



First Baptist Church in Wickford

THE GOOD NEWS

December 2005

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STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Clifford R.
Hockensmith

Administrative Assistant

Cricket Genest

Director of Music Ministries

Elaine Alexander

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294.4595

Fax Number

294.7628

Email

fbcwickford@verizon.net

Website

www.wickfordbaptist.org

OPEN MESSIAH SING PART I AND THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS



Sunday, December 18th at 7:00 pm

ORGANIST—John Hubert

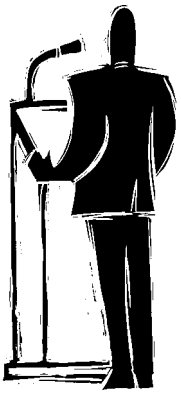
CONDUCTOR—Eric Van Dervort

MUSIC DIRECTOR—Elaine Alexander

Come and sing the beloved choruses of Handel's Messiah.
Bring your own scores. If you do not have one, scores will be
provided. Admission will be a canned good for the
North Kingstown Food Pantry.
There will also be a free will offering taken.

So start practicing and invite your friends!!
If you do not sing, you can be part of the audience.
Let's celebrate the Christmas season through music!

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE GOOD NEWS IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Rev. Dr. Clifford Hockensmith

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

It is no coincidence that the Christian Church celebrates Advent during the four weeks leading up to the shortest day of the year. Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ, is celebrated the same week during which daylight hours are shortest. At Christmas and in the weeks and months following, our daylight hours begin to gradually grow longer. Jesus is the Light of the world. At His birth, the light of God flows into a world steeped in darkness. But Christ has a dramatic effect: He enlightens the world!

Even in this year of our Lord 2005, even in communities such as ours, there are still many who dwell in darkness, without the light of Christ in their lives. Many have no hope. Many have no love. Many have no peace. Many have no joy. Many live without knowledge of the power of God's Hand in their lives. The Church still, more than ever, has a vital ministry to shine the light of Jesus.

The world today is hostile still to the news of Christ's birth. We have no evil king like Herod to order the execution of male children (imagine the horror of that). But we do have those who more and more openly and vehemently oppose the public use and display of Christmas nativity scenes and Christmas carols, crosses, and even Christmas trees.

This makes it all the more vital for churches like ours to keep Christmas with all its symbols and traditions. We cannot, from experience, expect the world or those who serve it to speak or teach of Christmas. This is up to the Church! The town square may not have a Christmas scene, but the Church must. Some university may not remember the Christmas carols, but the church will. The town may play football, basketball or hockey on Sunday morning, but the church must worship.

Now more than ever it is important for us in the church to keep Christ in Christmas. Let me suggest one concrete way of doing just that. As we contemplate what we are prepared to spend on Christmas, gifts and all- let us all consider giving a tithe of that spending to God's Church, or to some other worthy Christian mission. This might be one small way of focusing our hearts and minds on the real subject of Christmas- Jesus Himself. Jesus taught that 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' Let's devote a tithe, one tenth, of that treasure to the mission of Christ's Church, where Christmas shall be kept fully, until He returns on the clouds.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9:30 am

Sunday School
Chapel Building
& Stafford House

10:45 am

Worship
Sanctuary

11:45 am

Fellowship Hour
Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAYS

9:00 am

Prayer Group
Stafford House

10:15 am

Bible Study Fellowship
Stafford House

1:00 pm

Ladies Guild (2nd Wed.)
Craft Workshop
(1st, 3rd, & 4th Wed.)
Stafford House

THURSDAYS

7:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal
Choir Room

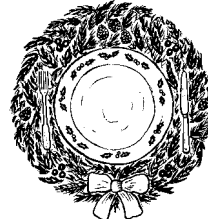
CHRISTMAS SEASON HAPPENINGS AT WICKFORD BAPTIST



*Christmas
Program*

FBC WICKFORD
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Sunday, December 11th
During the Worship Service

ANNUAL CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DINNER
Sunday, December 11th
at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



Join us for our Christmas Dinner following the Christmas Play
We will be serving Christmas Ham with all the trimmings and
some fresh baked pies (from members and friends!).
Don't miss this time of food and fellowship
Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 294-4595.

