



Sounds of Christmas

Join Us **TONIGHT** at 6 PM for an
Evening of Music!

Featuring...

- PraiseMeisters • Handbell Choir
- Atonement Choir • Special Music • Carols

Reception Following in Rankin Hall



Christmas Caroling Dec. 17 @ 4 PM

A wonderful Christmas tradition at Church of the Atonement, is our annual Christmas Caroling Trek. Each year in mid-December we visit the homes of members of Church who would appreciate a holiday visit. We sing together, re-read the Christmas story and pray together. This year, we will meet at the Church at 4:00 p.m. and carol in small groups. Plan to join us this year on Sunday, December 17, as we share the good news, "Christ the Savior is born!"

For more information contact Pastor Fred at fredscarr@comcast.net



Christmas Eve Service

*December 24th
6:00 PM*

Mark Your Calendars!

- TONIGHT: 6:00 PM—Christmas Concert
Dec. 17: 4:00 PM—Christmas Caroling (see article)
Dec. 24: 9:30 AM—Christmas Eve Morning Service (No Sunday School)
6:00 PM—Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 31: 9:30 AM—Regular Morning Service (No Sunday School)
7:00 PM—New Year's Eve Prayer Service
Jan. 7: 9:30 AM—Officer Installation
Feb. 3: 9:00 AM—Officer Orientation
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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

“5 Challenges to Reformational Theology”

Join us in **Rankin Hall** for “5 Challenges to Reformational Theology.” We will look at how certain “new” teachings have sought to undermine the great work of the Reformation over the course of 500 years.

- ◆ **TODAY:** The German Higher Critical Movement along with Liberalism—Terence Little teaching
 - ◆ Dec. 17: The New Perspective on Paul—Terence Little teaching
 - ◆ Dec. 24: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 - ◆ Dec. 31: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
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LIFE GROUPS!

Life Groups are beginning and we would love for you to be a part of a smaller community of our larger Atonement congregation. In Life Groups we seek to foster Biblical, Godly, Gospel-Nourished Community. In Life Groups we fellowship, engage, serve, invite, and grow. If you would like to be a part of a Life Group, please email Jim Rohrer at connect@atonementlife.org.

Read the Bible Through in a Year!



Below is the plan for Dec. 11 through Dec. 17:

- Dec 11 Amos 4:1-6:14, Rev 2:18-3:6, Ps 130:1-8, Prov 29:21-22
- Dec 12 Amos 7:1-9:15, Rev 3:7-22, Ps 131:1-3, Prov 29:23
- Dec 13 Obad 1-21, Rev 4:1-11, Ps 132:1-18, Prov 29:24-25
- Dec 14 Jonah 1:1-4:11, Rev 5:1-14, Ps 133:1-3, Prov 29:26-27
- Dec 15 Mic 1:1-4:13, Rev 6:1-17, Ps 134:1-3, Prov 30:1-4
- Dec 16 Mic 5:1-7:20, Rev 7:1-17, Ps 135:1-21, Prov 30:5-6
- Dec 17 Nahum 1:1-3:19, Rev 8:1-13, Ps 136:1-26, Prov 30:7-9

Financial Update

We thank God for you! Because of your faithful contributions, our congregation has been able to support the work of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, and around the world, as well as meeting the operating obligations of our facility here in Wheaton. As the year draws to a close, we wanted to provide you with a financial update:

Stewardship Gifts Received Through 11/30/2017	\$675,912
Full Year Budget	<u>\$867,680</u>
Needed to Meet Our Goal	<u>\$191,768</u>

Please prayerfully consider helping us reach our goal through an additional year-end gift.

If you itemize charitable contributions on your tax returns, contributions to Church of the Atonement are deductible on your Federal and state tax returns in the year made. If you mail a check to us, it will count as a 2017 contribution as long as it is postmarked on or before December 31, 2017. Donations made online or charged to a credit card will count as a 2017 contribution as long as they are posted in 2017. There can be significant tax advantages to donating stocks, mutual fund holdings, or other financial instruments. If you have any questions, please email Laura LeBoeuf at busmgr@atonementlife.org or call Mike Hanlon at 901-486-9663. Thank you again for your support.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. —2 Cor. 9:7

Poinsettia Orders

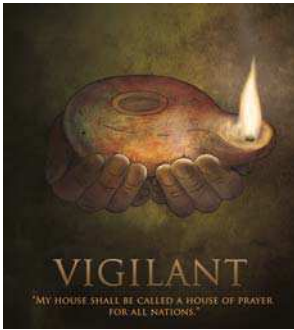
Every year, our congregation fills the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias on Christmas Eve. This Sunday in the Kiosk you will find the order forms as well as envelopes to place your form and payment. Please leave your order in the basket in the kiosk. For more information, please contact Sue Morrisson. (officemgr@atonementlife.org; 301-649-4131).



WARM HATS, GLOVES AND SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

As we approach the holiday season, I always feel in my heart to do something for someone in need, and as the cold weather approaches a lot of homeless people are going to be really cold and they will need hats, gloves and socks. I pray that my church family could help participate in this worthy cause, by donating these items. There will be a box in the Narthex marked donations. GOD shows us love, lets show others. —Anita Lipscomb

VIGILANT IN PRAYER!



This year we started “Vigilant,” a prayer gathering from 8:30-9:15 AM each Sunday morning before worship. During this season of Advent, may I encourage you to add participation in Vigilant to your preparation for Christmas? We meet in the conference room next to the library.

For me to hear others express my faith in their prayers is deeply confirming. It says to me that we truly share the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. Then to help and wait on each other by making others’ prayers our own –adding our “amen” to theirs – is so encouraging and needed.

