholas Daciw*, son of Joseph and Michelle Daciw

*Joshua Dawson*, son of Joshua and Stacie Dawson

*Chase Horan*, son of Edward and Danielle Horan

**NEW MEMBERS**

*Mark and Jacqueline White*

**Angel Food Ministries**

*Don't forget to order your Angel Food. Log onto their web site or stop by the church for December's menu and to order your meals.*

*See the calendar on page 6 for the order dates.*

*Call 610.459.2521 if you would like to order a Christmas box to be given to a family in need. Christmas boxes must be ordered by November 30th. The deadline for regular AF meals is Sunday, December 5th.*

**Mount Hope Church Staff**

- Rev. Dr. Thomas C. McGill, Senior Pastor
- Rev. George S. Rigby, Jr., Pastor of Visitation
- Pastor Philip G. Ealy, Family Life Ministry
- Cynthia Babiak, Youth Director
- Kristine Leary, Director, Children's Center
- Sharon Kope, Director of Music
- Donna Kelly, 9:30 Worship Coordinator
- Eileen McIntyre, Handbell Director
- Larry Bakey, Cemetery Director
- Lin Heintz, Secretary
- Joan Bear, Asst. Secretary
- Leo Volmer, Building Superintendent
- Larry Miles, Asst. Bldg. Superintendent
- Bud Bostwick, Security Guard

**Christmas Cantatas**

*"Only Love"* by R. Vader and J. Rouse

Christmas is the story of God in Heaven, who loved the world so much that He sent His Son, that whoever believes in Him and the sacrifice that He would make, would never perish, but would have eternal life. Only God could make that promise - Only Christ could pay that price - **"Only Love"**

could write this story. This is a story that is Divine in origin and Eternal in design.

In a few short weeks, Christmas will be here. To help prepare us for this wonderful season, the Sanctuary choir and orchestra will be presenting *"Only Love"* on Sunday, December 19 at the 8:00 (note that we are start-

ing early) and 11:00 a.m. services. The contemporary cantata, *"What Love Really Means"* will be performed at the 9:30 service on that day.

You won't want to miss these beautiful cantatas! Invite your family and friends.

You will be blessed!

**Christmas Poinsettias**

The wonderful Christmas Season is upon us and it is time to think about decorating the Sanctuary with beautiful poinsettia plants. You may have poinsettia plants placed in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of

loved ones. The potted plants will have 6-8 blooms at a cost of \$8.00 per plant.

The deadline for ordering plants is December 5th. Please put your completed order form along with the payment in the appropriate envelope and place it in

the collection plate, or mail your order to the church office. Plants may be taken home after the 11:00 service on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH. Questions? Contact Laura Taylor 610-497-3504 or 610-517-0610, or by email at [taylors120@comcast.net](mailto:taylors120@comcast.net).

**Children's Choir**

The new children's choir has a new name: "How Sweet the Sound." They will

be singing on November 28th at all services and in December at the 6:30 Christ-

mas Eve family service. Come and enjoy their sweet praise to the Lord!

**Children's Center News**

Our December Bible Verse: **"Unto us a Child is born."**

Isaiah 9:6

I always think December is our busiest month, but it seems like we hit the ground running in September and have not stopped for a breath yet. The children made special art projects which were sent to *Original Works* to have them made into magnets and stationery, etc. for their parents. The older children enjoyed trips to Tyler Arboretum to learn about the Lenape Indians.

In December the children will enjoy learning about the birth of our Savior, hearing Reverend McGill's special Christmas story,

making gifts for our families and ending the year with a special Christmas show. This month the Center for the Blind will be giving our children eye exams, with 4 days scheduled to accommodate all of the students.

Our Fruit of the Spirit is appropriately "Patience", something we try hard to keep in December. This year we will again be combining Chapel and our Christmas shows. They will take place on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 AM also at 1:30 PM (on Monday) in the Sanctuary.

In November we held a very successful food drive and the children filled

twenty-four boxes to contribute to "Operation Christmas Child" (special thanks to Joni Ertwine). The children will decorate our annual hat and mitten tree, and we donate the warm items to local families who are in need. By choosing warm hats and mittens for children less fortunate than themselves, they learn an important lesson in giving and sharing, the true meaning of Christmas.

All of us at the Children's Center wish all of you a joyous, safe, very Merry Christmas and a Christ centered New Year!

*Kris Leary*  
Director





## Holiday Offerings

The Holiday offerings will be distributed as follows:

**Thanksgiving**—City Team and Angel Food Ministries

**Advent**—Transportation Ministry

**Christmas**—Mount Hope Youth Mission Team, EPC-UMC Mission Team, Center

for Pastoral Counseling, and the Mount Hope Church General Fund for our various ministries.

## Living Nativity

Mount Hope's Living Nativity Christmas Program will be Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Performances will occur at 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30. In Habbersett Hall following the production, there will be a

time of family crafts and activities led by Donna Lofthouse and PULSE (Youth Group) members, as well as refreshments. This is a tremendous opportunity to invite family and friends to

share in the joy of the season. Please plan as a family to attend this yearly time of the celebration of the birth of the Christ child.

