

GETHSEMANE CATHEDRAL CALLER

Inviting people to experience a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.
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CATHEDRAL CALLER FOR December 2009
GETHSEMANE EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
The Very Rev. Dr. Steve Sellers, Dean
Fargo, ND
www.gethsemanecathedral.org

DISCOVERING THE TRUE LOCATION OF THE ENCHANTED FOREST

Dear Friends in Our Lord Jesus:

There is a legend in the mountains of East Tennessee about a wise old man who knew the exact location of an enchanted forest.

People from all over the Smoky Mountains would travel to see the old forester, to ask him questions about life, and to learn as much as they could from him. Reports of the old man's gentleness, his faith in God, his funny stories, and his treasure-house of wisdom were told throughout the area.

Nearly everyone, though, wanted to learn the precise way into the enchanted forest.

In a secluded valley deep inside the mountains, dozens of miles from civilization, the hidden forest was reported to be the most beautiful place on earth. According to the legend, beauty burst forth from every rock and tree in the enchanted forest. And the deer approached people without fear. The stillness and majesty of the sights and sounds were said to resemble heaven itself.

But the old man never told anyone where it was. Instead, he seemed to respond to questions in vague, indirect ways. To some people, he would offer to teach them the ways of nature. To others, he would offer instructions on how to live as one with all of God's creation. And to others, he would offer guidance on the ways of patience, endurance, and reliance on God. And to everyone, he offered encouragement, hope, and assurance of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Most people went away from the visits with the old man greatly edified, but largely unsatisfied. They learned a lot about faith in God, about caring for God's creation, about the mighty works of Jesus Christ, and about the ways of a mountain man. But they learned nothing about the location of the enchanted forest.

When the old man died, reports began to circulate that he had been insane, that his answers were fabrications, and that he was really a con artist, a liar, and a thief. And not only that: Stores began to circulate that the enchanted forest was a mere figment of the old man's confused mind.

A local newspaper even published a long story about "the great hoax in the hills," and some citizens demanded that the old man's cabin and property be seized and destroyed.

A meeting was called at the town hall to organize a demolition crew — a crew to tear down the man's cabin, stone by stone. The meeting was tense and angry, emotions were running high, when suddenly an old preacher stood up. "Friends," he said in a shaky voice. "What you're doing is wrong. You say there is no enchanted forest, but you're wrong."

A hush fell over the meeting as the old preacher held up a large, worn-out, dog-eared Bible. As he thumbed through the pages, he explained that the Bible belonged to the old man, and that the old man had discovered all his "secrets" within the pages of the Holy Book. And then he read to them about heaven — with streets of gold, unending hymns of praise, lambs lying down with wolves, wedding feasts with sumptuous food, waters of life, leaves for the healing of nations. No sorrow. No pain. No confusion.

He read to them about a God who loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to redeem the world from sin and death. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes," the old preacher read.

"Friends," the preacher concluded, "what you have been calling an enchanted forest, this Holy Book calls the Kingdom of God. And that's what our dear brother spent most of his life trying to tell you."

As we make our spiritual pilgrimage toward the Christmas Season, let us find true peace and joy within the pages of God's Holy Word.

— The Very Rev. Dr. Steve Sellers+

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

“God became man for this purpose: Since you, a human being, could not reach God, but you can reach other humans, you might now reach God through a man. And so the man Christ Jesus became the mediator of God and human beings. God became a man so that following a man — something you are able to do — you might reach God, which was formerly impossible to you.”

— **St. Augustine of Hippo**



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NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will have a special service of Holy Communion at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2010, as a way to begin the New Year with our focus on the Lord. January 1 not only begins the calendar year, but it is the Eighth Day of Christmas, the Feast Day of the Holy Name of the Lord Jesus. (Eight days after His holy birth, in accordance with the Levitical law, the Lord Jesus was circumcised and “named” by His parents.)