Historically, Advent has been a time of heightened prayer in the Church, because it is Jesus’ second coming that has been primarily in view. His first coming is the assurance of his second, that he will complete with his return all that he began with his birth.

There is no better time to pray with others, “Thy kingdom come.” The glory of God revealed at Jesus’ birth stirs us to pray, “Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.”

Think with me for a moment. How many Sundays do you arrive at church ready to worship? That can be difficult. “Ready” means prepared, focused, excited to meet with the Lord. Vigilant prepares me to enter into the Lord’s presence. I come out ready to worship with you. I suppose we should expect that, for it’s by prayer that we wait and ready ourselves to meet the Lord at his return!

Love to all, Pastor Young



New Christmas DVD Additions to the Church Library

The library has just added five new DVDs related to Christmas. The following summaries are taken from the disc covers of the presentations:

Christmas for a Dollar, by John Lyde – DVD Drama Lyd – America is in the midst of the Great Depression, and the Kamp family is struggling to get by, especially since Mrs. Kamp’s untimely death the previous year. The older children do their best to take care of the family, but it’s the younger children, Norman and Ruthie, who struggle most. With their mother gone, and their father overwhelmed by doctor bills from young Norman’s battle with polio, the Kamp family expect a Christmas without presents. But when William scrapes together a dollar in coins for Christmas gifts, everything begins to change.



Christmas DVDs in the Library, *continued*

Christmas Oranges, by John Lyde – DVD Drama Lyd – As a baby, Rose was left on the porch of an orphanage, where Mrs. Hartley and the children under her care form a loving home. But when tragedy strikes, she is sent to Irongates – a cold and cruel environment. Its strict headmaster, Mrs. Crampton, immediately dislikes Rose, and punishes the children for slight infractions of the rules. Rose makes a friend, but other children will take any chance to get Rose into trouble. When she learns that each Christmas Mrs. Crampton's generous brother gives each child an orange, she eagerly awaits his gift. But on Christmas morning, Mrs. Crampton punishes her again. But a miracle happens in the classic Christmas tale.

The First Christmas Town: Drama to Rediscover Biblical Truths about the Nativity, by Answers in Genesis – DVD 232.92 Ans – Drawn from Answers in Genesis' Creation Museum, this presentation begins with a modern-day archaeologist stressing the difference between the actual events recorded in the Bible and the traditions that shade our view. This is followed by four different one-actor performances that communicate with passion the emotions of various people associated with the nativity: Mary's cousin Elizabeth, the old woman Anna at the temple, a wise man who visited the toddler Jesus, and a temple guard whose life has been totally transformed by Jesus' life. The gospel message in each is clear.

The Fourth Wise Man, starring Martin Sheen and Alan Arkin – DVD Drama She – Based on Henry van Dyke's classic, "The Story of the Other Wise Man," this story concerns a wise man named Artaban (Martin Sheen) who studies the prophecies and witnesses a sign in the heavens that he hopes will lead him and his faithful servant, Orantes (Alan Arkin) to the Messiah. Artaban takes with him three precious gifts to present to the Messiah. But they do not reach him at Bethlehem. For 33 years, they pursue Jesus, only to miss him at every turn. Along the way, Artaban uses his gifts to help people in dire need. He then has nothing to present to the Messiah when he finds him. The story culminates on Easter Sunday when Artaban, old and dying, finally encounters the triumphant King.

Saint Nicholas: the Real Story, by Mark Wilson – DVD Biog Nic Wil – This presentation examines by real person on whom the Santa Claus legend is based, St. Nicholas of Myra. Distinguished historian Mark Wilson travels to modern day Turkey and Italy to recount the story of St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop in Asia Minor who lived in the third and fourth centuries. Wilson shows him to be a courageous man of God, who stood for truth at a critical time in church history, and who profoundly impacted the culture in which he lived.



Nursery Schedule for December 10: 9:30 AM

Infants: Jenny Pasenelli, Jacquie Perrera, *Volunteer Needed* (2)
2 - 4's: Anita Lipscomb, Banafshe Niki, Jalch Anissi, *Volunteer Needed*

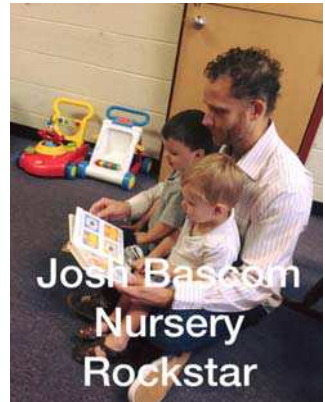
Nursery Schedule for December 17: 9:30 AM

Infants: Cindy Crump, Rachel Philbrick, *Volunteer Needed* (2)
2 - 4's: Gianni/Nancy Lam Nang, Nils Miller, *Volunteer Needed* (2)

“Volunteer Needed” **(aka “Nursery Rockstar”)**

Every week, the phrase “Volunteer Needed” appears in the Nursery Schedule boxes above—always in the same place, always there. Might you consider being a part of the team of nursery/toddler Rockstars?

Contact Kristin Rundell, Coordinator, Children & Family Ministries (Kristin.rundell@gmail.com) to put your name on the schedule!



Children & Families



Atonement Baby/Tots Club! The next ABC Club meeting is this Friday, Dec. 15. We'll take a break for Christmas and resume on Jan. 5th. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Youth Events

- ★ **NO HANG TIME TONIGHT!** Come to the Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM!
- ★ **Service Opportunity!** The projection team is looking for students to help with slide projection during Sunday morning worship. Contact Nancy Scibek (skyswim@verizon.net).

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ON FACEBOOK at www.facebook.com/#!/AtonementSilverSpring

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