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



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Chimes

Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church



Volume XLIX No. 712 published bi-monthly

Dec. 9, 2012

Website: www.greenmontoakpark.com

Office Hours

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert Smitley

PastorBob

@greenmontoakpark.com

937-307-7874

Office Manager: Nova Kigar

office@greenmontoakpark.com

Youth Leader: Sheri Parrett

Admin. Chairperson:

Jamie Fisher

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 Jerry Archer

Charlene Brown Tom Wheeler



ADVENT

Dec. 9 is White Gift Sunday

Dec. 9—2 PM we go Caroling to the Shut-Ins

Everyone welcome to come along



WORSHIP LEADER:

Dec. 9— Frank Lakins

Dec. 16—Adam Donovan

GREETER:

Dec.—Paula Geswein

“Ready for Christmas?”

In Isaiah 7:14 we find these words: “Well then, the Lord himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him ‘Immanuel.’” Isaiah 9:6-7 tells us “A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David’s successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The Lord Almighty is determined to do all this.”

During Advent we recall the history of God’s people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled. This gives us a background for the present. Today we can reflect on the past track record of God & so begin to understand what it means to us now for the sake of what is to come, in our own future & of our world.

This Sunday we celebrated the “First Sunday of Advent”. The Roalef family read the Advent mediation and lit the first Advent candle. Advent is a time of preparing or looking ahead for what is to come. As Rev. Kathryn Anadein indicated in her message it is a time for longing; for looking into the future; for imaging what is ahead of us. The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning *coming*. The Lord is coming. We may reflect that every year at this time we celebrate his coming, so that in a sense we can lose the feeling of expectancy and joyful anticipation, because at the end of the season, everything seems to return to pretty much the same routine. The Christmas spirit that goes out with the dried-up Christmas tree is just as worthless. If this is the case, then our preparation may have been lacking and we have therefore been robbed of much of the true meaning of this season.

All around us people are saying that they are “getting ready for Christmas.” During this season of Advent the question that should be forefront in our thought is – just what are we getting ready for? The stores had their “Black Friday” sales and people fighting to get in the doors or fighting over not getting the first or last of a big sale. If you watched the TV News that evening of Black Friday you may have seen the one man going through the front doors of Wal-Mart out west threatening to stab anyone who got in his way. How about the lady that caused a fight and had to be arrested for disorderly conduct because a store advertising a 42 inch flat screen TV ran out before she could grab one and demanded that the store owed her because of it – getting ready for Christmas?

I have already heard people say “I already have all my shopping done, decorations are up, I have the menu planned out, I am ***“ready for Christmas!”***”

When we tell people we are ***ready for Christmas*** are we really—I mean really—ready?

Are we ever ready for Christmas – for the coming of the Christ child or for His second coming? The season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming. Unless we see the cross overshadowing the cradle, we will have lost the meaning of Christ’s birth. In this day and age we have become too focused on preparing **for** Christmas and not for **who** we are anticipating the coming of. We spend more time and energy shopping, getting guest lists ready, setting up Christmas parties, decorations, sending out Christmas cards, getting our Christmas trip planned and tickets bought for that winter cruise, than we do preparing for the coming of the Baby Jesus or the Second Coming of Christ himself. Do we spend time with the scriptures and in meditation about what this season really and truly means to us?

As we prepare for the Advent and Christmas season we need to take time to prepare

Attendance - Nov. 25 Dec. 2 '12

8:45 — 21, 24
10:45 — 72, 74
Sunday school — 19,

Offering—operating income

(Monthly budget need is \$14,958)

	Income rec'd	+/- Amt.
Dec. '11	- \$ 32,991	+ \$18,033
Jan. '12	- \$12,947	-\$2,011
Feb. '12	- 10, 593	-\$4,365
Mar. '12	- \$11,348	-3,610
Apr. '12	- \$13,679	- 1,279
May '12	- \$10, 746	- 4,212
June '12	- \$7,975	- 6,983
July '12	- \$14,748	- 210
Aug. '12	- \$10, 174	- 4,784
Sept. '12	- \$10,820	- 4,138
Oct. '12	- \$12,457	- 2,501

