

Morning Worship Service 9:00 AM
December 15, 2013
Third Sunday of Advent

*Please adjust all electronic communication devices so as not to disrupt the service.
If you need to leave the Sanctuary, please use the exits at the back.*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem - arr. Mark Hayes

Let us quiet our hearts before the Lord.

Silent Reflection

Advent means “coming.” It is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s second coming as well as his first. The glowing flames of the candle remind us of the star of Bethlehem, and most of all, the Light of the World Jesus Christ. The lighting of the candles calls us to worship and sets this time apart as holy.

Of the five candles, three are blue, one is rose, and one is white. The blue candles represent the attitude of hope and expectation with which we anticipate His coming. The rose candle, the Shepherd’s candle, stands for God’s love and faithfulness. The white candle in the center represents Christ’s holiness and perfection.

The First Candle is the **prophecy candle**. It reminds us that Christ’s coming was revealed by God through the prophets hundreds of years before Christ was born.

The Second Candle is the **Bethlehem candle**, which points to the Christ becoming man in Bethlehem.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Wildeboer Family

The Third Candle is the **shepherd's candle**. We must recognize that we, like the shepherds, must come to Christ, believe in Him, and tell this good news to others.

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8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. *Luke 2:8-20*

**\*\* Glorifying God in Song**

*All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Hymn # 235

## **\*\* The Invocation**

### **\*\* The Nicene Creed**

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## The First Scripture Lesson

1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. 11 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. 12 He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. 13 Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim. 14 They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west; together they will plunder the people to the east. They will lay hands on Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be subject to them. 15 The LORD will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian sea; with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand over the Euphrates River. He will break it up into seven streams so that men can cross over in sandals. 16 There will be a highway for the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria, as there was for Israel when they came up from Egypt.

Isaiah 11:1-16

Leader:           The Word of the Lord  
People:           **Thanks be to God**

# **The First Anthem**

## *Christmas Night*

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,  
Clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night  
Round the stable where a virgin mother mild  
Watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.

Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed,  
Seraphim in glory hover round his head.  
Wise men, guided by the leading of a star,  
Bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:  
Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.  
“Glory to God in highest heav’n” their joyful strain,  
“Peace on earth, goodwill to men” the glad refrain.

Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!  
Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!  
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:  
Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today!  
Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.  
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heav’n above.  
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

## **The Confession of Our Sins**

*O God our heavenly Father, who in fire and lightning gave the ancient Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, and who made the presence of our glorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, manifestly known by the pouring out of your Holy Spirit; grant that we, your people, may repent of our sins, and be filled afresh and anew with Your good and gracious Spirit, so that we may live out the glorious gospel of grace with all the power you alone can provide. We humbly offer our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

# **Musical Offering**

*O Come All Ye Faithful - Mark Hayes*

## **The Second Scripture Lesson**

1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs 9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." 10 Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples." 12 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:1-13

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord  
**People:** **Thanks be to God**

## **The Second Anthem**

### *In the Bleak Midwinter*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, Whom cherubim, worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, Whom angels fall before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.  
What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him... give my heart.

## **Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

## The Third Scripture Lesson

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" 4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:1-12

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord  
**People:** Thanks be to God

## The Third Anthem

*Mary, How Could You Have Known*

Mary, how could you have known  
That an angel would come and proclaim the holy birth,  
And you would be chosen to bring God's son to earth?  
Mary, how could you have known?

Mary, how could you have known  
That your child would be the Savior, just as the prophets said,  
And that he would be born in a lowly manger bed?  
Mary, how could you have known?

*continued...*



Were you not bewildered, was it very strange?  
Did you ever wonder how your life would change?  
How could you be ready? How did you prepare?  
How could you imagine? Did you say a prayer?

Mary, how could you have known  
That your son would be Messiah, and all the world behold  
That you would name Him Jesus as angels had foretold?  
Mary, how could you have known?

**\*\* Glorifying God in Song**  
*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

**Verse 1 – Congregation**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember, Christ, our Saviour  
Was born on upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

**Verse 2 – Choir**

**Verse 3 – Congregation**

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced with much in mind,  
And left their flocks a feeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straight-way  
This blessed babe to find:  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

*continued...*

## **Verse 4 – Choir**

### **Verse 5 - Congregation**

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Doth bring redeeming grace:  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

## **\*\* Offertory Statement & Prayer of Dedication**

Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder. 10 From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.

Zephaniah 3:9

## **The Offertory**

*He Shall Feed His Flock - G. F. Handel*

*Please fill out the connection card in the bulletin  
to indicate your attendance.*

## **\*\* The Doxology**

(Hymn # 731)

*Children K4 – K5 may be dismissed to Children's Church.*

**The Message**  
*Rev. John K. Keen*  
*Senior Pastor*

**\*\* Glorifying God in Song**  
*Once in Royal David's City*  
Hymn #225

**\*\* Benediction**

**Postlude**  
*Hark the Herald Angels Sing - Mendelssohn / Lani Smith*

*\*\* All who are able, please stand*  
*Copyrighted music used by permission - SPC CCLI License #167306*

*Welcome to Our Visitors*

We welcome you in the name of Christ! You can find more information about us on our website at [www.seminolepca.org](http://www.seminolepca.org). For questions or to share a prayer concern, call the office at 774-3881, ext. 700 or email us at: [church@seminolepca.org](mailto:church@seminolepca.org).