Pastor Phil



## LIVING Nativity

## Hospitality

Would you like to serve the Lord through hospitality? We need volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up for special events in Habbersett hall throughout the

year. These include the cantata breakfast, confirmation class lunch and the Sunrise breakfast.

They are all held on Sunday mornings. High

school students are welcome to help. For information please contact Jean Byrne at 610.485.6660 or Louise Miles at 610.494.1565.

## Confirmation Class

This year's Confirmation Class will begin with a parents meeting on Sunday

January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am. Any young person 13 years old or older who is interested in this

faith exploration is encouraged to attend. Please call the office or Pastor Phil.

## Aston Community Day

I would like to thank all the people who helped make Community Day a success. The people who helped at the tent that day included Frank Burgess, Nancy Tay-

lor, the Babiak family, the Lofthouse family, the Darczuk family, Sue Keeley, the Mason family, Scott Bohlander, Bill Faulkner, Jeanna Imbesi, and the Bergemans.

The Church plans to expand our participation for next year. Please send ideas to Pastor Phil or Beverly Lewis at [dvdclws@gmail.com](mailto:dvdclws@gmail.com) or [eaalymemphis@aol.com](mailto:eaalymemphis@aol.com).

## Church Van Policy

The revised Van Use Policies have been re-written, examined, re-re-written and approved by the Pastors and members of the Transportation Committee. It had gone into effect when approved by the committee and the start

date for Van Usage Policies was November 1, 2010.

Copies will be distributed to those who require them and will be posted on the cork boards in the Narthex and the garage.

Thanks

to the Pastors, Transportation Committee and other responsible people for their cooperation, understanding and help in revising the policies.


Dave Lee, Chairman  
Transportation Committee

## Operation Christmas Child

Mount Hope Family, you are wonderful! 155 shoeboxes

were filled with gifts and the love of Christ, now on their

way to children around the world ! Yeay, God!



**Random Act of Culture**

Log onto the following web site for a joyful Christmas experience: Handel's Messiah performed by the Opera Company of Philadelphia with the Wanamaker organ in the Grand Court— <http://www.creativeminorityreport.com/2010/11/awesome-pop-up-hallelujah-chorus-at.html>



### *Christmas Facts*

Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25<sup>th</sup>, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.

From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law-breakers were fined five shillings.

Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.

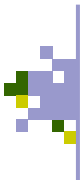
Each year, 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States alone. There are 21,000 Christmas tree growers in the United States, and trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.

Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition in 1931.

The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Claus-clad donation collectors into the streets since the 1890s.

Rudolph, "the most famous reindeer of all," was the product of Robert L. May's imagination in 1939. The copywriter wrote a poem about the reindeer to help lure customers into the Montgomery Ward department store.





# NATIVITY SCENE POTS

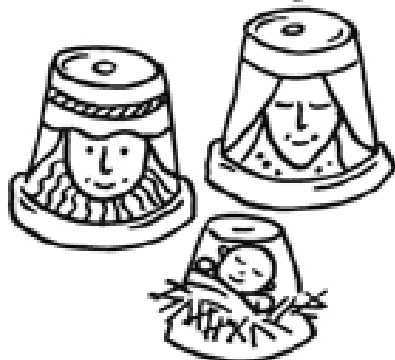
Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

### What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

### What you do:

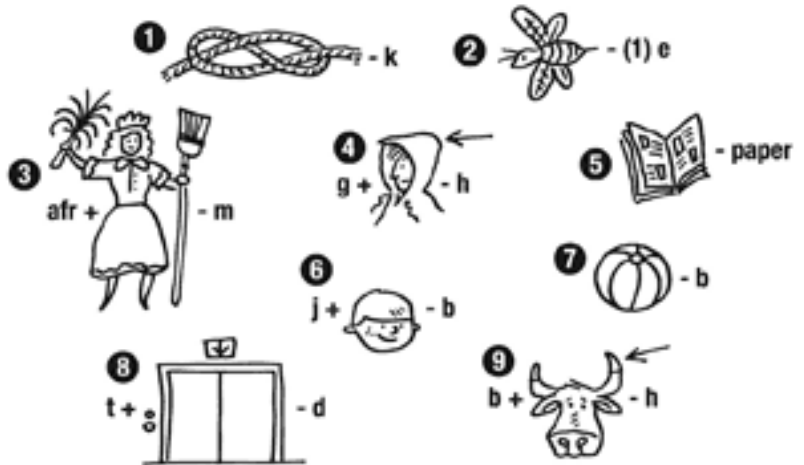
1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



## The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I bring you \_\_\_\_\_ 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 5 of great \_\_\_\_\_ 6 that will be for \_\_\_\_\_ 7 the people.

