



La Vernia United Methodist Church

December 2011



LA VERNIA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Presents the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

*Saturday, December 3, 2011
9am-3pm*

Featuring
Handmade crafts of all kinds
Homemade

Fudge, cakes, cookies, pies, candy and many
other enjoyable Christmas holiday goodies

Lunch/tea room

Tamales, taco soup, sandwiches, home baked
desserts and drinks

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Combined choirs to sing this year's Christmas Cantata. The Alamo United Methodist Church Choir and the La Vernia United Methodist Church Choir will combine to present the Cantata for 2010.

On the 11th of December at The La Vernia United Methodist Church there will be a Christmas supper from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm (Love Offering) then the bell Choir will play at 6:45 PM with the combined choirs singing at 7:00pm.

On the 18th of December at Alamo United Methodist Church from 5:30 to 6:30 PM there will be a Christmas supper (Love Offering) then the bell Choir will play at 6:45 PM with the combined choirs singing at 7:00pm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 11th: Children's Nativity —Both Services
The Worship times for Christmas Eve are:
Candlelight/Communion — 7:00 PM
Chapel Old Fashioned Country Christmas 9:00 PM
Candlelight/Communion — 11:00 PM



OLD FASHIONED COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN THE CHAPEL CHRISTMAS EVE AT 9 PM

This will be a new Christmas Eve candlelight service and will feature special music. Pastor Cyndi Weidner will be preaching.

Christmas Day, Sunday December 25th we will have one worship service at 11 am. On New Year's Day, January 1st we will have one worship service at 11am. We will all worship together on these special days.

The Season of Advent: Anticipation and Hope



(Information from an article by Dennis Bratcher)

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which this year is November 27, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24).

The Colors of Advent: Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is **Purple**. This is the color of penitence and fasting as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. The purple of Advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection. To reflect this emphasis, originally Advent was a time of penitence and fasting, much as the Season of Lent and so shared the color of Lent.

In the four weeks of Advent the third Sunday came to be a time of rejoicing that the fasting was almost over. The shift from the purple of the Season to pink or rose for the third Sunday Advent candles reflected this lessening emphasis on penitence as attention turned more to celebration of the season. In recent times, however, Advent has undergone a shift in emphasis, reflected in a change of colors used in many churches. Except in the Eastern churches, the penitential aspect of the Season has been almost

totally replaced by an emphasis on hope and anticipation. Red and Green are more secular colors of Christmas. They derive from older European practices of using evergreens and holly to symbolize ongoing life and hope that Christ's birth brings into a cold world.

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life. In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's inbreaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

.....Cont: on the Ministries Page

A Word from Pastor Cyndi

At one point in my life, my home was just one mile from Disneyland. Who could pass up the Magic Kingdom at your doorstep, right? The luxury of going to Disneyland each week was soon substituted by dentist appointments, homework and dirty laundry. Visitors from every continent would thunder into the fantasyland splendor. But to us, the beautiful white gates became nothing more than what we drove by enroute to the grocery store. We seldom ever took time to enjoy what was ever-available to us.

Instead, we rationalized, we would settle for the nightly fireworks display. Punctually at 9:00 our dog would bark and we would file out to our backyard to view the twenty minute extravaganza. Unfortunately....we let those productions eventually become commonplace too.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night....." The second chapter of Luke tells us that these shepherds heard from the angels and then hurried off to find Mary, Joseph and

the new baby in the manger.

The shepherds were no more than a mile from the door of the stable. They had surely passed by it hundreds of times. What if they decided that nothing that exciting could ever happen in the lowly stable? They could have chosen to remain in the darkness and simply reminisce of the angelic chorus.

But they weren't content – and they didn't procrastinate! The scriptures tell us that they left their field with great haste and searched for the Messiah. The magnificence of Christmas wasn't in the angels' song – but in the fulfillment of God's Son sent to live on earth.

I pray we won't be so familiar with the ageless Christmas story that we become complacent in our worship. The timeless carol still challenges us to take steps toward the Savior. "Oh come; let us adore Him – Christ the Lord."

