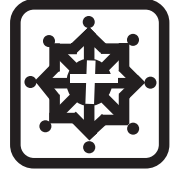


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Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church
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Volume XLIX No. 581 published weekly

Dec. 14, 2008

Website: www.greenmontoakpark.com



White Gift Sunday
Christmas Tea following
worship services.

WORSHIPLEADER:
Susan Beall
GREETERS:

Office Hours

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Telephone: 252-6705
Fax # - 252-4093

Pastor:

Rev. Gregory King
pastor@greenmontoakpark.com

Youth Leader:

Sheri Parrett

Admin. Chairman:

Suzanne Slaidins-Dull

Church Secretary

Nova Kigar

office@greenmontoakpark.com

Choir Director:

Robert Duerr

Organists:

Jacque Fisher

Mary Jane McBride

Shelley Outlaw

Chapel Worship:

8:45 a.m.

Morning Worship:

10:45 a.m.

Sunday School Hour:

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Nursery - Adult

Ushers:

8:45 -

Gary Etter

Loren Houck

10:45 -

Greg Goodner

Kendall Cobb

"We Traveled the Holy Journey with Mary & Joseph"

Last Sunday afternoon approximately 70 members and friends of Ascension and Greenmont-Oak Park Churches participated in the "Las Posadas" Latin American Advent procession tradition. The program was organized and lead by the Ascension & Greenmont-Oak Park Partnership Committee. Christian Leaders from both churches worked to make Las Posadas a heart-warming Advent/Christmas event, drawing us closer in our relationship with God, Jesus our Savior, and our neighbors and friends.

We had several youth from both churches take the roles of Mary, Joseph and the 8 different Inn keepers. Our 3-5th grade youth designed and made their own ponchos, they were very creative and beautiful. As we processed from one Posadas to the next we sang, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", accompanied by guitar. We even learned a little Spanish. At every door Joseph knocked and asked for shelter for Mary to rest and stay and was turned away, once the door was even closed in his face, until they arrived at the ninth Posadas, where they were welcomed to stay and rest and wait for the baby, the Lord Jesus, to be born. Even though we had a large group, we all were quiet and anxiously listening for the Inn keepers response to Joseph at each door, young and old alike, were drawn into their journey. We concluded the journey with a prayer service, and Fiesta celebration activities of making a tin Christmas ornament, pierced paper decorations, making greeting cards for the Homebound, and a Pinata activity and refreshments.

Special thanks go out to: Fr. Chris Worland, Rev. King, Jim Murray, Lois Keil, Marie Jenkins, Jacquie Hittle, Pat White, Verdona Mardis, Joe Von Holle, Sheri Parrett and America Stevens our Cultural Advisor. Also many thanks to those donating cookies for the fellowship: Elizabeth Ancil, Toni Bailey, Elizabeth Sumner, Karen Brown, Barbara Etter, Nova Kigar, Barbara La Blanc, Nobu Oishi, Kay Rearick, Arlene Uldrich, & Laura Von Holle.

Our Ecumenical Committee has been planning these special Advent and Lent events for several years now. If you would like to be involved in any future programs, please contact either church office or any committee member.



Sermon Bible Readings

Dec. 14 - Advent III
- John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 21 - Advent IV
- Luke 1:26-38

Vital Statistics

Attendance Dec. 7, 2008

8:45 - 21

10:45 - 98

Sunday School - 43

Offering - General Fund

(monthly budget need - \$14,543)

	<u>Offerings rec'd</u>	<u>+/- Amt.</u>
Jan. '08	\$9,714	(-\$4,829)
Feb. '08	\$8,867	(-\$5,676)
Mar. '08	\$15,825	(+ \$1,282)
Apr. '08	\$10,930	(- \$3,613)
May '08	\$13,692	(-\$851)
June '08	\$15,880	(+\$1,337)
July '08	\$10,957	(- \$3,586)
Aug. '08	\$15,267	(+ \$724)
Sept. '08	\$11,608	(- \$2,934)
Oct. '08	\$10,494	(- \$4,049)
Nov. '08	\$14,483	(- \$60)

Our total deficit to date is -\$22,253

Happy Birthday

Craig Kigar - Dec. 16

Don Keltner - Dec. 19

Adam Donovan - Dec. 22

Jamie Medlin - Dec. 22

Sean Humphrey - Dec. 22

Carol Vires - Dec. 24

Margaret Dill - Dec. 27

Ray Urbanas - Dec. 27



In Our Prayers

Nate Anderson - in Vietnam

Mildred Berk - Lincoln Park N C

Margaret Cobb - Walnut Creek

Margaret Dill - Masonic Home

Jamie Geswein

Gene Gibson

Beverly Guffey

Mildred Heath - Walnut Creek

Judy Hirshman (Chaney)

Opal Hunter - Crestview Manor

Lottie Jaeger

Dan Jones - Patriot Ridge Nursing

Scott Kigar

Dustin Knowlton

Jimmy & Mary Lehman

Peggy Lewis

Nancy Lyttle

Barbara Lyttle

Bob McCray

Deloris Miller

Marcella Miller

Michael Ourfalian - Iraq

Mr/Mrs Patterson - Liberty Woods

Nancy Pratt

Ron Rearick - in Afghanistan

Guy Robinette - Walnut Creek

Cindy Romano

Mary Sampson - Liberty Woods

Sue Shroyer

Kathy Steele

Connie Swanson

Gloria Van Camp

Mary Vance

Flo Warner

Evelyn Wheeler

Vera Westfall

Diane Yost

Please let the church office know, how God is answering prayers in our lives.