OPEN
MESSIAH
SING



Sunday, Dec 18th
at 7:00 PM
In the Sanctuary



Christmas Eve
& Christmas
Day Services

Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 24th
7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 25th at 10:30
No Sunday School
No Fellowship Hour

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, December 5th
7:00 PM
Personnel & Admin.
Stafford House

Wednesday, Dec. 7th
9:30 AM
Finance Committee
Stafford House

Tuesday, December 13th
10:00 AM
Membership & Care
Al Schmid's house

SPECIAL EVENTS

*A Festival of Music &
Word for Advent*
Saturday, Dec. 10th
7:00 PM
St. Paul's Episcopal
Church

Christmas Program
Sunday, December 11th
During Worship

Church Christmas Party
Sunday, December 11th
12:15 PM
Fellowship Hall

Open Messiah Sing
Sunday, December 18th
7:00 PM
Sanctuary

Gal's Night Out
Monday, December 19th
7:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Christmas Services
Christmas Eve
Saturday, Dec. 24th
7:30PM
Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25
10:45 AM



FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2005

		<u>Plan</u>
	<u>07/01/05 - 11/28/05</u>	<u>07/01//05 - 11/28/05</u>
Income		
Pledges & Repeat Supporters	\$ 48,055.30	\$ 51,164.40
Other Income	<u>\$ 10,678.35*</u>	<u>\$ 15,412.78*</u>
Total Income	\$ 58,733.65	\$ 66,577.18
Expenses		
Current Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 58,765.72</u>	<u>\$ 66,577.18</u>
Net Income	\$ - 32.07	\$ 0.00

* Includes \$5,563.20 from reserves per plan.



BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY FALL CLEAN UP DAY THANK YOU!!!

The good news from this committee is that the clean up day was evidence of how well the people in the pews work together! Our leaf strewn lawn was prepped for Saturday when Harry Sleicher arrived with lawn tractor and "swept" the front lawn on Friday. Thanks Harry!

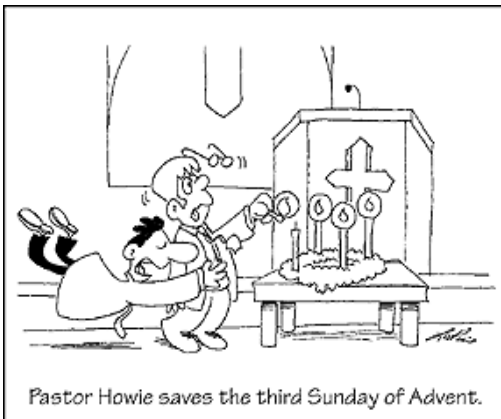
We were well equipped for the task at hand as Gordon Lawrence arrived with a lawn tractor towing a hauling cart, added to powerful blowers, rakes and all it requires to get such a large task done in a short time. The beauty of clean up day is the teamwork and morale!

Thanks to one and all who donated a Saturday morning to the service of the church. Hats off to Gordon Lawrence, Walt and Jan Soban, Jim and Beth Blink, Cathy Horridge Dan Urish, Jim Chartier, Nancie Schnell Herb Bassett, and Al Schmid. With special "Thank you" to Carolyn Basset who not only did yard work but baked treats to go with coffee.

Since the "official" clean up day folks like Bill Johnson and the Ken Lawrences have been back to do some items on the "to do" list. Thank you for attending to the extra details! I would be remiss not to acknowledge that Bruce Renner arrived just as we were getting ready to leave. He and son Mark were here to deliver a refrigerator to replace the green Art Festival "monster" ..the "monster" had a quick ride to the Transfer Station. Thanks Renners!

"Well done good and faithful servants" Mt 25:23

On behalf of B&P, Audrey Schmid



MISSION NEWS



The Bucklin Family, Mike, Adrienne, Timothy (age 9), Matthew (age 8) and Katy (age 4), have arrived safely in the United States from Indonesia for a 6-month furlough, and are now with relatives in Florida. Their home base will be in Waxhaw, North Carolina, but they will hope to get a chance to get up here to say hello. They thank the Church Family for all the prayers and support.

The monthly offering for December will go to assist retired ministers and missionaries. The money goes to provide emergency support to lighten the load of those with financial burdens, as well as providing "thank you checks" to let these faithful "Servants of God" know they are remembered and appreciated. In this regard we have received notes from former pastors which read as follows

"Dear Friends,

We have wonderful memories of the time we spent as your interim. May God bless you richly as you continue to serve him. Forest L. Parsons "

"Hello Good People,

Probably very soon you will receive the offering for retired ministers and missionaries . Your generosity means so much to so many, a good number of whom use it to help them over the financial holiday hump.

