

The Messenger

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Custodian: Sheila Thornburg
Yard Maintenance: Charles Burgess

Purpose: To keep the congregation informed of church functions, program, and other news, and to inspire to fulfill its mission, through publication of a monthly bulletin.

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Messenger

Newsletter of The Walhalla Presbyterian Church and The West Union Chapel

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December 2009

Vince's View



Dear Family & Friends of West Union Chapel & Walhalla Presbyterian Church,

"Maybe," thought Joseph, "I could divorce Mary quietly without trumpeting the reasons. By the time her pregnancy comes to light, she will be safe from stoning. Then I could still discreetly help her raise her child, even though I'm not sure I could ever again trust her as my own wife."

Joseph went home that evening and prepared himself to go to the Rabbi the next morning to write out the required decree of divorce. He couldn't get to sleep. He lay in a cold sweat with a knot in his stomach, and a lump in his throat. He tossed and turned and wept and prayed for hour after endless hour. When at last his tortured thoughts faded into unconsciousness, Joseph was given an amazing dream. The atmosphere in his dream vibrated with energy. A luminous figure, larger than his house, both terrified and attracted him. Joseph shook uncontrollably with Holy awe as the angel in his dream seared God's message into Joseph's soul and memory forever!

Joseph, son of David.

**Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.
For the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**

**She will bear a Son,
And you are to call His name Jesus,
For He will save His people from their sins.
(Matthew 1:20-21)**

Prophets are the ones God uses to bring His true Word to the world. Prophets deliver God's Message to the human-kind. Oftentimes, although we rarely recognize it, God brings the greatest prophets to us from dreams. You see, dreams are the stuff reality is made of. Reality is that which is true, substantial, lasting, enduring, authentic, and genuine. Reality is what is wrought by the hand of the Author of life, the Master of all craftsmen, the Maker of all things in heaven and on earth, the Ground of all Being. Or to use His Own favorite name for Himself: "I AM". Reality is brought to you by the God Who Is--before anything or anyone else came into being by His hand. This God uses dreams to bring reality into being.

Our greatest profits in life will come from paying obedient attention to the prophets from God in the dreams He gives to us. To live the abundant Life Jesus promises to us, we must pay obedient attention to the prophets from dreams. God gives people dreams in order to accomplish the eternal goals of His everlasting Kingdom.

Ask, seek, knock. What are God's dreams for you this Advent season?

Rejoicing in God's Presence and Hope,

Rev. Vincent S. Alig

The Messenger

December 2009 Edition

A publication of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and
West Union Chapel



**The Angel Gabriel said to Mary,
"He will be great
and will be called the Son of the Most High;
and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;
and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and His kingdom will have no end."
(Luke 1:32-3)**

From Your Session

by Rosemary Bailes

At their Stated Meeting on
November 2, 2009, the Session:

Heard a devotional by Elaine Barnett on the theme of God's greatness evidenced in nature.

Prayed for ill and bereaved members, family and friends. Added to prayer list the names of Beth Thomas and Wanda Warner.

Reviewed Out-going Correspondence, including letters to church members concerning DST recommendations and decision not to employ a director of student ministries at this time.

Reviewed In-coming Correspondence, including letters of thanks for monetary contributions from Columbia Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian Disaster Fund.

Approved motion for:

- adopting the 2010 budget in amount of \$185,334.36.

Heard Announcements that:

- The Stewardship Team will host Wednesday Night Supper on November 11.
- Dr. Jack Taylor will be guest preacher on November 22nd when Rev. Alig will be away on vacation.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on December 7, at 6:30 p.m.



**YOUR SESSION PRAYS FOR YOU; PLEASE
PRAY FOR YOUR SESSION**

A Note of Thanks

The Worship Team would like to thank Doug Keel for purchasing and then installing, with the help of Art Shick, our new CD recording system. The system has been moved downstairs for easier access. Thank you Doug and Art, for all of the hard work and time. This is another example of the dedication of our Walhalla Presbyterian Church Family helping each other.