BIBLE STUDIES CONTINUE IN DECEMBER

After a short break for Thanksgiving, the two weekly Bible studies will continue during the month of December. The women's Bible study meets from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Mondays, and the men's Bible study meets from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Tuesdays. Both classes meet in the Fireside room and are taught by Dr. Sellers.

If you are up and around early those mornings, please join us for coffee, donuts, fellowship, and Bible study. The women are reading through the Gospel of St. Mark, and the men are working their way through the Book of Revelation. (Both classes will not meet the week after Christmas — Monday, December 28, and Tuesday, December 29.)

For more information, please call the Cathedral office at 232-3394.



POINSETTIAS FOR GETHSEMANE

The Advent and Christmas season will soon be upon us. We look forward with much enthusiasm to decorating our church home. Contributions for flowers and decorations are most welcome. Donations may be made as memorials or as thank offerings. Please send your contributions to the church office no later than Monday, December 22. Be sure to include the person or occasion being remembered.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES CONTINUE DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Our Wednesday night activities will continue at full pace during the month of December! Our evening events begin at 5:30 p.m., with the service of Holy Communion in the Chapel, followed by a family dinner at 6 p.m. Our children's choir and Spirit Song also meet on Wednesdays for music rehearsals. On Wednesday, December 16, we will have our annual gathering for the **GREENING OF THE CATHEDRAL**. There will be plenty of food and projects for children and adults that evening. (Our Wednesday night activities will NOT be held the week after Christmas — Wednesday, December 30.)

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE . . .

As we have done the past several years, we will have **THREE SERVICES** of Holy Communion at Christmas. Our schedule is as follows:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 — 4:30 p.m. family and children's service of Holy Communion, with children's Christmas pageant at the beginning.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 — 10:30 p.m. Choral service of Holy Communion, with traditional anthems, hymns, and carols.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 — 10 a.m. service of Holy Communion (mostly a spoken service, with hymns at the beginning and end of the service.)

ADVENT SERVICES OF LESSONS AND CAROLS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Our Advent services of Lessons and Carols will be held at the 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services on the Third Sunday in Advent — Sunday, December 13. These two services will include seasonal hymns, anthems, and carols, along with the traditional readings from Holy Scripture. The services will NOT include Holy Communion or sermon. But Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 8 a.m. worship service that day.

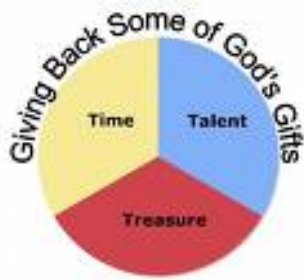


PLEASE CONSIDER A YEAR-END GIFT TO THE GETHSEMANE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

We continue to make slow progress in closing out our 2007-2008 Capital Campaign program — the roof replacement and the steel siding campaigns. At the end of November, we still owed around \$72,000 to pay off the bank line-of-credit for the steel-siding project.

As you may recall, the roofing project, which totaled a little more than \$100,000, was paid by our church insurance, since the roof was severely damaged during a hailstorm in October of 2007. The steel siding project cost close to \$185,000.

As the year draws to a close, please consider making a donation to help bring these projects to conclusion. Your gifts will be greatly appreciated!



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2010 OPERATING BUDGET CONTINUES INTO DECEMBER

Our Fall stewardship campaign for the 2010 operating budget continues through the month of December, as we make plans to set our cathedral budget for the next year. With the economic downturn still impacting charitable giving throughout our area (and throughout the nation), we need everyone to help out to continue the work the Lord is doing here.

Unlike many churches in our area, Gethsemane has been here from the beginning — since 1872 — and we hope to continue our ministries, programs, and worship services into the coming year. Our budget for 2009 was cut significantly from 2008 levels, and we hope to reverse that trend in 2010.

Please keep Gethsemane in your prayers this holiday season! And please pray about your gifts and donations of time, talent, and treasure to the Cathedral! Pledge cards are available in the office, and on the Information Desk in the Great Hall.