**Deacons' Mercy Line (813) 774-3881, Ext. 744**

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call this church phone extension; a deacon generally checks the line daily.

## SPC Family Matters

**Program Note Reminder**

*No Sunday School December 22 & 29*

Just a reminder that we will not have Sunday School on December 22 or 29 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. However, please do join us for our Fellowship Time immediately after the service.

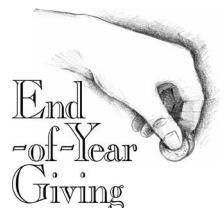


**Christmas Eve Worship Service**

*Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 PM*

Please join us at **5:00 pm** on **Tuesday, December 24** for our annual candle light Christmas Eve Service.

**End of Year Contributions** - This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for the 2013 tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Toenes (813-220-4095).



# Ladies



You are cordially invited to attend  
Seminole Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry  
**Christmas Party and Gift Drive**

Date: Monday, December 16, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: 12705 Waterbury Lane

Please RSVP by Friday, December 13 to Kelly Fernandez at  
(813) 420-8662 or [kellyjfernandez@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyjfernandez@hotmail.com).

Please bring 2 dozen cookies if you would like to participate in the Cookie Exchange. Gift boxes will be available if you would like to gift wrap your cookies.

## Christmas Gift Drive



Metropolitan Ministries provided holiday assistance to over 22,000 families and toys to over 23,000 children in 2012. This year, the need is even greater, and MM is especially seeking gifts for children ages 12-17.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the love and joy of Christ this Christmas! If you'd like to help, bring an unwrapped gift to the Christmas party. If you are unable to attend the Christmas party, you can still participate—just bring your unwrapped gift to Kelly on Sunday, December 15th.



New  
Offering  
Envelopes

**Boxed Offering Envelope Sets** - Boxed offering envelope sets will be made available upon request. **Envelopes are NOT required or needed.** Only request a set if they assist you in keeping up with your tithe and contributions. Contact Jackie if you would like a set: [jtoenes@seminolepca.org](mailto:jtoenes@seminolepca.org) or leave a message at (813-220-4095).

## Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

### Pray for our missionaries & supported ministries:

- Scott & Kathy Craig, MTW/Short-term Team Coordinators (Costa Rica)
- Costa Rica Mission Project: Birth of a New Presbyterian Church
- Don & Judy Vander Ploeg, Wycliffe/JAARS (Papua New Guinea)
- Dave & Page Hawes, Navigators – training and development nationwide
- Jeff Lee, Reformed University Ministries @ USF
- Joel DeVictoria, Berea Presbyterian Church (Winter Haven)
- Steve Light, Sojourner Presbyterian Church (USF Area)

E-mail: [prayer-list@lists.seminolepca.org](mailto:prayer-list@lists.seminolepca.org)

## Christian Education – Adults, Youth, & Children

| Class/Grade                                        | Class Teacher(s)              | Class Room    |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Ages 2-3 / Toddlers                                | Bev Thomson                   | #115          |
| Ages 4-5 / K4-K5                                   | Cathy Gartman & Tami Lang     | #109          |
| Ages 6-7 / 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | Rainey Hoopes & Lucas Lambers | #105          |
| Ages 8-10 / 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Diane Keen & Sara Royer       | #107          |
| Jr. High / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | Danny Dalton                  | #101          |
| Sr. High / 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Ben Lambers                   | The Tower     |
| Adult – Walden Class                               | Matthew McKenzie              | #108          |
| Adult – Life of David                              | Gregg Quick                   | #102          |
| Adult – TULIP                                      | Joe DeNitto                   | Church Office |

## Youth Sunday School Classes

### *High School*

#### **Theology 101: God and Man**

*Teacher: Ben Lambers*

This is the first of four classes as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF). They do not have to be taken in order. This class covers chapters 1-6 of the WCF. Elder Ben Lambers will help our students to understand the doctrines of Holy Scripture, God and the Trinity, God's Eternal Decree, Creation, Providence, and the Fall. This class will be a rich feast of enjoying God's awesomeness.

- During this quarter we will study WCF Chapters # 1-7
- We will have 10 lessons. No Class on December 22 or 29.
- Students will be challenged to complete weekly homework.

### *Middle School*

#### **Promises, Promises (all about the Covenant)**

*Teacher: Danny Dalton*

Have you ever made a promise and kept it? Have you ever broke a promise? In this course we will see that God made a promise to save His people. He calls this promise a covenant. A covenant is like an agreement between two or more people. However, the good news is that even when we broke our end of the covenant, God didn't break his part. In fact, through Jesus Christ, he kept both his part and our part! Salvation is all of God and Jesus is the ultimate covenant keeper. Come and learn the story of God working out this Good News in history as we make our way through this Great Commission curriculum!