Happy Birthday

Patti King—Dec. 11
Jessica Parrett—Dec. 12
Diane Yost—Dec. 12
Cheryl Barnett—Dec 13
Anna Slaidins—Dec. 13
Alyssa Erbes—Dec. 15
Craig Kigar—Dec. 16
Don Keltner—Dec. 19
Adam Donovan—Dec. 22
Sean Humphrey—Dec. 22
Jamie Medlin—Dec. 22
Anna Ybarbo—Dec. 23
Carol Vires—Dec. 24



In Our Prayers

Doris Alexander	Kevin Bader
Glenda Boddie	Ginny Breckler
John Butts	Jim Coleman
Michelle Conn	Angie McGaughey
Amee Conn	CeCi (Cobb) Cole
Conner Elliott	Michelle Earwood
Jamie Geswein	Sharon & Jack Gilmore
David Goldberg	Ken Hambrick
Vern Hine	Bill Hine
Carol Hildebrecht	Mollie Huggins
Don Keltner	Dustin Knowlton

Erik Landing	Phyllis Lakins
Bob McCray	Lauren McClure
Vicki McBride	Angie McGaughey
Marcella Miller	Hilda Mobley
Karolina O'Donnell	Brian Parrett
Harriet Shawhan	Cindy Ramano
Calire Riccos	Herb Schafer
Tom Scheit	Beverly Smith
Diana Smith	Wayne Stolich
Paul Stutz	Danny Tomaz
Gloria Van Camp	Gina Van Camp
Evelyn Wheeler	
Paul White (Dicks family)	
Mary Willett	Emily Wilson

Those in Nursing Care

Mary Lou Chaney – Bethany Vlg.
Margaret Cobb – Walnut Creek
Margaret Dill – Masonic Home
Marion Farren—Trinity Home
Ginny Hambrick—Walnut Creek
Vern Hine—St. Leonards Center
Lottie Jaeger – The Oaks, West Kett
Lena Patterson – Liberty Woods
Vera Westfall—Elm Croft, Washington
Tnsp.

Military

Ian Bader - USA, (Brown's grandson)
Kirby Brooks— USA (Al Brooks son)
Scott Certain – USA (Jay's son-in-law)
Michael Mantia— Afghanistan
Nathaniel Nicholas—USA
Brian Nicholas—USA (Nicholas family sons)
Adam Reeves—USA (Edna's grandson)
Sam Rogers— USA (Jen Roger's son)
Casey Ryan - USA (Weyrauch son-in-law)
Kevin & Ryan Stites—USA (Stites grand sons)

Pantry Prayer Requests:

Please remember all our unspoken pantry families needs .

Chimes Article Deadlines are:

Dec. 17, Jan. 7, Jan. 21



**The Collin's Connection
Celtic Christmas Celebration**

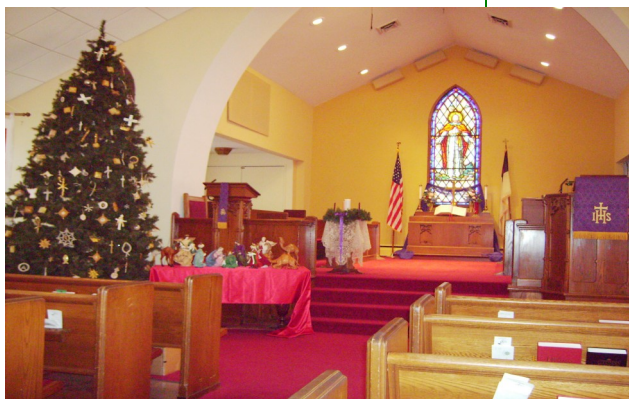
Dec. 16

Please join us at Normandy Church (450 W Alex Bell Rd) at 6 PM on December 16th for a wonderful full range of musical Christmas Celtic selections to celebrate the season. Everyone is invited to the hour long program

—Shelley Outlaw and Loretta Liesch and the whole Collin's Connection.

