

Decisions, Decisions

When the radio starts playing Christmas music, I start to worry that by December 25th, the music will have become noise - the songs having been played so many times, they lose all meaning. But the songs we sing in worship during this season are woven into the very fabric of what we know "Christmas" to be. Whether we sing the carols we have known our whole lives such as *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World*, or songs such as *Mary, Did You Know*, that are so poignant, it just feels good to welcome the Christ Child with a song on our lips.

This Sunday morning at both the 9am and 11am worship services, music will bring us another step closer to that stable in Bethlehem. At 9am, our Praise Team will be joined by recording artists Tom Browne, Matt Douglas, and Rob Watson, along with some additional familiar faces to bring a Songfest that is not to be missed! There are familiar carols and new songs on tap for this exciting service.

At 11am, the Chancel Choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra comprised of an unusual combination of instruments to present "There Is A Rose - A Carol Cantata." There will be many opportunities for the congregation to join in along with the choir and instrumentalists.

I bet as you read this, you are getting as excited as I am about Sunday's worship - but you might be perplexed by the decision: Should I come to 9am or 11am worship this week? The answer is easy - come to both!!

See you Sunday!
Karrie Rushing

PS - Cherub Choir and JAM Singers will have our last rehearsal of the year on Sunday from 5:30-6pm (note the time change) in the Sanctuary.

christmas eve

The 4pm service is designed for families with children. Lots of fun, lots of energy and anticipation!

At 5:45pm, the Praise Team is offering a special Christmas Eve concert – everyone is invited to attend!

“The Wonder of It All” is our Contemporary Christmas Eve service at 6pm. It is a lessons and carols service, complete with candle lighting. An infant and toddler nursery will be provided.

At 7:30pm, we will offer our Traditional Christmas Eve service. Beautiful carols, meaningful scripture, and candle lighting enhance this meaningful service. An infant and toddler nursery will be provided.

The opportunity to take communion is offered at 11pm Christmas Eve. This reflective service includes candle lighting, but no nurseries.

SPECIAL OFFERING

The 2011 Christmas Joy offering will be received this Sunday at both services. This special offering provides financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. This offering continues its tradition of bringing Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit.

JAN. MINI-SEMESTER

Our Adult Education mini-semester will begin Sunday, January 8th. We'll offer "Stories of Faith", led by Diane Knauf and Shelley Kane. This could be your first class of the New Year! So, we invite you to start the New Year off right and join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:50am.

ANNUAL LAF CHILI SALE

Orders will be taken in our narthex for meat and veggie chili on January 1, 8, and 16. The chili is \$10/quart; all sales benefit Loaves & Fishes ministry.

We invite you to worship with us Christmas Day and on the first day of 2012! On December 25th and January 1st we will offer ONE worship service at 11am. Please note there will be no Sunday School or classes for children, youth, and adults on those two Sundays.

SAPC Alternative Gift Catalog – There is still plenty of time to order a gift for someone you love! And best of all, 100% of your giving goes to the ministries you select. We offer gift cards for each of your gifts, explaining the services the particular ministry that you chose offers. If you have questions, [please email us!](#)

Office Closures - The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd.

John Montague, our Business Administrator, will be in the church office from Tuesday, December 27th to 3pm on December 30th to answer any questions regarding your 2011 giving you may have. To have your giving amounts credited to the 2011 tax year, please have your donations to him by 3pm on December 30, 2011.

2011 Operating Budget Information as of December 7, 2011 – Actual contributions to budget were \$730,920 which is 90% of our total annual budget of \$808,430. Anticipated contributions to budget were \$727,154.

Join us on Facebook – Click on the blue square to check us out; we would love to have you as a part of our group! It's Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church – Raleigh. Post on our group page today!

www.sapc.com

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Need Pastoral Care? The number to call is 919-740-6038. In addition, our Prayer Team meets Wednesdays at 11:30am at the church.