## Adult Sunday School Classes

### Walden Class – Room 108

*Teacher: Matthew McKenzie*

The Walden Class, which is currently studying Galatians, offers a combination of bible study and social interaction, as participants share their lives with one another through prayer requests, praise reports, brief devotionals, and a thirty-minute bible lesson each Sunday. The class offers a greater degree of flexibility for those desiring to engage in a study of a particular book of the bible, which may exceed the quarterly limitations of other classes, *e.g. a four or five month study through The Gospel of Matthew or the book of Revelation, etc.* This relaxing pace of the Walden Class allows for a comprehensive study of Sacred Scripture in the context of thoughtful dialog, question and answer, and practical application of God's Word in connection to personal and cultural situation and circumstances.

### The Life of David – Room 102

*Teacher: Gregg Quick*

Shepherd, hymn-writer and murderer - God chose a man who would fill each of these roles to sit on the throne of Israel. And it was through his family that the great king of the Jews would come. In this Dr. R.C. Sproul adapted series, we will examine the life of David and his character as revealed in Scripture. In honestly evaluating this flawed leader, we will be reminded that David's repentance is what made him a man after God's own heart.

### TULIP – Church Office

*Teacher: Joe DeNitto*

#### The Five Points of Calvinism



**T**his class will explore the history and meaning of Calvinism.

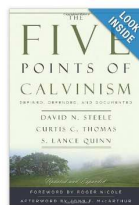
**U**nder no circumstances will we try to force anyone to accept this view.

**L**ots of scripture will be studied to support each part of the ideas presented.

**I**n our studies, we will examine both the details as well as the overview of the materials.

**P**lease consider taking this important and informative class.

Come join Elder Joe DeNitto in the church office. Our intention is for us all to better understand Reformed thought in the Bible and how it applies to our everyday lives.





**This Week at SPC ~ Dec. 15 - 21**

**SUNDAY:** Morning Worship, 9:00 am  
Fellowship Time, 10:15 am  
Sunday School, 10:45 am

**MONDAY:** Women's Christmas Party, 7 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm

**FRIDAY:** Seniors Covenant Group, 10 am



**December 24:** Christmas Eve / *Church Offices Closed*  
Christmas Eve Service, 5pm

**December 25:** Christmas Day / *Church Offices Closed*

**January 1:** New Year's Day / *Church Offices Closed*



**SEMINOLE AT WORK AND WORSHIP**

Last Sunday's Attendance: 169

Last Sunday's Offering: \$11,081.57

*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor. 8:12*

# Volunteers

## *Greeters / Ordained Officer*

|                                 | <u>December</u>                              | <u>January</u>        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u><b>Greeters:</b></u>         | Bryan Toenes<br>Rick Brownlee<br>Jared Frail | Alex Fernandez Family |
| <u><b>Ordained Officer:</b></u> | Servy Fernandez                              | Alex Fernandez        |

## *Children's Worship Volunteers*

|            | <u>Teacher</u>   | <u>Helper</u>    | <u>Banner Bearer</u> |
|------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Today:     | Laura Strickland | Emily Strickland | Dominick Zak         |
| Next Week: | Donna Waugh      | Sadie Edwards    | Nikolas Royer        |
| Dec. 29:   | Lisa Johnson     | Marcy Edwards    | Dominick Zak         |

*Children's Church for children in K4/K5 meets in Room 109.*

## *Coffee Volunteers*

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Today:     | Randa Gravanti |
| Next Week: | Karen Collins  |
| Dec. 29:   | Bill Cutler    |

## *Nursery Volunteers*

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Today:     | Therese McKenzie |
| Next Week: | Kelly Fernandez  |
| Dec. 29:   | Sara Royer       |

**WE**  **VOLUNTEERS**

## *Fellowship Snacks*

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Next Week – Dec. 22:</u><br>Beverly Thomson<br>Sheila Colbert<br>Judy Wildeboer<br>Ines Biedronski Lopez de Lara | <u>Dec. 29:</u><br>Holly Edwards<br>Laura Strickland<br>Donna Waugh |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

Anna Claire Lambers 12/3

Alex Fernandez 12/10

Jared Frail 12/12

Abby Johnson 12/15

Pat Bardin 12/16

Dave Bardin 12/17

Chris Kladakis 12/17

Jane Lambers 12/20

Judy Wildeboer 12/20

Lesley McKenzie 12/20

Bryson Pothoven 12/22

Joey Hickerson 12/23

Eva White 12/24

Grace Morton 12/26

Hannah Johnson 12/27

Rainey Hoopes 12/29

Andrea Cawley 12/31

## Anniversaries

Tom & Andrea Cawley 12/20

Jay & Marissa Fontanini 12/28

Dave & Pat Bardin 12/29



Anniversaries  
and Birthdays