Calling all musicians and singers!



Did you know that Gethsemane, like so many other Episcopal parishes, has a long tradition of congregational caroling prior to the 11:00 pm Festival worship on Christmas Eve? It is truly a time of celebration for us as our Advent waiting turns to the joy of the holy birth, and, there is certainly no better way to usher in our Christmas worship than joining our voices together in the carols that we all love to sing so much!

To that end, if **YOU** would like to present a special musical selection or are interested in joining the Cathedral Choir in assist in leading the caroling, please leave a message for Peggy Johnson at the Cathedral office as soon as possible. There is room for all to participate and the more voices and instruments the better!

And, remember to tell your friends and family that caroling begins at 10:30 pm on Christmas Eve!

"FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS" DECEMBER 13
9:00 am - SpiritSong
11:00 am – Cathedral Choir



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CAROLS SUNG AT THE ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS, and throughout the subsequent liturgical seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, have deep roots in the tradition of Christian worship. Because the origin of carol-singing is pagan (the derivation of the word may be *koros*: the circle of dancers and singers that complemented the dialogue of Attic drama), it was only by the grudging consent of the medieval Catholic Church that Christian carols took root in Europe. However, by the beginning of the fifteenth century, carol-singing had become an integral element of seasonal worship. Though carols, indeed the celebration of Christmas itself, were banned in England by the Puritan regime of Oliver Cromwell during the seventeenth century, they were preserved and augmented in the New World, and eventually restored as a beloved tradition in Britain.

While the terms "carol" and "hymn" may occasionally overlap, the two genres are, in fact, different. Hymn texts tend to didacticism; while the purpose of the carol - one that stems from its medieval analogue, the mystery play - is narrative. For unlettered folk of the Middle Ages, the carol, like a stained glass panel or a fresco tableau, depicted the momentous event of Christ's Incarnation. And, in honor of the saint who may well be called the father of the Christian ode to joy, Francis of Assisi, the nature of most carols is both "hilarious" (joyous) and reverential.

Centuries ago, carol-singing celebrated several seasons of the Church year. The custom has since come, however, to be associated with the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

HELPERS NEEDED FOR TUESDAY, **DECEMBER 29th**

Gethsemane is scheduled to provide and serve the meal on Tuesday evening (September 29) at Churches United for the Homeless in Moorhead. We need 7 or 8 people to help out! If you are able to help, please let one of our deacons know today — Terry Overbo, Charlotte Robbins, Crystal Towers — or call the cathedral office (232-3394). We provide the meal every fifth Tuesday in months that have five Tuesdays. **THANK YOU!!**

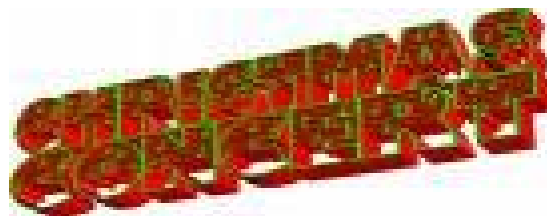


DECEMBER MEETINGS

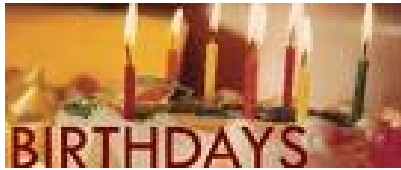
Monday, December 14th 4:00pm
Finance Meeting

Thursday, December 17th, 5:30pm
Chapter Meeting

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**The children of Gethsemane will perform
December 24th at the 4:30 service!**



December Birthdays!