Walhalla Presbyterian Church

Rosters Dec 2009

- 6th** Flowers in the Church - Deb Wickliffe
Lay Reader— Linda Hostetler
Head Usher— Alton Barnett
Counters— Gene Nix & Sam Rochester
- 13th** Flowers in the Church— Available
Lay Reader— Daniel Wright
Head Usher— Sam Rochester
Counters—Gene Nix & Sam Rochester
- 20th** Flowers in the Church— Poinsettia
Lay Reader—Sam Rochester
Head Usher— Jack Workman
Counters –Gene Nix & Sam Rochester
- 27th** Flowers in the Church— Poinsettia
Lay Reader—Gene Nix
Head Usher— Annette Morrah
Counters—Gene Nix & Sam Rochester

Christmas Cantata

The choir is presently working on a mini-cantata for December 20th. The cantata is entitled "A Christmas Carol Gallery." It was composed by Larry Shackley from Columbia, SC, and is a sumptuous tapestry of Christmas carols almost seamlessly woven together. The reference to the "gallery" is that carols are actually images in song and rhyme, stories out of space and time, portraits in a musical gallery. The choir is enjoying preparing our cantata, but our joy would be much increased if you would join us for this Christmas presentation. We need you! ~Miriam Taylor~

Family Night Supper

Please make plans to attend our Wednesday Night Supper on December 9. Your Fellowship Team will provide barbeque, buns, chips, and beverages. Please bring a side dish (slaw, potato salad, baked beans, etc.) or dessert, as well as a hearty appetite. Although there will be no charge for the meal, please fill out an RSVP slip or call the church office so we'll know how many guests to plan for. You will enjoy a brief program about the 2009 Joy Gift, followed by a Carol Sing sponsored by the WPC Choir. What a fun way to kick off the Christmas season!

More History....

By Annie Brown

John C. Calhoun's contributions to our state and nation are numerous; his efforts brought about many changes in the lives of Americans. Some of his ideas were so advanced that they took more than fifty years to become policy. A number of his far-reaching accomplishments occurred while he was Secretary of War in the administration of James Monroe from 1817-1825.

One of Calhoun's most influential policies was the development of a broad military program. He inherited a military in a state of chaos, and he developed the military into an orderly and efficient system. He completely re-organized the army and added both research and exploration to its mission. Wiltse writes that only a man of Calhoun's youth, daring, and confidence would have contemplated such a vast program for the War Department.^[1] Calhoun was so intent on initiating his reforms that he failed to realize that he was arousing hostility among political rivals and economic competitors.

When Calhoun took over the war department, surveys to erect coastal forts were already in progress. In addition to the erection of these forts along the east coast, Calhoun also proposed an elaborate system to unite and fortify ports near the Gulf of Mexico and around the Great Lakes. His proposal included a road linking Maine to Louisiana and a waterway joining Boston to Savannah. He urged the government to help pay for the Erie Canal (already under construction), to expand the Cumberland Road, and to build routes that connected Charleston and Augusta with Tennessee. In the north, he proposed waterways connecting Albany with Lake George and Lake Ontario, and Pittsburg with Lake Erie. Among Calhoun's other proposals were a road from Detroit to Ohio and a military highway from New Orleans to the Tennessee River. Calhoun felt this vast system of roads and canals was vital to the national defense so that troops and supplies could be quickly moved if an area were threatened.^[2]