Pastor Cyndi



Ministries of our Church

.....Cont. from Pastor Harry's column

The Spirit of Advent: Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world. It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

Celebrating Advent: Advent is one of the few Christian festivals that can be observed in the home as well as at church. In its association with Christmas, Advent is a natural time to involve children in activities at home that directly connect with worship at church. In the home an Advent wreath is often placed on the dining table and the candles lighted at meals, with Scripture readings preceding the lighting of the candles, especially on Sunday. A new candle is lighted each Sunday during the four weeks, and then the same candles are lighted each meal during the week. In this context, it provides the opportunity for family devotion and prayer together, and helps teach the Faith to children, especially if they are involved in reading the daily Scriptures.

May this Advent and Christmas season be a holy and blessed time for you and yours.

SHALOM! Pastor Harry



Chapel Sunday School Class Caroling

Once again this Christmas Season, the Chapel Sunday School Class will go caroling to the Country Care Manor Nursing Home. They will do this during the Sunday School hour. They will meet in front of the church at 10 am and be back in plenty of time for the Worship Service. They would like to invite everyone to be a part of this special occasion.

Your Wesley Moment

We wanted desperately to share a Christmas story from John Wesley's Journals with you. Alas, one doesn't exist.

This is probably a cultural barrier between the 1700's and now. Searching every year available in his journals on or leading up to December 25th, there is no mention of a Christmas celebration or the birth of Christ. It was just another day to preach God's word for John. God's glorious Word.

Merry Christmas to all!



Men's Christmas Breakfast



The Men's Group invites all Methodist Men and their families to this year's Christmas Breakfast. It will be held in the Family Life Building on Dec 17th.. This

will be a time we can celebrate the spirit of Christmas with fellowship and good food and a "special" visitor, door prizes for the men, goodie bags for the kids. Breakfast will start at 8:30.



UNITED STATES ARMY

A Thank You Sent to the "Men in Arms" Ministry

Kandahor, Afghanistan
Dear Church Members,

Thank you for the care package. It was verty thoughtful. My soldiers and I enjoyed it very much. It is nice to know we are not forgotten over here. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Frank Ford, CPT, JA



Pastor Harry

Pastor Cyndi

Javier Ríos

Kathy Balcar

Sandra Ingle

Kim Bachman

Randy Cobb



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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 8:30 & 11:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS: 9:45 AM
CHILDCARE MINISTRIES: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM MON-THUR
CROSSFIRE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: 6:30 PM WEDNESDAY
BISHOP: JAMES DORFF
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: Carl Rohlf's
PASTOR: Harry Kahl
Associate Pastor: Cyndi Weidner
ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Kathy Balcar
YOUTH MINISTER: Javier Rios
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Sandra Ingle
CHILDCARE DIRECTOR: Kim Bachman
Choir Director: Randy Cobb

Sermons and Scripture

December 2011

Sanctuary 8:30 am Chapel 11 am

Date: December 4 (Holy Communion)

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Title: Solomon the Wise King

Scripture: 1 Kings 3:1 - 14

Preacher: Pastor Harry

Date: December 11

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Title: Children's Christmas Play

Scripture: Luke 1:26 - 33; Mt. 1:18 - 23

Date: December 18

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Title: Kings & Prophets

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Preacher: Pastor Harry

Date: December 25

[One Service at 11 AM]

Sunday: Christmas Day

Title: Shepherds & Magi

Scripture: Lk 2:8-20; Mt. 2:1-12

Preacher: Pastor Harry

Chapel Service @ 11 am

Pastor Cyndi Preaching

December 4

Mary: Finding Favor with God

Luke 1:26-38

December 11

Joseph: God's Choice to Father His Son

Matthew 1:18-24

December 18

Mary and Elizabeth: Impossible Joy

Luke 1:39-45

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE!!!

The Manger: Joy to Our World

Luke 2:8-20

December 25 Only one service in the sanctuary and Pastor Harry is preaching.

The Vision Of LVUMC:
To Love God, Self & You

The Mission Of LVUMC:
To Serve, Share and Offer Christ