



# Forest Home Church

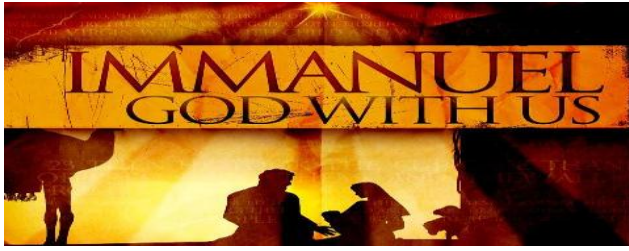
Forest Home Church  
1751 Old Natchez Trace  
Franklin, TN 37069

[www.ForestHomeChurch.org](http://www.ForestHomeChurch.org)

December 4th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: [newsletter@foresthomechurch.org](mailto:newsletter@foresthomechurch.org)



Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Advent is this. "It celebrates the incarnation, not just the nativity. The incarnation is an ongoing process of salvation, while the nativity is the once-for-all-historical event of Bethlehem. . . . We celebrate the stupendous fact of the incarnation, God entering our world so thoroughly that nothing has been the same since. And God continues to take flesh in our midst, in the men and women and children who form his body today. And the birth we celebrate is not just the past historical event but Christ's continuing birth in his members, accomplished by the power of the Spirit through the waters of baptism.

## Advent the Season to Remember the Incarnation

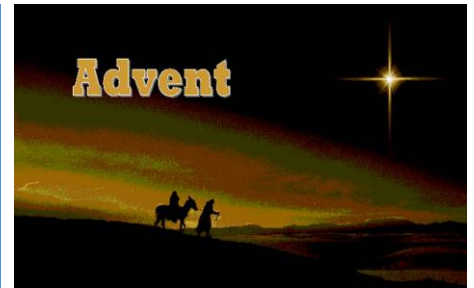
Mary thus learns that the Most High has ever borne a Son in his bosom, and that this Son has now chosen her bosom as dwelling-place.  
Hans Urs von Balthasar

One spiritual exercise helping FH grow into Christ is the seasonal celebration of Advent—focusing on how the people of God live in view of the coming Lord. This involves our memory and reflection on the space-time birth of Jesus as Immanuel—God with us. This profound event involves what is called the Incarnation. From the Latin *in carne* ("in flesh"), Incarnation refers to God becoming human, when the eternal Son of God became true man in one person. This is a great time of year to appreciate the Incarnation—What is its cost? How deep does it touch our human nature? What does this profound connection mean for us?



Since most of us are new to reflecting on the grace of the Incarnation, I gathered here a collection of thoughts from the church across time to help us reflect. Recall how the apostle Paul prayed for each one of us when he asked that the "Father of glory may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:17-18). LH

"It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people—kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush..." Andrew Greeley



## WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

### Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.
- Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

He became what we are that he might make us what he is. *Athanasius*

God became man to turn creatures into sons: not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. *C.S. Lewis*

The Church's note must be a supernatural note which distinguishes incarnation from immanence, redemption from evolution, the Kingdom of God from mere spiritual process. Arthur Middleton

... Without the incarnation, Christianity isn't even a very good story, and most sadly, it means nothing. "Be nice to one another" is not a message that can give my life meaning, assure me of love beyond brokenness, and break open the dark doors of death with the key of hope. The incarnation is an essential part of Jesus-shaped spirituality. *Michael Spencer*

The birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it. *Frederick Buechner*

One thing should be abundantly clear, that if Jesus Christ did not assume our fallen flesh, our fallen humanity, then our fallen humanity is untouched by his work - for 'the unassumed is the unredeemed', as Gregory Nazianzen put it. . . . He who knew no sin became sin for us, exchanging his riches for our poverty, his perfection for our imperfection, his incorruption for our corruption, his eternal life for our mortality. Thus Christ took from Mary a corruptible and mortal body in order that he might take our sin, judge and condemn it in the flesh, and so assume our human nature as we have it in the fallen world that he might heal, sanctify and redeem it. . . . If the Word of God did not actually come where we are, and join himself to us and range himself with us where we are in sin and under judgment, how could it be said that Christ really took our place, took our cause upon himself in order to redeem us? *T.F. Torrance*

Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

Daily we can make an Advent examination. . . . Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts. *Edward Hays*

During Advent opportunities for works of charity abound calling out for Christians from every side: a sack of food for a needy family, money dropped in a Salvation Army kettle, a donation to an Indian school, a toy for 'Toys-for-Tots,' etc. Unfortunately, these works of charity so easily can assuage the Christian conscience, while doing nothing to being about a solution to the root causes of the problem.

Works of justice, on the other hand, follow the road less traveled of Advent's hope to pursue solutions for difficult problems. Hope comes through works of justice rather than simply performing works of charity." *Brian Cavanaugh*

"Lying at your feet is your dog. Imagine, for the moment, that your dog and every dog is in deep distress. Some of us love dogs very much. If it would help all the dogs in the world to become like men, would you be willing to become a dog? Would you put down your human nature, leave your loved ones, your job, hobbies, your art and literature and music, and choose instead of the intimate communion with your beloved, the poor substitute of looking into the beloved's face and wagging your tail, unable to smile or speak? Christ by becoming man limited the thing which to Him was the most precious thing in the world; his unhampered, unhindered communion with the Father. " *C.S. Lewis*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be collecting orphan letters TODAY. We are sending goodie bags to all the WCA students for Christmas and want to include your letters in there. PLEASE write your sweet orphan a note and let him or her know who you are and that you are praying for them...what a way to share Jesus with them! Thank you so much. *-Liz and Gil*

It's that time of year again! We are planning our Christmas progressive dinner for Wednesday evening, December 21. If anyone is interested in hosting please give me a call. We will probably be starting at 6:00p.m. More details to follow. Hope everyone can make it. *-Linda*

## BOOK CLUB

This month's book is *Velva Jean Learns to Fly* by Jennifer Niven. It would be helpful but not necessary to read the prequel *Velva Jean Learns to Drive*. We will meet at Shannon

Because Christmas falls on a Sunday and several families will be out of town the weekend before, we are doing the **Herdman Christmas play on Sunday, December 11th** this year. Please plan accordingly and put it on your calendars!

**Announcement:**  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ON DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> OR DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>.**

Breakfast at Tim & Karen's 9:00 Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> (permitting dress rehearsal for play at church building)

## 2011 Calendar

- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Orphan letters due
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> - XMAS PLAY! NO CLASS, B'kfast @ Tim & Karen's
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> - Annual FH Progressive Dinner
- DEC 25<sup>th</sup> - NO CLASS
- EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM@church, Intercessory prayer 4 anyone
- EACH TUES MORNING - 6:30am, mens bible study
- EACH WED - Dinner @ 5:45pm & Women's Bible Study @ 6:15pm

DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Dec 4	Kathy Grimenstein	Dec	Pat/Karen
Dec 11	Shannon Whitehead	Jan	Pizza
Dec 18	Lois McAlister	Feb	Sarah/Kathleen
Dec 25	Mari Ann Farmer		Liz/Dawn
Jan 1	Pat Gil		Jan 4 Linda/Lois
Jan 8	Sam Lamborn		Jan 11 Lisa/Wendy
Jan 15	Linda Boyd	(Sub-Grimensteins)	Jan 18 Ocie/Shannon
Jan 22	Leah Hickerson	See Jim Grim with questions.	Jan 25 Pat/Karen