The nation was rapidly expanding, and trade with the Indians was a major factor in this westward and northern expansion. It was necessary for the government to provide protection for the traders as they pushed deep into Indian hunting grounds. For this reason, Calhoun proposed new military "posts eighteen hundred miles up the Missouri River to the Yellowstone"^[3] as well as new posts on the Minnesota River, another post between Lake Huron and Lake Superior, and one near Bismarck, North Dakota. Wiltse writes that once the plans for these posts were made, John C. Calhoun, in characteristic fashion, began to turn the plans into action.^[4] Calhoun knew that settlers would soon follow the traders and the military, and they, too, would require governmental protection as the frontier expanded. Calhoun believed that to ensure peace, protection should be extended to the Indians. He was truly concerned about the plight of the Indians as their nomadic way of life was being destroyed. Calhoun proposed the appointment of a Superintendent of Indian Affairs who would report to the Secretary of War. Under Calhoun's plan, all Indian trade would be licensed through this officer and conducted through trading houses run by the government. All trading houses and their records would be subject to inspection, and alcohol would be forbidden. Calhoun envisioned that these trading houses would serve as a way for the Indians to learn about civilization while protecting the Indians from dishonest traders and the meddling of foreign governments. Once "they had learned the ways of civilization, they would be given land, education, and eventual citizenship."^[5] If Calhoun's policy had been fully adopted, it would probably have prevented much bloodshed. Congress, however, was slow to respond, and it took between fifty and a hundred years for most of his ideas to become law. While Calhoun did succeed in strengthening the regulations involving trade with the Indians, his "attitude brought upon him the determined hostility of the fur-trading interests. Indian policy became a political issue... {and} engrossed as he was in the administration of his office, Calhoun did not sense for some time this undercurrent of opposition"^[6] that had arisen to his policies. Calhoun was making political enemies that would haunt him in his future political aspirations.

Besides building new forts, roads, and canals, Calhoun influenced developments in other areas of the military. Under Calhoun's direction, General Scott prepared a manual of infantry tactics. Calhoun reviewed and then improved the education of students at West Point. One of his recommendations was for the formation of a second military college. "He proposed also a 'school of practice' for men in service - a proposal out of which grew the Artillery School at Fortress Monroe, and in time the Army War College."^[7]

With all the important contributions Calhoun made as Secretary of War, it is interesting to note what Wiltse considers his most valuable contribution. "Most important of all, perhaps, if we think in terms of centuries rather than of years and decades, was an order to the surgeons of the Army to keep detailed day-to-day weather records at all posts...these records constituted the basic data for the first study of meteorology in the United States."^[8] What foresight this brilliant man from South Carolina possessed! The pride South Carolinians felt in him was justified.

Next time..Calhoun becomes Vice President under two different Presidents...

(1) Wiltse, Charles M.; *John C. Calhoun Nationalist 1782-1828*;pk. 164

(2) Wiltse;pp.174-165

(3) Wiltse;p.166.

(4) Wiltse;p.167.

(5) Wiltse;p.170.

(6) Wiltse;p.170.

(7) Wiltse;p.172.

(8) Wiltse;p.172-173.

West Union Presbyterian Chapel

By Ed Bryant

I find it hard to believe that it is so near to Christmas. The warmer than usual weather is early fall like. Thanksgiving is barely over but the radio stations are playing Christmas music. I like the carols much better than the songs they usually play. We certainly have gotten plenty of rain this fall. We can thank the Lord for this blessing.

We have Sunday school at 9:45am each Sunday. Our service is at 11:00am and we have the third Sunday luncheon throughout the winter months. Our Bible study group has increased in number and we are extremely proud of the new people that come. We do have a wonderful time of in depth study and have a great teacher.

This article will arrive too late to welcome everyone to our combined choir, but we have had fun at the choir practice and the voices remain to blend well and I feel they are pleasing to the Lord. We would like to thank Mrs. Donna Riggs for the time she has spent helping us with our singing.

PRAYER FOR THE SOLDIER

If your will, heavenly Father,
Look down upon us this day.
Please keep our sons and daughters,
Brave and safe in harm's way.
Dry the tears of the loved ones,
The soldiers have left here in pain.
Let the soldiers know Jesus,
And each fallen is a heavenly gain.
Let the fierce sounds of battle
be replaced with praises and song.
The sound of birds softly singing,
In a land where horror was known.
Father we ask that the soldiers,
Here and there over the sea.
Let them forget the horror of war;
They fought that we may be free.

