

Greenmont-Oak Park
Community Church
1921 Woodman Drive
Kettering, Ohio 45420



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Chimes

Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church



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Website: www.greenmontoakpark.com



"Christmas Surprises" - Sun Dec. 4 from 4 to 6 PM
Join Ascension & Greenmont-Oak Park Church
members in preparing for Christmas.

WORSHIP LEADER:

Brian Donovan—Dec. 4

Jane Simmons—Dec. 11

GREETERS:

Barb Varine—Dec. 4

Office Hours

1921 Woodman Dr
Kettering, Oh 45420
9 AM—3 PM Mon.—Fri.
Telephone: 252-6705

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert Smitley
pastor@greenmontoakpark.com
937-307-7874

Office Manager: Nova Kigar
office@greenmontoakpark.com

Youth Leader: Sheri Parrett

Admin. Chairperson:
Bob Beall

Choir Director:
Rob Duerr

Organists:
Jacque Fisher
Mary Jane McBride
Shelley Outlaw

Chapel Worship: 8:45 AM
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Bible Adventure: 10:45 AM

Ushers:

8:45 AM **10:45 AM**
Gary Etter Greg Goodner
Arlene Uldrich
Charlene Brown

Light from Bethlehem's Star

Sue and I traveled to Berryville, Va. to spend Thanksgiving with Katie and Carl. Thanksgiving night we were standing in the driveway and I looked up at the sky. It was brilliant with stars and no clouds to be seen for miles. And I got to thinking about the star of Bethlehem and how it shone over the Christ child that night long ago.

As I was searching for resources for this week's message I happened upon the following information about the Bethlehem Star. Wherever the spirit of God has found expression in a life you can believe that the star of Bethlehem paused over a cradle.

November 13, 354, the star stood over a baby lying in a cradle in Tagaste, North Africa. He was named Aurelius Augustinus, and he was to become St Augustine. He was one who was to speak of the things of God and later was to point to the coming city of God even as the vandals battered down the gates of his home city of Hippo in North Africa.

In 1091 that star shone over a cradle in Fonatines in Burgundy. The baby therein was named Bernard. Later the word of God sounded through the voice of Bernard of Clairvaux as he sought to carry the light of the gospel to the darkening continent of Europe. Here was the word made flesh in the form of a man of brilliant mind and steady faith.

A century later the star hovered over the little village of Assissi in the Umbrian hills of Italy. Bernadone and Pica were the wealthy parents of the baby Francis. The name of Francis of Assisi became associated with purity of motive and deed and with absolute love of God and mankind.

Follow the star to Eisleben, Germany, where November 10, 1483, the home of Hans and Margaret Luther was gladdened with the arrival of a baby who they named Martin because the next day was St, Martin's Day. Here was a life that was to be lived for the word and a voice that was to proclaim that the just shall live by faith and that every man is his own priest before God in that inner shrine where he comes face to face with the heavenly father. From his pen came the Reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God." At Christmas we sing his "Cradle Hymn."

June 17th, 1703 it paused over the home of Samuel and Susannah Wesley. Their 15th child was named John, who became the life and voice that saved England from moral disaster. His was the witness that established the Methodist church.

The star paused again on March 19th, 1813 when David Livingstone was born Blantyre in the Scottish Highlands. The star and faith he found in its light lead him into darkest Africa where he gave his life to bring the light of the gospel of God who has come to earth in Jesus Christ.

That star even sought out a little cabin in Hodgenville, KY on February 12, 1809 where Abraham Lincoln entered the world where he was to become God's man in bringing freedom to a slave people.

September 6, 1860 Jane Adams was born and in 1889 she opened Hull House in Chicago where she personally led the fight against slums, sweatshops, and disease.

Once again that star paused in 1875 over Gunsbach in Alsace, and Albert Schweitzer was born. He was the first missionary to ever receive the Nobel Peace prize for his work in Africa where he dispensed health and faith, love and peace, in Jesus name.

