

MAUPIN'S CORNER

Maupin Avenue ARP Church

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ARP Church*

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The Saving Word He Came To Be

Nativity scenes are an important way of telling the story of Advent. God the Word made flesh coming down to earth. Nativity scenes are many, but just a few churches on Christmas Eve have a nativity scene drama with live actors and animals. Where the drive up to the nativity begins with Christmas carols and candle luminaries lighting the way.

Mark Dalby tells of the time his dad, a pastor, saw the heart of the Christmas story very clearly. Mark's dad asked that the nativity be placed as it would normally on the front of the church lawn. But he altered it in two ways. First he asked that the manger be left empty, and next that an empty cross be erected to tower over the nativity in the background. Why

would he do such a thing and what would the response be? Pastor Dalby believed that we were meant to be part of the drama, the story of Christmas. He knew that if the Babe remains in the manger and if there is no cross we could not receive Christ in our hearts as our Savior, of which He came to be.

Heaven, in Advent, has been opened to sinners redeemed by a child, God the Son who humbled Himself to be born human to His mother Mary. John says Jesus is the Word, who always was, and He became flesh and dwelt among us. So that we sinners, redeemed by the child who left the manger and grew to maturity, willingly submitted Himself to the Father's will, to death on a cross. An empty manger, an

empty cross was Pastor's Dalby's way of saying Christ's birth is connected to His dying and His dying to His resurrection. Would seeing an empty manger with an empty cross be upsetting to us at Christmas? To some of pastor Dalby's community it was. Many said, "Why is he ruining Christmas by making us think of death?"

Certainly when Mary brings her son, God's Son, into the temple and places Him in the hands of Simeon she is reminded of death. Simeon raises the Babe upwards toward heaven, proclaims God's salvation for us all and then says these words to Mary:

"This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but He will be a joy to many others. He has

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been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose Him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And (Mary) a sword will pierce your very soul.” Simeon’s message to Mary is very clear. She who bears the Son of God will one day experience the sorrow of His crucifixion. Truly He was “born to die that men might live.”

When we see the Nativity do we ultimately see it as empty of Jesus “The Saving Word He Came to be?”

May we have a blessed Christmas and may we in every way be Christ’s servants to each other for His sake.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Randy



There were 41 shoe boxes stuffed for the Operation Christmas Child with items donated by Maupin. Big success from our small church! Thanks for all the help!

DROP -N- SHOP

Maupin youth ministry is sponsoring 2 “DROP -n- SHOP” dates in December, open to parents who need time away from the kids to do unsupervised Christmas shopping. All potty trained children accepted. Please contact the church office or Melanie Dwyer for pre-registration... so we will be certain there are plenty of shepards to watch over the flock. Offering games, crafts, movies, snacks, fun, fellowship. There is no cost for these dates, but donations are appreciated.

Any one interested in helping shepard the flock on December 4, 6pm-9pm or on December 19, 1pm-5pm, please speak with Melanie Dwyer, Nicole Boyer, Carissa Dickert or Connie Lesslie.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Everyone is invited to the Maupin Christmas Party sponsored by Women's Ministries. This event will take place on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00pm at the church. The "Hat Lady" will be providing the entertainment.

Please bring and enjoy finger food afterward. Women will be asked to participate in a 'White Cross Offering' and everyone is asked to bring gifts for shut-ins and food supplies for Rowan Helping Ministries.

Meet the Hat Lady!!!



What was once a favor, became a calendar full of speaking engagements for the Hat Lady! When Kim Sheeks told a friend that she would come up with a program featuring some of her hats for a Mother-Daughter Banquet, she never dreamed that the event would be the first of many speaking engagements. Not only has she performed at Mother-Daughter events, she has spoken at numerous civic, teacher, senior citizen and church organizations.

Kim is a retired first grade teacher from Morgan Elementary School in Rowan County, and has taught in Alexander County and in Lexington, South Carolina. She has served as Teacher of the Year at Morgan and at Wittenburg Elementary School in Taylorsville, North Carolina. A graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College with a BA Degree in early Childhood Education, Kim is, also, a graduate of Alexander Central High School. She is member of Immanuel Lutheran Church where she is a youth advisor, choir member, Senior High Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, and has been a member of the Church Council. Also known as the "preacher's wife", Kim is married to the Rev. Bruce Sheeks, and they have one son, Charles, who is a recent graduate of NASCAR Technical Institute located in Mooresville.

Other organizations in which Kim belongs is the Rowan Rowdy Rosebud Red Hat Society. She is a member of the Rockwell Civitan Club, and the Gamma Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Educator's Society where she served two terms as District III Chairman and as State Chaplain.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will immediately follow the December 6th worship service. There will be two items on this meeting's agenda to be voted on: The approval of the annual budget for 2010 and church officers.



SPECIAL SERVICE

We will have a special Christmas Choral Worship Service on Sunday, December 13 during our regular 11:00 am worship time. Please invite family and friends. We will enjoy a covered dish lunch following worship.

On the week-end of December 19, Fulton Heights children and neighbors are going to stop in with Christmas carols as a halfway point on their tour of the neighborhood. Maupin will offer hot chocolate, cookies and the Christmas story to warm the carolers. To join in or for more info, contact Pastor Randy.



CANDLE-LIGHT COMMUNION

There will be a Christmas Eve candle-light communion service on December 24 at 6:00pm.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Susan Triplett is organizing a Christmas Eve community dinner. It will be 2pm-5pm in the fellowship hall. Speak with Susan about donating specific menu items or helping to serve the meals...

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	3	4 DROP -n- SHOP 6-9pm	5
6-2nd Sunday in <i>Advent</i> 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church/ Congregational Mtg 5:00pm-party	7 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	8 Deacons meet 6:30pm	9 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	10	11	12 Prayer Break- fast 8:00am
13-3rd Sunday in <i>Advent</i> 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Christ- mas Cantata/ Covered Dish 5:30pm-Youth Night	14 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	15	16 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	17	18	19 DROP -n- SHOP 1-5pm
20-4th Sunday in <i>Advent</i> 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	21 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	22	23	24 Community Dinner 2-5 Candlelight Communion Service 6:00pm	25 	26
27 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship 5:30pm-Youth Night	28 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	29	30	31		

Thanksgiving 2009



Thanks to Nicole Boyer for the great pictures!