Ed Bryant

Announcements



Condolences

Condolences are extended to Frank Forbes and family in the death of his beloved wife, Janice, on November 19th 2009. Please keep Frank in your continued prayers.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Bill & Mary Weeks in the birth of their new grandbaby, Mary Mattison Weeks. Mary came into this world November 19th at 7lbs at Military Hospital, Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS. The proud parents are Leslie & David Champ Weeks.



Women's Meeting

The Carolyn Rogers Myers Circle will start again the second Monday of each month. The first meeting coming up will be Monday, December 14th at 9:30am at West Union Chapel. Any questions, please call Sue Caldwell.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you from the Norton Dendy Circle for participating in Operation Christmas Child. Our church filled 37 boxes to the brim with wonderful toys, pens, pencils, hygiene items, and assorted treasures. The love that went into each box was evident. Please remember to pray for the children who will receive these boxes. Samaritan's Purse will add a gospel story in the language appropriate for each child—so your gift becomes even more valuable! Thank you again for your support.

Annie B. Brown

...BIRTHDAYS...

12/03	Mattie McCall
12/03	Zandra Overstreet
12/07	Lou Abercrombie
12/11	Bruce Douberley
12/12	Sylvia Rumer
12/16	Hilda Wilson
12/17	James Houtzer
12/17	Sybil Martin
12/18	Bob Ashcraft
12/19	Roxanna Thompson
12/20	Carolyn Owens
12/20	Rita Petty
12/21	Debbie Houtzer
12/24	Lillian Rochester
12/27	Edna Echols
12/30	John Lay
12/30	Emily Thomas
12/31	Jack Wyatt
12/21	Fynn DeHay
12/29	Donald Neal

...ANNIVERSARIES...

12/05	Jack & Mimi Taylor
12/13	Don & Cheryl Morocco
12/15	Donald & Susan Neal
12/17	Sonny & Rita Petty
12/19	Wes & Margaret Coon
12/19	Bruce & Bonnie Douberley
12/20	Will & Anna Kate Brown
12/20	Doug & Susan Hollifield

Lunch for Life *Food for the Soul*

Please continue to pray as several sites across our town are being considered as a permanent location for this exciting local mission project.

To express interest in helping WPC and WUC serve lunch on Saturday, December 12, please contact Becky Drew 888-3409.

This is a great opportunity to serve our Lord by serving our needy neighbors.

Presbyterians in the Kitchen

Breakfast Casserole by Deb Wickliffe

6 slices bread
6 3/4 oz. Hormel Chunk Ham*
1/2 lb. shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
2 cups milk
6 eggs
Salt & pepper to taste

Place bread in bottom of casserole dish (no need to trim crusts); if necessary, cut some slices to fit dish. Beat eggs and milk with salt and pepper. Pour over bread. Sprinkle cheese over egg mixture; top with ham. Place in oven preheated to 350 and cook until firm and slightly browned on top (approx. 30 minutes). One recipe serves 8—10. (Dish tastes best if prepared the night before and cooked the following morning). This recipe can be doubled and baked in a large lasagna baking dish to feed approx. 15-20 people. *Any type of chopped or chunked ham may be used.

Deb Wickliffe has become famous in WPC/WUC for this very easy and very delicious casserole. It makes a perfect easy breakfast, served with toast, biscuits, or muffins and fruit or fruit juice.

Deb currently serves on our WPC Session; she also serves on our church staff as church treasurer.

An Advent Celebration

An Advent Celebration of music and worship will take place Sunday, Dec. 6, at 4:30pm at West Union Chapel. Bring a neighbor to enjoy this wonderful musical celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ. This event will feature combined choirs from our area churches, and will benefit the Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund.

Advent




Below are the families that will light the Advent candles at Walhalla Presbyterian Church.