Through many years scores of homes have been gladdened with the arrival of babies. Can we dare to believe that these children as they grow in wisdom and stature will also grow in favor with God and man because there is something of God in each of these precious lives? How can you tell but that outside one of these nurseries today the star shines to signify the coming of one whose maturity will see him or her as the leader who brings permanent peace to our struggling world? And who will refuse to hope when his hope is in God?

In His Service, Dr Bob

Attendance Nov. 20, 27 2011

8;45 — 13, 14
10:45 — 97, 64
Sunday school — 25, 28

Offering—operating income

(Monthly budget need is \$15,850)

	Income rec'd	+/- Amt.
Dec. '10 -	\$ 15,964	+ \$114
Jan. '11 -	\$15,252	- \$598
Feb. '11 -	\$13,545	- \$2,305
Mar. '11 -	\$12,209	- \$3,641
Apr. '11—	\$14,261	- \$1,589
May '11 -	\$13,157	- \$2,693
June '11—	\$10,387	- \$5,463
July '11 -	\$14,577	-\$1,273
Aug. '11 -	\$9,779	-\$6,071
Sept. '11 -	\$12,890	-\$2,960
Oct. '11 -	\$12,660	-\$3,190

Happy Birthday

- Steven Keltner—Dec. 5
- Jordan Medlin—Dec. 5
- Katie Goodner—Dec. 8
- Rev. Robert Smitley—Dec. 8
- Megan Weyrauch—Dec 9
- Patti King—Dec. 11
- Jessica Parrett—Dec. 12
- Diane Yost—Dec. 12
- Cheryl Barnett—Dec. 13
- Hugh Culbertson—Dec. 13
- Anna Slaidins—Dec. 13
- Alyssa Erbes—Dec. 15
- Craig Kigar—Dec. 16
- Don Keltner—Dec. 19
- Adam Donovan—Dec. 22
- Jamie Medlin—Dec. 22



In Our Prayers

- Toni Bailey
- Jim Coleman
- Jerry Edwards
- Jamie Geswein
- Ken Hambrick
- Vern Hine
- Carol Hildebrecht
- Glenda Boddie
- DeAnn Decker
- Gary Etter
- Beverly Guffey
- Judy Hirshman
- Bill Hine
- Ruth Ingles

- Marilyn Jones
- Nova Kigar
- Vince Knowlton
- Mary Lehman
- Bob McCray
- Marcella Miller
- Cindy Ramono
- Mary Reynolds
- Laura Ruppert
- Paul Stutz
- Gloria Van Camp
- Evelyn Wheeler
- Paul White
- Dan Jones
- Dustin Knowlton
- Erik Landing
- Nancy Lyttle
- Lauren McClure
- Karolina O'Donell
- Harriet Shawhan
- Calire Riccos
- Tom Scheit
- Danny Tomaz
- Flo Warner
- Mary Willett
- Diane Yost

Those in Nursing Care

- Mary Lou Chaney – Bethany Vlg.
- Margaret Cobb – Walnut Creek
- Margaret Dill – Masonic Home
- Jim Farra—the Sanctuary
- Marion Farren—Trinity Home
- Sharon Gilmore—Heartland—Kett.
- Ginny Hambrick—Walnut Creek
- Mildred Heath – Walnut Creek
- Lottie Jaeger – The Oaks, West Kett
- Dan Jones – Patriot Ridge Nursing
- Lena Patterson – Liberty Woods
- Charles Warren – East Moline, IL
- Vera Westfall—Elm Croft, Washington Tnsp.