God bless you during these busy and joyful days, and on behalf of all of us "old-timers," thanks for remembering!

Warmly, Harry E. Bronkar

Please give generously in appreciation of the dedicated service these "Servants of God" have given.

**Big
Thank
You!**

Thanks to the generous gift from Dr. Lyman Davenport of a new amplifier for the Fellowship Hall, we can now make the Hall a part of the church sanctuary sound system. The speaker has been in place for quite a while, but the amplifier in the church balcony did not have enough power to utilize it. Now the Fellowship Hall can be part of any service, at least through sound. It was used the Sunday of the "Over 80's Dinner" to pipe the sound of the church service down to those dedicated people preparing the meal.



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN WICKFORD**
34-44 MAIN STREET
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852

**TIME VALUE - DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

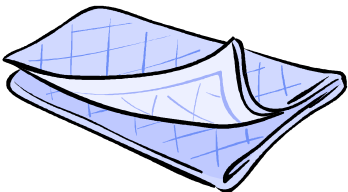
- 1st Linda Lundblad
Jacob Records
- 7th Harry Sleicher
- 10th Bob Westcott
- 14th Ann Wright
- 15th Catherine Scannell
- 20th Stephanie Gunkel
- 22nd Mary Jean Johnson
- 23rd Dick Gammell
- 27th Dan Urish



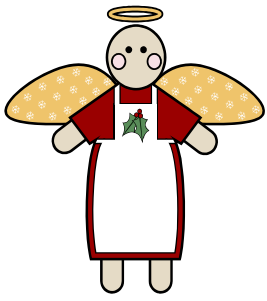
December 31st at 7:00 PM until January 1st at 1:00 PM
St. Paul's Parish House

Cost is \$20.00 call St. Paul's at 294-4357 or visit
www.stpaulswickford.org to register

* All teens must be accompanied by an adult chaperone *



The World Service Blanket Project will begin sales the first Sunday in December. Blankets are sent to people all over the world. With so many recent disasters the need is great. A blanket is a precious gift to someone who is cold. Give one or more in Jesus' name.



WOMEN'S GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 14th at 1:00 pm in the Stafford House. Please bring toiletries and/or paper products to be given to the North Kingstown Welfare Department. Hostesses are Marge Edwards, Mary Jean Johnson and Breta Gammell. Join us for readings, carols and refreshments. All church women and their friends are welcome!

GALS NIGHT OUT

Gals Night Out will meet on December 19th at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.
Save the date for making Christmas holiday decorations

News From the Membership & Care Committee

A big thank you to all of you who worked so hard to make the Over 80's Luncheon a huge success. Audrey Schmid, our chef, did all the planning of the meal and the shopping, a big job! Herb Davis, Herb Bassett and Al Schmid helped prepare the meal along with Breta Gammell, Elaine MacKay, Gladys Sherman, Barbara Bullock and Jan Soban. The dining room was decorated and set up by Pat Curry, Linda Lundblad and Linda Brayman. Our other helpers were Eleanor Reardon and Mary Beth Burnham. The Master of Ceremonies was the "one and only" John Armstrong. The much enjoyed music was supplied by Beth and the Beltones. The Beltones are Beth & Jim Blink, Linda & Ken Lawrence, Eleanor Reardon, Pastor Cliff and John Armstrong. Our invited guests were the members of First Baptist Church of North Kingstown (Allenton) who are over 80 and their Pastor, Rev. Ede Karrer. They really enjoyed themselves and were appreciative of our hospitality.

An "old fashioned" Hymn Sing and Spaghetti Supper is being planned for Sunday evening, February 19th. This is a whole church event and we need many singers and musicians to lead us in the family fun time. If you play an instrument, bring it along so that it can be enjoyed by all. If you have any ideas, please pass them on. We will begin working on this event after the holidays.

We received the following post card from Carl Heinrich when he was in Australia:

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Sydney, Australia! Graduation was exciting in Melbourne and now have my degree in astronomy. We will look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Best wishes to all, Carl & Elaine

Have You Thanked God Today?

Author unknown, submitted by Melanie Gibson

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest or torture of death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people around the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion that cannot read anything at all.