- November 26 Anna Davison and Family
- December 6 – Deb Wickliffe and Family
- December 13 –The Morocco Family
- December 20 – The Macaulay Family
- December 24 – The Silsby Family

Walhalla Church Services
 9:45AM Sunday School
 11:00AM Sunday Worship
 12:15AM Coffee Time

December 2009

West Union Chapel Services
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00AM Sunday Worship
 4:30 PM Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Every Sunday 4:30pm Bible Study at West Union Chapel Fellowship Hall	*Mon-Fri 6am- 7am - Guidance & Prayer time at West Union Chapel 		*Choir Practice Wednesday nights 7:00pm at WPC & WUC 		*Every Friday 8:00am Old Joe Men's Break- fast—Kountry Kupboard 	
11/29 1st Sunday in Advent—Reading: Anna Davison & Family	11/30	1 5:15pm Mis- sions Team Mtg at WPC	2	3 3pm Nettie Long Circle/WPC	4	5 Walhalla Main Street Christmas Parade at 5:00pm
6 2nd Sunday in Advent—Reading: Deb Wickliffe and Family 4:30pm Advent Service at WUC 6:00pm RFOM Jubilee party at Barnett House	7 6:30pm Stated Session Meeting at WPC	8 10am Commu- nion Team Meet- ing at WPC	9 6:00pm Family Night Supper Carol Singing and Joy Gift	10	11	12 Lunch for Life 12noon— Powell Real Es- tate Parking Lot 4pm—West Union Christmas Parade
13 8:30am WUC Board Meeting 3rd Sunday in Advent— Morocco Family	14 9:30am Carolyn Rogers Myers Circle/ WUC 7:00pm Norton Dendy Circle Mtg at WPC	15 7pm Small Group Meeting at Morocco's	16	17	18	19 Schools on Christmas Break through Jan 3rd
20 4th Sunday in Ad- vent—Reading: The Macaulay Family. Choir Cantata at WPC 3rd Sunday Luncheon	21	22	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Com- munion Service at WPC	25 Christmas Day	26
27 5th Sunday in Ad- vent—Reading: The Silsby Family	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve		

Hymn of the Month

Submitted by: Doug Keel

Go, Tell It on the Mountain 1907

During the bitter days of slavery, black workers on American plantations, solaced themselves with song and created a unique form of American hymnology—the Negro spiritual. It was the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, that took the plantation songs of the Negro slaves to the entire world. One of the last “spirituals” to be uncovered and published was this Christmas carol, “Go, Tell It on the Mountain.”

How did it come about?

John Wesley Work Jr. was born in Nashville, on or about August 6, 1871. His father was choir director for a Nashville church who often wrote his own arrangements. John grew up singing in his dad’s choirs, and when he enrolled in Fisk University, he became active in its music program, through his primary subjects were history and Latin. Returning to Fisk to work on his master’s degree, John was eventually hired as professor of Latin and Greek. But his greatest love was the preservation and performance of the Negro spiritual.

Many of the spirituals had been published, but “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” was largely unknown, though it had been performed by the Jubilee Singers since 1879. Some of the original stanzas were obscure, for spirituals, by definition, were unwritten songs passed from plantation to plantation and from generation to generation. The chorus, however, was crystal clear and highlighted the theme for the whole: “Go Tell It on the Mountain / Jesus Christ is born.”

Intrigued by the chorus and melody, John wrote two new stanzas for this song, and it became his custom before sunrise on Christmas morning to take students caroling from building to building, singing, “Go Tell It on the Mountain.” It was first published in 1907 in Work’s Folk Songs of the Negro as Sung on the Plantations.

John Work has been called the first black collector of Negro folk songs, a pursuit continued by his two sons, John Wesley Work II and Frederick J. Work. Both young men served on the faculty of Fisk University, working with the Jubilee Singers and collecting and publishing African-American spirituals and folk music.

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” is classic in that genre. To black slaves in antebellum America, the birth of a liberating Savior was a message to be heralded from the highest mountains.

It still is, for us all.

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