

903-657-2529

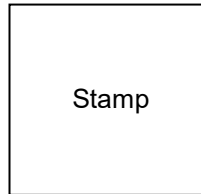
www.fpchendersontx.org



*“Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences”*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**



☩ Connections

First Presbyterian Church

Henderson, Texas

December 2022 Vol. 54:12

Christmas Glow

As a child I remember thinking that Christmas sparkled!

Every Christmas tree, from the one in my own house to the ones at my grandparent’s homes, to those in the shops, to the one suspended over the intersection in the middle of downtown, had their own special glow. Trees that touched ceilings, sat on tables, wide, skinny, and flocked. There were carved ornaments from Guatemala, plastic stars, clothespin angels, drummers and ballerinas, fragile glass balls that shined like mirrors, and ropes of popcorn garland. Other ornaments were made of construction paper to frame class pictures or shaped like angels holding wish lists. And sparkling, colorful, flashing little lights – there was always an abundance of twinkling lights.

The trees would lead to family gatherings around the table, and then, because it was Christmas, we would adjourn to the living room, aglow in Christmas-tree light, and laugh and tell stories as we opened presents. The presents were exciting little mysteries that triggered laughter and storytelling. In my memory, the sparkling light from the tree gave everyone a warm happy glow.

Now, I can’t help but connect the warm glowing faces of my memory with the mystified and radiant faces of the ones artistically portrayed at Christ’s birth. Some radiant from the glow of the newborn Son, some reflecting the delicate golden halos of the holy family.

We celebrate Christmas because God took on flesh without relinquishing godliness. God joins us in the everyday struggle of living, loving, and choosing. Jesus knows what it means when the days are too short, there’s no way to please everyone, and our best selves exist only in our dreams. Having experienced this life with us, Jesus promises forgiveness borne of eternal and invincible love.

Navigating the pandemic necessitated smaller gatherings, but now is the time for us to broaden our circles again. Christmas is the perfect time to include that neighbor, distant friend, or long lost relative. Set up a video chat or invite them over for a hot cup of cheer near the tree and enjoy the warm glow as it radiates from their face.

At Christmas, we prepare for the coming of Emanuel, God is with us. What better way to do that than to spend time with one another? Merry Christmas!

by Rev Michele

In Search of our Kneeling Places

~ Ann Weems

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.

When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.

When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing angel voices.

We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.

In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.

In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.

In today's world, we use and enjoy holly during Christmas. Did you know that many Christians consider holly symbolic of Jesus Christ? The red berries represent the blood that Jesus shed on the cross on the day he was crucified. Legend has it that holly berries were originally white, but that the blood Christ shed for the sins of humankind stained the berries forever red. A holly's pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head before he died on the cross.



As we near the season of Christmas, we can't help but look forward to the colors, smells and senses we associate with this time of year. And to remember it is a time of giving.

Our congregation continues to embody the spirit of the giving season year round. Yes we do special offerings, special events and special extra helping during the "season"; but our beautiful generosity is not "season-specific."

We will be sharing some Christmas Joy with our neighbors included in our **Adopt-A-Block** family on **Monday, December 12th** if you'd like to join us in the walk/ride around the neighborhood, we'd love to share that time and experience with you. Leading up to this month, we helped a couple of families that found themselves needing a life-line for a need-specific situation. We assisted someone with an unexpected need with her rent payment after she was robbed. Working with her and her landlord, she was able to keep a roof over their head. We also helped with propane purchase for another so that their home could be heated as we entered the colder temperatures of the season.

Our **Christmas Blessings Stocking** project that will also benefit H.I.M. this year is on-going through the first week of December. For a donation of \$10, you purchase a stocking for the Narthex tree in honor of/in memory of someone or something special to you and all the proceeds will be given to H.I.M. for their Christmas Food Baskets.

The Spirit of Christmas is definitely in the halls and hearts of First Presbyterian Church Henderson and its members.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas

Your Outreach Team – John, Tom, Kathy, Lynn, Claudia, Jimmy, Rev. Michele

Merry Christmas from the Fellowship Committee!