Let us remember to lift our Search Committee in prayer.

Trust that God supplies you with unlimited good, unlimited guidance, and resources for the task. We lift you and your work up to the Lord in Jesus Name. Amen.



"In Sympathy"

We extend our prayers to Kay Rearick and family upon the passing of her son Robert Rearick. May God comfort the family at this time of loss.

Cards may be sent to:

Kay Rearick, 3050 Bright Bounty Ln
Dayton Oh 45449

Across the Miles

We have had a note from Marilyn Streeter who lives in Florida. She says, "hello" to everyone at Greenmont church, especially the Farrens, Ethers, and Hambricks, and Oishis. Their family were members here in earlier years. Her parents were James & Helen Mulvaney. She has a sister now living in the Bellbrook area. Marilyn prays that we continue to be a lighthouse for the community and prosper. - Marilyn Streeter

**Come
Prepare
A Place
In Your Heart
For the
Christ Child
Join us for Advent
And
Christmas**

our hearts and minds and souls for the coming of the Christ Child. We need to anticipate and long for his coming into the world to bring the peace that we so desperately need in the world today. Advent is more than hanging tinsel and parties and family gatherings. It is preparing oneself for the coming of that Christ child.

Let me share with you a story about someone who "thought" she was **ready for Christmas**.

"Ready for Christmas," she said with a sigh. As she gave a last touch to the gifts piled high; then wearily sat for a moment and read till soon, very soon, she was nodding her head.

Then quickly spoke a voice in her dream, "Ready for Christmas? What do you mean? Ready for Christ, when only last week you wouldn't acknowledge your friend on the street? Ready for Christmas while still holding a grudge? Perhaps you had better let God be the judge. Why, how can the Christ-child come and abide in a heart that is selfish and filled with pride? Ready for Christmas, when only today a beggar lad came and you turned him away without even a smile to show that you cared? The little he asked – it could have been spared. Ready for Christmas, you've worked it is true, but just doing the things that you wanted to do. Ready for Christmas, you're circles too small; why you are not ready for Christmas at all!"

She awoke with a start, and a cry of despair, there is so little time, and I've still to prepare!

She got on her knees and prayed: "O Father God, forgive me, for I see what you mean, to be ready for Christmas means more than a home swept clean!" Yes, more than the giving of gifts and tinsel covered tree. It's the heart swept clean that He wants to see, a heart that is free from bitterness, hatred – sin.

Next time someone says, "Are you **ready for Christmas?**" before you make

that affirmative answer take a second to look deep within yourself and in your heart ask that question. Remember John 14:2 tells us "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you..." He is and has prepared a place for *you* but this Advent season are you really preparing a place for Him – in your heart. As we anticipate and long for the coming of the Christ Child this Advent season may we not "let our hearts be busy inns that have no room for Him but cradles of the living Christ and His nativity." This Christmas season may your hearts be a manger to hold the gift of God's love – the Babe long foretold. Then when asked are you **ready for Christmas** you can joyously say "Yes, I am!"

In His Service, Dr. B.

Special Christmas Offering

The Official Board decided to combine the Thanksgiving and Christmas Special Offerings. We will equally divide the offerings up to a value of \$2100 between Daybreak, House of Bread, Neighbors in Need, Veterans of the Cross, Big Creek Missions, and YWCA'S Battered Women's program. If we exceed the total of \$2100, the donations above the 2100 will then be given to the church operating budget.



**Christmas Eve—Dec. 24th
Candlelight Service — 11 PM**

All are welcome to join in the candlelight, communion service on Christmas Eve. Come remember the best gift that has been given for all, the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord & Savior.

Youth



Fall Schedule

Jr & Sr High Youth—

Sat. evening

8 pm—small group Jr & Sr High
Bible discussions

9 pm—combined fellowship

Footprints/ Crusaders (1—5th)

1st & 3rd Sundays, follows worship

All Sunday School Classes will remain in session through the Holidays.