Military

- Ian Bader - USA, (Brown's grandson)
- Scott Certain – USA
(Jo Anne Jay's son-in-law)
- Andrew Hayden – USA
(Edna Holland's grandson)
- Tyler Mantia – Afghanistan
- Michael Mantia – USA (Mantia family sons)
- Nathan Nicholas—USA
- Brian Nicholas—Korea (Nicholas family sons)
- Adam Reeves—USA (Edna's grandson)
- Sam Rogers— USA (Jen Roger's son)
- Casey Ryan - USA (Weyrauch son-in-law)
- Kevin Stites— USA (S Stites grandsons)
- Ryan Stites - USA

Some thoughts on Christ from baby to Savior & God our Father/Creator:

Christ, THE Savior

The church today faces a crisis of Christology. Certain teachers cite “ecumenical embarrassment,” “western triumphalism,” lack of global awareness,” “Christian arrogance” and “scientific improbability” as grounds for speculating that Christ is only one spiritual guide among others. However, Scripture pictures him sitting at “the right hand of God; with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him’ (I Peter 3:22)

... the astounding wonder of the Christian Gospel is that for our sakes God the Father freely gave his sinless Son to the world so that through his redeeming work we might become “the righteousness of God.” - shared from ‘The Asbury Herald’

A broadcaster writes of Christmas

The late Harry Reasoner of CBS’s ‘Sixty Minutes’ penned some thoughtful words about the meaning of Christmas, a smattering of which are as follows:

“Almost nobody has seen God, and almost nobody has any real idea of what he’s like and the truth is that...the idea of seeing God suddenly and standing in the very bright light is not necessarily a completely comfortable and appealing idea.”

“But everyone has seen babies, and most people like them. If God wanted to be loved as well as feared, he moved correctly here. If he wanted to know his people as well as rule them, he moved correctly here, for a baby growing up learns all about people. If God wanted to be intimately a part of [humanity], he moved correctly, for the experience of birth and familyhood is our most intimate and precious experience.”

“So it comes beyond logic. It is either all falsehood, or it is the truest thing in the world. It is a story of the great innocence of God the baby, God in the power of man; and it is such a dramatic shot toward the heart that if it is not true, for Christians nothing is true.

“So, if a Christian is touched only once a year, the touching is still worth it. And maybe on some given Christmas, some final quiet morning, the touch will take.”

Staff Gifts

If you would like to give an appreciation gift to the Staff for their good support to the church over the past year, staff gift envelopes will be provided by the ushers at worship services over the next three Sundays. You may return your gift in the offering plate. Thank you and Merry Christmas from the Staff Committee.



“Christmas Surprises”

Join Greenmont and Ascension churches in a fellowship time to celebrate Christmas and it’s many surprises on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 4 to 6 PM, in the Greenmont Church Donut room. Our program includes a Christmas scavenger hunt, brief prayer service, puppets, singing and craft activities and refreshments.

We are asking that Greenmont church members bring 1-2 dozen cookies to



The Gift of a Son

This audience participation Christmas dinner pageant will be held here at Greenmont Church on Sunday, Dec. 18, following morning worship. Come and enjoy the warmth and closeness of Christmas with your church family at a potluck dinner. Then enjoy the after dinner entertainment where the impromptu cast is all of you! Each table performs a scene, no rehearsal is intended, this is a spontaneous pageant! A participatory attitude is more important. Carol singing will be included with the story telling. The program concludes with a special dessert, so stay and have fun with your church family telling the great Christmas story.



180 Families need our help

Christmas Basket preparations are underway and White Gift Sunday, Dec. 11 will be here soon.

The need is very great this year!

FOODS WE NEED ARE:

Canned corn, peas, soups-soups-soups, baked beans, spaghetti sauce (in cans—no glass please), mac-n-cheese, stuffing mixes, jiffy mixes.

We also accept gifts of new or gently used toys & books, and warm mittens, gloves, & socks that will be collected on **White Gift Sunday, Dec. 11.** If you shop early, then bring the mittens or socks, and place them on the tree in the Hilty room.

We have a total of 345 children on the receiving list. Let the Holy Spirit in each of us, guide us to share the love of Christ with these families. - Mission Outreach

Volunteering Schedule is:

Friday, Dec. 16—6 to 8 PM filling the Baskets (at least 35 people needed)

This is the best time for families with younger children to be helpers.