The Fellowship Committee:
Mary, Claudia, Kathy, Lynn,
Weldon and Liz



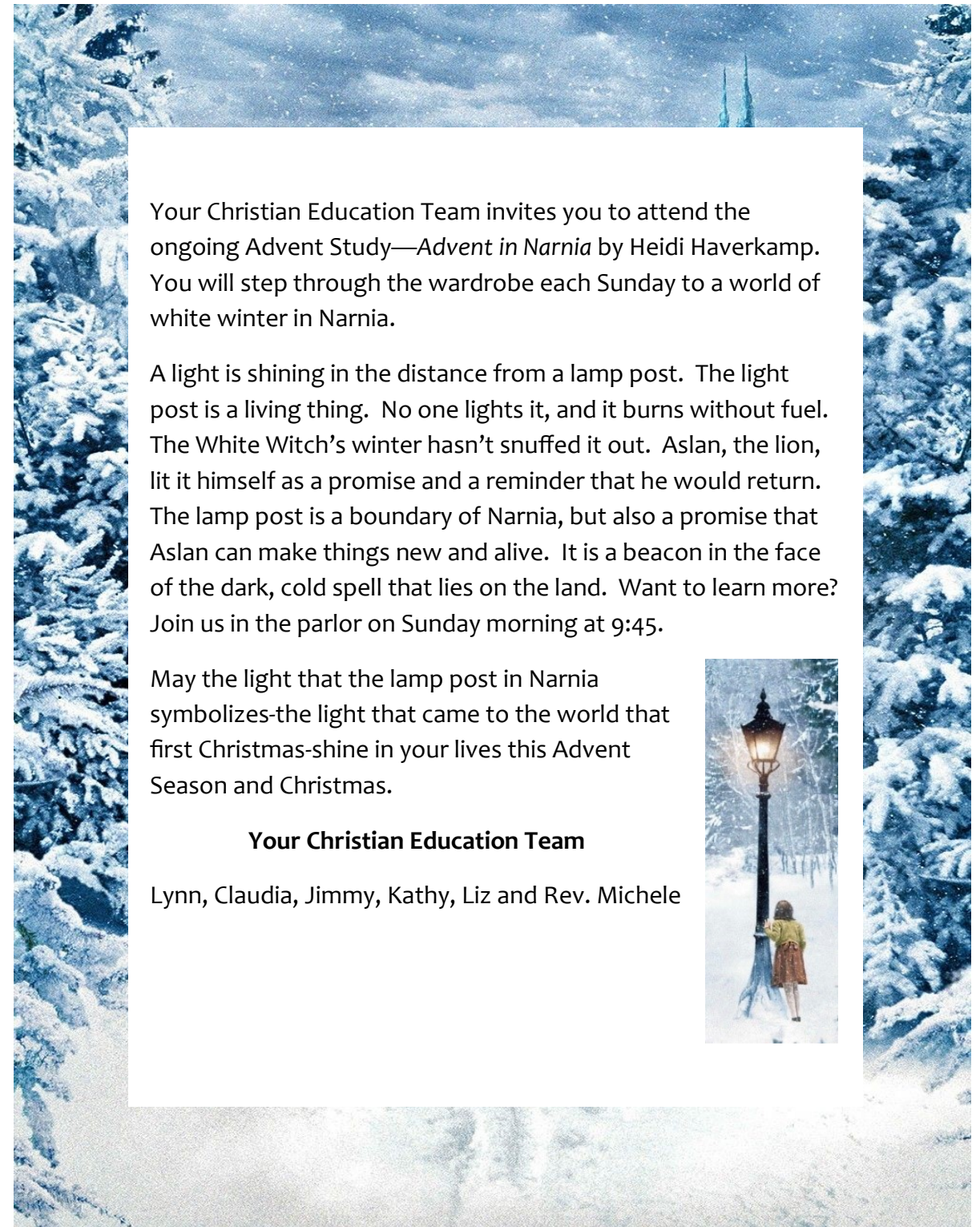
“We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.”