Welcome New Members

Robert Berk, Sr.

On Sunday, November 25, 2012 Robert Berk, Sr. was taken into membership at Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church. Robert has a long history connection to the church, his mother, Mildred Berk was a member in earlier years. She lived to the age of 99.

Robert was baptized here by Rev. Hilty in the 1960's. Robert enjoys cooking. Robert has been worshipping with us for a while now and we welcome him officially.



Arlene Uldrich

On Sunday, December 2, 2012 Arlene was welcomed into membership at the 8:45 worship service. Arlene has been a worshipping partner with us for several years. She is active in volunteering with the Chimes Newsletter, the Food Pantry, and the Ascension & Greenmont Church partnership. She enjoys reading, & walking, and helping others. We welcome Arlene.

White Gift Sunday is Dec. 9

Along with the regular pantry assistance, each year, our church family along with Ascension church, Prince of Peace, and Good Shepherd ask for your help in giving a little extra to share the spirit of Christmas with our pantry families.



We will be collecting extra food items: **SOUPS, FRUITS AND SWEET POTATOES ARE IN THE LOWEST SUPPLY for baskets.**

Hats, gloves & socks, and gifts for boys and girls age 1 to 16. Our gifts will be lifted in prayer to bless the lives they touch at Worship on Dec. 9th at both services. The Christmas Baskets will be handed out on Sat., Dec 15.

Opportunities to Volunteer with the Christmas Baskets are:

Friday— 1 to 3 PM Set up

at Ascension Gym

Friday— 3:30 to 4:30 PM moving Food

to the Ascension Gym

Friday— 6 to 8 PM filling baskets

Saturday— 8:40 to 11:30 AM Handing out the baskets, breakfast, & wrapping

We will have sign up lists posted on the Food Pantry bulletin board in the Gathering Place. - Mission Outreach

3 T's - Dec. 18 at noon

All seniors are welcome to join us on Tuesday, Dec 18, at noon, for our Christmas get together. The Collin's Connection will be providing our holiday music.

- Cheryl & Ben Barnett

New Congregational Meeting Set—Dec. 16, following morning worship.

The New Constitution is still a working draft and we can work on the fit to better serve our church. The Official Board has decided to hold three more informational meetings to discuss the new constitution.

1- Monday, Nov. 26 at 7 Pm in the sanctuary with Jamie Fisher leading.

2- Sunday, December 2 at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary, with Brian Donovan leading.

3- Saturday, December 8 at 11 AM in the sanctuary, with Jamie Fisher leading.

These sessions are to prepare us for the next Scheduled Congregational meeting, Sunday, December 16 following morning worship. These sessions are important in order that we have a consensus about this new document for the congregational meeting. The Official Board requests that you prayerfully consider attending these sessions, seeking the will of God in all that we do in uplifting His church and serving Him.

The Agenda will include:

Items of Business

1- consider indefinite Interim contract—Rev. Dr. Smitley until settled Pastor is called.

2- sanctuary ramp

3- 2013 Operating budget

4- new constitution

5- slate of Officers

6- Endowment Report

Poinsettia Plants are \$9.00



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

We ask that the plants remain in the sanctuary through Christmas Eve worship services, before taking them home.

Annual Christmas Tea—Dec. 16

The WINGS ladies are hosting the All church Christmas Tea following the congregational meeting, on Sunday Dec. 16. Please bring some finger foods to share in this fellowship hour.

We will use the beautiful Fostoria antique punch bowl, donated to us by Shelley Outlaw. Thank You Shelley!



WINGS is pleased to announce it's new Board of Officers for the 2013-2014 term. Sue Smitley will step in as President, Paula Geswein will remain as Vice President and Lori Keltner and Becky Young will serve as either Secretary or Treasurer. There is one position still open. If you are interested in stepping up and serving on the WINGS board, please let one of the current officers know. We would love to have you. We are very grateful to these ladies for offering their services and know that God will continue to bless WINGS as it moves forward to serve our ladies and more importantly, our church.