Upcoming Jr & Sr Youth Events

- Dec. 14 - play practice, 6-8pm
- Dec. 19 - 6PM to Sat. 12 noon
 - LOCK-IN, Christmas Party, Play practice
- Dec. 21 - Christmas Play, 5:30 PM
"Operation Baby King"



3rd - 5th Graders

Join in the Christmas Play & monthly youth group fun!

We are restarting our 3rd to 5th grade youth group and plan to meet once to twice a month. Our focus will be on what it means to be a friend in the eyes of Jesus.

We are starting this month of December, to include the kids in several of the upcoming Christmas season events, and invite them to be part of the youth Christmas play.

I am excited and looking forward to working with your children. Any questions, please call me, Home #298-6210 or cell # 475-5724 - Sheri Parrett

Sunday, Dec. 14

- meet last 15 mins. Sunday school

Thursday, Dec. 18 - 6:30 PM

- Christmas Party, share a dessert practice play music.

Sunday, Dec. 21 at 5:30 PM

- arrive for Christmas play

Kindergarten Volunteer needed one Sunday a month.

We are looking for a volunteer to help one Sunday a month at the 10:45 worship hour. Male or female may apply. Call the church or e-mail the church if you can help out in this way. - Barbara Richards



"Special Offering Combined This Year"

The Official Board decided to combine the Thanksgiving and Christmas Special Offerings again this year. We will equally divide the offerings up to a value of \$2400 between Daybreak, House of Bread, Neighbors in Need, St Vincent De Pauls, Veterans of the Cross, and YWCA's Battered Women's program. If we exceed the total of \$2400, the donations above the 2400 will then be given to the church operating budget. Please give as you can to support these ministries.



Join angel agent Double O-Heaven and a host of helpers in this delightful Christmas pageant. Agent Double O-H is assigned the mission of ensuring that no nation or single group of people claim the baby king as their own.

Christmas cookies:

The Christian Ed. Committee asks that all families bring 2 dozen cookies to share for our Christmas pageant on Dec. 21st at 6:30 PM. . You can bring them to the kitchen that morning or when you come to the program that evening. Thank you.

Traditions:

Everyone has a favorite family tradition at Christmas time. We are asking church members to decorate a small poster—telling of your special tradition—and bring it to church on Sunday morning, December 21st. We will use these to decorate the Donut Room for our Christmas program. You can pick up the poster board at the church.

2009 Flower & Bulletin Donations

New sign-up sheets are posted on the church bulletin board. If you care to donate these items for worship, the cost is \$20 for flowers and \$14 for bulletins. Payment may be dropped in the offering plate, please indicate what payment is for in the check memo. - Thank you, Worship Committee

"Staff Gifts"

If you would like to give to the Staff's Christmas gifts, envelopes will be provided. Please ask the ushers for an envelope over the next two Sundays, then return your gift in the offering plate. Thank you and Merry Christmas from the Staff Committee

"In Sympathy"

We extend our prayers and thoughts to Verdina Mardis upon the passing of her neice, Rev. King officiated at the graveside service. May God comfort you at this time of loss. - Your GOPCC family

WINGS

An election of new officers for Women In G.O.D.s. Service was held at our November meeting.

The new officers for the next two year term are:

President: Nikki Taylor

Vice President: Diana Knowlton

Treasurer: Sasha Taylor

Corresponding Secretary: Karen Brown

Publicity: Toni Bailey

The next W.I.N.G.S. meeting will be Sunday, January 25, immediately following the second service. We will have our annual Secret Sister revealing then. Please remember your secret sister and Greenmont Oak Park Church in your prayers throughout the holidays and the New Year.

"Kroger Rewards Earned"

Our combined reloads of our Kroger cards have exceeded the \$5,000 amount, earning us a reward check for \$235.69. This represents 15 cards being reloaded for use in the month of Nov. These funds will be put toward the general operating fund. Thank you for participating in this program. If you are not a part of this program and would like to be, ask Joe Farren for information about how to get started, it is easy. Just \$5 will start you off.

"Recovering American Soldiers"

This thought, which can easily turn into action, is being shared across America.

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, what wonderful gifts of cards would be shared with these special people who have sacrificed so much.

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001



White Gift Sunday, Dec. 14

Bring your gifts to share with families less fortunate to place under the Christmas tree. We especially need gifts of new or gently used, toys or games for children age 12 and under. Socks, hats and mittens/gloves, and nonperishable foods such as spaghetti sauce (canned only- no glass jars please), baked beans, side dish mixes to fill out the Christmas baskets.

Gifts of hats, socks and mittens may decorate a tree in the Hilty room.

We have a total of 150 families including a few families from our own church. We have 228 children age 2 months through teenagers. Many families are new this year for receiving this help.

Your generosity of love and caring is very appreciated! You filled 2 large shopping carts with groceries for the Thanksgiving collection, thank you!!

- Mission Outreach.

Poinsettia Plants for Christmas



We will again offer the purchasing of Poinsettia plants to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service. The Plants may then be taken home after the service. The cost of a plant is still \$9.00. Please sign up on the church bulletin board if you wish to purchase one. - Worship Committee



Christmas Tea - Dec. 14

The WINGS will be hosting the all church Christmas Tea on Sunday, Dec. 14, following the morning services in the Dount Room. A sign up sheet for donations of finger foods, Christmas desserts, and tea sandwiches is posted on the WINGS bulletin board on the upper level of the Gathering Place.

Please join us in this traditional church gathering for the Holiday.
- Loretta Liesch



"Christmas Eve 11PM Candlelight Service"

Join us in joyful worship on this Holy Night, Christmas Eve. Share in singing traditional carols, candlelight, hearing the Christmas story and experiencing or re-experiencing the birth of Jesus in your heart. Our service will be held at 11PM, with a wassail fellowship following the service.