Saturday, Dec. 17—8:30 am to noon

Handing out baskets (at least 50 people needed) You can be breakfast helpers, carry gifts, carry food boxes, carry potatoes or apples, hand out gloves & scarves or socks, hand out misc. gifts. There are many little jobs with great benefits. The warmth of Christmas will fill your heart to overflowing.

Youth News

Youth Groups Fall Schedule



Footprints— (K to 2nd grade)

1st Sunday of month

Crusaders - 3 to 5th grade

3rd Sunday of month

Girls of Grace—Jr High girls

Last Sunday of month, 6to 8pm

Christian Nighthawks—Sr High boys - TBA

Jr High youth—6th to 8th

1st & 3rd Saturday evenings
8 to 11PM

5th Quarter—Sr High youth

2nd & 4th Saturday evenings
8 to 11PM

Donations of wrapping paper and bows are appreciated for gift wrapping the Christmas basket families children's gifts. Our youth will be wrapping their gifts for them, if they want.

Chimes Article Deadlines are:

Dec. 12, Jan. 2, Jan. 16

Save your used Christmas cards—bring them to the church office. Cheryl Barnett will collect them for use at a Nursing Home in the coming year.

Official Board Meeting Reminder

Take Note—Our Dec. meeting will be held on TUESDAY, DEC. 20, at 7 PM.

We invite all new 2012 Chairpersons to join us at this December meeting.

Please let the church office know if you will be unable to attend.

- Bob Beall



Sunday School Programs being Offered

Our High School/Young Adult class

meeting at 9:30 am in the Laubach room begins with a game, then a serendipity—time of discovery, followed by topic discussion time. Examples of topics are: Forgiveness or What if?

Adult Bible class also meeting at 9:30 am in the Donut Room is currently studying and discussing the Old Testament Book of Proverbs.

The Adult Contemporary Class is viewing a series of videos presented by Marcus Borg entitled, "Living Transformed Life; Being Christian Today." They also meet at 9:30 am in a downstairs classroom.

All members and friends of Greenmont Church are warmly invited to join in these classes. - Bob Colvin, Frank Taylor, Laura Von Holle & the Barnetts
Coffee & Tea is shared during the adult classes. Please join us.

Preparing for Advent & Christmas— For unto us a Child is Born



Annual Christmas Tea—Dec. 11

The WINGS ladies will again host, this traditional fellowship and refreshment time. Join us in the Donut room and share the gift of time with each other.

White Gift Sunday—Dec. 11

Remember to bring your gifts of food, books, or toys (gently used or new), gloves or socks to worship with you on Dec. 11th. They will be placed under the Chrismon tree during worship. Then on Dec. 17 they will be given out to the families receiving Christmas baskets this year.



Poinsettia Plants are \$9.00

If you wish to purchase a poinsettia plant for Christmas, please sign-up on the bulletin board.

This year we ask that the plants remain in the sanctuary through Christmas Day worship services, before taking them home.

3T's Christmas lunch-Dec. 20

All church members 55 and older are invited to join us at MCL cafeteria at noon on Dec. 20 for lunch and Christmas fellowship. The Collins Connections will provide some entertainment. Hope to see you there—Cheryl Barnett

Christmas Service Schedule

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. All families and friends of Greenmont-Oak Park Church are warmly welcomed.

Dec. 24—9 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight service

—Communion served

Dec. 25 Christmas Day - 10:45 AM only

Jan. 1 New Years Day—10:45 AM only



Christmas Offering

We will again combine our Special Thanksgiving & Christmas Offerings to equally divide our gifts between six organizations. Daybreak, House of Bread, Neighbors-In-Need, St. Vincent DePaul, Veterans of the Cross, and the YWCA's Battered Women's Program, up to an amount of \$2,100. Any amount in excess of this total will be added to the church operating costs. Prayerfully consider what gifts you may offer.



Calling for Musical Gifts again

Musicians young and old, please share your gift of a carol on White Gift Sunday, Dec. 11. Call Jacque Fisher with your song selection choice. (232-1637)