Today in the \_\_\_\_\_ 8 of David a Savior has been \_\_\_\_\_ 9

to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV



"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid=m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born



# December 2010 Calendar of Events

This Update Printed: Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><i>Advent</i></p>		<p><i>Every Sunday:</i>  <b>Worship at 8:15, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School at 9:30</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open            9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L)  <b>1:30 PM Education (L)</b>  <b>7:00 PM Trustees (L)</b>            7:00 PM Bells of Hope (L)            7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open            1:00 PM Bible Study (L)            6:30 PM 930 Reh (S)            7:00 PM Emmaus mtg (L)            7:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal (216)            7:45 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Advent 2nd Sunday Communion</b>            Blood Pressure Screening (HH)            9:00 AM Angel Food (HH)            9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open            10:30 AM Angel Food (HH)  <b>11:00 AM HSTS Choir (103)</b>            6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Cantata Instru Reh (S)            7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley)            7:30 PM Selah Bible Study (Brownhill)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open            7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6)  <b>7:00 PM Baptism Sem (L)</b>            7:00 PM Prayer Shawl (Digging)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open            9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L)  <b>4:00 PM WOH Dine (Ofc)</b>            7:00 PM Bells of Hope (L)            7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open  <b>12:15 PM Busy Beavers Christmas Lunch (HH)</b>            1:00 PM Bible Study (L)            6:30 PM 930 Reh (S)            7:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal (216)            7:45 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Rappold Christmas Party (HH)            4:00 PM CoWed class Christmas Party (HH)</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Advent 3rd Sunday Baptism</b>            9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open  <b>11:00 AM HSTS Choir (103)</b>  <b>5:30 PM Living Nativity (HH and parking lot)</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Poinsettia Tree set-up (S)            9:00 AM MHCC Cookie Bake (Kit)            7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)            7:00 PM Cantata Instru Reh (S)            7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Study (6)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:00 AM MHCC Cookie Bake (Kit)            9:00 AM Library Open  <b>7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open            9:30 AM MHCC Christmas Story (S)            9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L)            6:30 PM 930 Reh (S)            7:00 PM Bells of Hope (L)            7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM WOH Mailing (HH)</b>            9:00 AM Library Open            9:30 AM MHCC Christmas Story (S)            1:00 PM Bible Study (L)  <b>7:00 PM Cantata Reh (S)</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Poinsettia delivery (S)            9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM Angel Food pick-up (HH)</b>            9:00 AM Cantata Dress Reh. (S)</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Advent 4th Sunday Cantata</b>  <b>8:00 AM Worship (Cantata)</b>            9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open            9:30 AM Choir Breakfast (HH)            6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>11:00 AM MHCC Christmas Program (S)            1:30 PM MHCC Christmas Prgm (S)            7:30 PM Selah Bible Study (Brownhill)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open            11:00 AM MHCC Christmas Program (S)            7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6)  <b>7:00 PM SPR (L)</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open            9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L)            6:30 PM 930 Reh (S)            7:00 PM Bells of Hope (L)            7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>6:30 PM Family Service</b>  <b>8:30 PM Christmas Eve Caroling Service (S)</b>  <b>11:00 PM Candlelight Communion (S)</b></p> <p><i>Christ is Coming!</i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><i>Christmas</i></p> 
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed</b>            7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L)            6:30 PM 930 Reh (S)            7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (6)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>New Year's Eve</b></p>	

**Community Events:**  
**Sundays**— 5:30 p.m. Cub Den 5 (104)  
 6:00 p.m. Cub Den 4 (103)  
**Monday**—7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Trp 292 (FH)  
**Tuesdays** – 8:00 pm AA (FH)  
**Thursdays** – 6:00 pm AA (FH)  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday** – 6:30 pm Pack 77 meetings (FH)

MHCC Closed



## Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

### **December 5th**

The Second Sunday of Advent and the lighting of the Bethlehem/Peace candle. Pastor Ealy's message, "When Love Came Down," comes from the scriptures, Luke 2: 1-7; I John 1: 8-2:6.

### **December 12th**

The Third Sunday of Advent: lighting of the Shepherd/Joy Candle. Pastor McGill's message is "The Real Reason for Christmas." Philippians 2:8.

### **December 19th**

Two cantatas: "Only Love" at 8:00 and 11:00; "What Love Really Means" at 9:30 contemporary service.

Lighting of the Angels/Love Candle.

### **December 24th**

6:30 p.m. Family Service. Pastor Ealy will share the children's message, "When Love Came Down." Luke 2:1-7, I John 1:8-2:6. We'll have gifts for the children, and celebrate Christ's coming by glowlight.

8:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Service. Come and join in the singing of your favorite Christmas carols by candlelight.

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service and the singing of your favorite Christmas carols. Dr. McGill's message is "Every Knee Will Bow to the Name of Jesus Christ." Come and let the beauty of the

candlelit sanctuary and the warmth of Christ's love fill you as you celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **December 25th**

**Merry Christmas to you from the pastors and staff!**

### **December 26th**

Sunday after Christmas.. Singing of our favorite Christmas carols. A blessing for children. Make sure you bring your children and grandchildren for this special laying on of hands blessing!

Pastor McGill's message is "Good News of Great JOY!" St. Luke 2: 8-20.