Bietz, Glenn	12/01
Bjerke, Patrick	12/01
Schlanser, Joanne	12/01
Froslic, Kathleen	12/02
Helbling, Nicole	12/02
Ingstad, Vicki	12/02
Thompson, Jean	12/04
Crahan, Sunny	12/06
Stacy, Clinton	12/07
Dosland, Pete	12/08
Mayer, Greg	12/10
Nemer, Karly	12/10
Hensch, Marilyn	12/11
Wallach, Reagan	12/11
Gokey, Sarah	12/12
Johnson, Peggy	12/12
DeLaPointe, Piper	12/13
Nemer, David	12/13
Anderson, Florence	12/15
Olson, Norm	12/15
Simonson, Kelley	12/15
Jackson, Emi	12/17
Simonson, Thomas	12/17
Williams, Duffy	12/17
Bertel, Joni	12/19
Bietz, Julie	12/20
Peterson, Fran	12/20
Walters, Lori	12/21
Graham, Michelle	12/23
Clapp, Geraldine	12/25
Gnahn, Tom	12/25
Simonson, James	12/25
Sellers, Dixie	12/27
Bietz, Gavin	12/28
Kelly, Jane	12/29
Leach, Savanna	12/29
Simonson, Hannah	12/30
Mitchell, Bradley	12/31
Volness, Rebecca	12/31



If you would like to serve on Gethsemane's Chapter or as a delegate to the Diocesan Council, please let Dean Steve know!



GREENING of Gethsemane Cathedral

Wednesday, December 16

6:00 TO 8:00PM

CHILI SUPPER

Red & White Chili, Chili Dogs,
Hot Cider Plus....Christmas Treats

Meal Prices: Adults-\$5.00; Children-\$2.00;
Family-\$10.00

❄️ Come and help decorate OR just come
and enjoy a great bowl of Chili!

*Bring the whole family and join us in
this Great Gethsemane Tradition!*

Please call the church office to sign-up.





December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7am Men's Bible Study	9am Morning Prayer 5:30 Eucharist 5:30 Childrens Choir 6pm Meal 6:15-7 Spirit Song			9:15am AA Meeting
		1	2	3	4	5
8am Traditional 9am Contemporary 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:10-10:50 Coffee Hour 11am Classical 6:30-8:30 Boy Scouts	7am Women's Bible Study 7-9pm AA Meeting	7am Men's Bible Study	9am Morning Prayer 10am Preschool Program 5:30 Eucharist 5:30 Childrens Choir 6pm Meal 6:15-7 Spirit Song			9:15am AA Meeting
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8am Traditional 9am Lessons & Carol 11am Lessons and Carols 6:30-8:30 Boy Scouts 7-8:30 Cub Scouts	7am Women;s Bible Study 7-9pm AA Meeting Finance Meeting 4pm	7am Men's Bible Study	9am Morning Prayer GREENING OF THE CATHEDRAL 6pm	Chapter Meeting 5:30pm	Graduation Party in the Great Hall 4-7:30	9:15am AA Meeting Ann Morris Recital and Rehearsal 1-9pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8am Traditional 9am Contemporary 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:10-10:50 Coffee Hour 11am Classical 6:30-8:30 Boy Scouts	7am Women's Bible Study 7-9pm AA Meeting	7am Men's Bible Study	9am Morning Prayer 5:30 Eucharist 6:15-7 Spirit Song	Office Closed for Christmas 4:30pm Worship 10:30pm Worship	Office Closed for Christmas 10am Worship	9:15am AA Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8am Traditional 9am Contemporary 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:10-10:50 Coffee Hour 11am Classical No Sunday school	7am Women's Bible Study 7-9pm AA Meeting	7am men's Bible Study Churches United for the Homeless Meal	9 am Morning Prayer 5:30 Eucharist 6:15-7pm Spirit Song			
27	28	29	30	31		



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:00am Traditional Service
9:00am Contemporary Service
10:10-10:50 Coffee Hour
11am Classical Service

Wednesdays

5:30pm Chapel Eucharist

LÓÓK

AHEAD TO JANUARY!

JAN 1 NEW YEARS DAY MASS AT
10AM

JAN 3 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

JAN 18 FINANCE MEETING

JAN 21 CHAPTER MEETING

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