

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10:00 A.M.



## Christ the Redeemer ANGELICAN CHIMES

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2815 Highway 41, N., Ft. Valley, GA 31030

Nov-Dec 2011

*Serving Warner Robins, Perry, Byron and Ft. Valley*

## Jesus' Birth – The Fulcrum of History

Ralph Stockman said, “The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable.” The Incarnation of Jesus, his Nativity, has moved people throughout all of history, trickling upwards from the poor, broken, uneducated, and slave classes to emperors, scholars, and commercial captains. The message of angels has made its way through generations to us this year, calling us to come with wonder and an open heart to this “Word made flesh full of Grace and Truth.”

Christ Jesus' birth is the fulcrum of history. We still continue to measure our time by it. It has been attributed to Archimedes that he said: “If one had a suitable fulcrum and a long enough lever, one could move the world.” How can the world be moved, so filled with what we read and see in the news? Think of this past year – senseless terrorist acts, natural disasters and death, cynical attitudes toward most any leadership. Our experience is so filled with darkness, helplessness, and indifference in dealing with the shadow side of human character in all of us. The God of the universe entering our world as a needy baby is beyond comprehension. Yet the Babe provides that stable point against which the lever of God's Grace can act and move the immovable.



Where is that fulcrum for our own lives? What can we trust enough in our relativistic, aging, and ever changing world that will be stable enough to allow us to be moved, to be transformed? One thing I am certain about is that none of us can provide that sure foundation, that fulcrum in ourselves. This reference point must be given to us; we must receive it. Rarely can most of us ignore a baby that wants attention. God wants our attention at Christmas even in the midst of busy, broken lives. He wants our faith and trust. The Lord of the Universe wants us to come and adore him. (Continued on Page 3)

## THE MEANING OF ADVENT

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown.



The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

In this most anticipated season of the Church, Linda and I wish each of you a joyous and blessed approach to the day we all celebrate as Christmas.

-- *Fr. Paul Gerlock*

## CHOIR PROVIDING MUSIC AND JOY TO CHRIST THE REDEEMER SERVICES



**Back Row: Clyde Wilkins, Terry Wilkins, Bob Dubiel, Sylvia Crow, Paul Simmons, Dottie Cox, Linda Gerlock and Pat Sperry. Middle row: Cyrena Pritchett and Joan Johnson. In front: choir leader Bunny Nobles.**

(Continued from page 1) “The Good News of great joy for all people” is that we can find in the Incarnation and Nativity this fulcrum that will enable God to move us from where we are to a place of worship, peace and the knowledge of God. “In Creation, the Lord made humanity like himself; but in the redemption he made himself like humanity.” (John Boys) The Holy Family did not dwell on there being “no room in the inn” or the hardship of traveling to be taxed. Nor did they express dismay and surprise by saying: “Look what the world has come to!” but in delight proclaimed: “Look what has come into the world!”

Jesus had come and is coming. One of my old teachers wrote: “The Son of God . . . came to seek us where we are in order that he might bring us to be with him where he is.” (J.I Packer) Where are you this Advent and Christmas? May the Lord come to you and call you to come and be with him. May this ageless message be heard and felt, seen and sensed all around you this Christmas drawing your faith and awe, your adoration, your praise.

***-The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Nix,  
Jr., St. John's,  
Glyndon, Maryland***

## Live on the Lawn a Big "Hit"



The CtR lawn came alive Oct. 15 with Eddie Stone, Rob Walker, James Brown and the Countenance trio serving up an afternoon of music and dance to benefit the building fund. Hot dogs, pop corn and a clogging performance by Naomi Nobles added to the fun.



**Top left: Rob Walker, center and Eddie Stone, right, were joined by Otis Hicks from Robins AFB.**

**Top right: Naomi Nobles in her skeleton outfit shook up the stage to everyone's delight.**

**Right: Countenance performed several inspirational vocals – what a great group!**

**Below: Pete Hodgkins, Linda McGraw and others manned the food booth.**



**Above: Ann Pierce**

**Left: Tom Southerland was the hot dog chef.**

## Turkey shoot – rifles ring out for CtR



*Joe Short takes aim at the targets while Travis Kay looks on.*



**Dotty Cox shows David Selby who's boss!**

Travis Kay, David Selby and others put together a successful "Turkey Shoot" November 5 and 12. Travis reports that a total of 24 rounds of 12 shooters were held and the winners went home with frozen turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving. More than \$600 was raised for the building fund. Joe Short served up hot dogs in the kitchen and everyone had a shootin' good time. The event was so popular that it may be held again next year. Thanks Travis for organizing and supervising this event.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LAY READER SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>	<u>LAY READER</u>
Dec 4	Wayne Crow	Linda Gerlock
Dec 11	Moses Alexander	Angela Wallace
Dec 18	LESSONS AND CAROLS	
Dec 24	Frank Pfohl	Katherine Pfohl
Dec 25	Ed Leigh	Cyrena Pritchett



*Thanks to the Altar Guild for a beautiful Altar each Sunday.*

**ALTAR GUILD**

<b>Dec 4</b>	<b>Linda McGraw &amp; Linda Gerlock</b>	<b>P-HC</b>
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>Sylvia Crow &amp; Katherine Pfohl</b>	<b>P-HC</b>
<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Joan Johnson &amp; Becky Short</b> <b>(Purple on Lecturn)</b>	
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>Mary Hogkins &amp; Angela Leigh</b>	<b>W-HC</b>
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Sylvia Crow &amp; Paula Gwathney</b>	<b>W-HC</b>



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**THANKS TO JEAN AND JOBY PIERCE  
FOR THEIR WONDERFUL YARDWORK**