— POPE PAUL VI



The Worship Committee wishes you a very Merry Christmas!

The Worship Committee:
Mary, Tom, Kathy, Joshua, Lynn and
Rev. Michele



Your Christian Education Team invites you to attend the ongoing Advent Study—*Advent in Narnia* by Heidi Haverkamp. You will step through the wardrobe each Sunday to a world of white winter in Narnia.

A light is shining in the distance from a lamp post. The light post is a living thing. No one lights it, and it burns without fuel. The White Witch’s winter hasn’t snuffed it out. Aslan, the lion, lit it himself as a promise and a reminder that he would return. The lamp post is a boundary of Narnia, but also a promise that Aslan can make things new and alive. It is a beacon in the face of the dark, cold spell that lies on the land. Want to learn more? Join us in the parlor on Sunday morning at 9:45.

May the light that the lamp post in Narnia symbolizes—the light that came to the world that first Christmas—shine in your lives this Advent Season and Christmas.

Your Christian Education Team

Lynn, Claudia, Jimmy, Kathy, Liz and Rev. Michele



Greetings and Merry Christmas from your Building and Grounds Committee!

As we discussed in last month's article we have new items to check off your to do list to get ready for winter and the colder temps.

- ◇ Clean those gutters. Any buildup of leaves or debris will cause water to back up and not drain properly causing damage to the foundation around the house. When below freezing temps arrive this could also cause damage to the interior of the house from ice accumulating and then melting.
- ◇ Inspect your roof for damaged or loose shingles. Left uninspected could result in water or ice damage to the interior as well.
- ◇ Go ahead and test the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Replace the battery if it's been over a year since the last time.

It's best to let a professional check the items we've mentioned. Check with the local Better Business Administration for a referral on a roofer if you don't already have a contact.

John T., Claudia, Weldon, Kathy and Steve

Your Session

Mary,
Steve,
John T.,
Tom,
Kathy,
and
Rev. Michele



The Member Care Committee wishes you a Merry Christmas!

The Member Care Committee: Mary, John T., Lynn, Kathy, Claudia, and Chris





CE Green Team

Finance Committee

The committee met on November 10, 2022, with all members present except Steve and Kelly. After reviewing our church's finances through the first ten months of 2022, it was noted that both our pledges and plate are running below budget as well as our expenses. The committee reviewed the proposed 2023 budget. After much discussion, the proposed budget was unanimously approved.

We wish you Christmas joy and blessings
Wrapped in God's eternal light,
For when you rejoice in the gift God gave,
Fresh hope can reignite.
We pray Christ surrounds you with His peace
To comfort, restore and renew,
So the light of His love may fill your heart,
Revealing Christ's warmth in you.
Christmas Blessings!

Your Stewardship Finance Committee

Carol, Kathy, Kelly, Steve and Tom

May the gifts we share this
season be a reminder
of God's precious gift
to us.

**Your Communications
Team**

**Kathy, Claudia,
Weldon**



December 2022



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 Meals on Wheels	3
4 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live/Communion HIM Donation Day Worship Committee Mtg.	5 Home Communion	6 6:00 Theology on Tap	7	8	9 Meals on Wheels	10
11 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	12 4:00 Adopt-a-Block	13	14	15 2:00 L.E.A.N. 6:00 Session Meeting	16 Meals on Wheels	17
18 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	19	20	21	22	23 Meals on Wheels	24  Christmas Eve 5:30 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live
25  Christmas Day 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	26 Newsletter Deadline	27	28	29	30 Meals on Wheels	31 New Year's Eve

Duty Elders for December:

Mary/Steve

Liturgists for December

12/04 Kathy

12/11 Steve

12/18 John T.

12/24 Carol

01/01 Lynn

December Birthdays:

2-Bill B.

6-Scott

19- Syble

31-Carol

