

The Messenger



VALENCIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Issue 232

December 2010



LET IT BE... CHRISTMAS

A STORY TOLD BY MATTHEW, MARK,
LUKE, JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE AND RINGO

The story of Christmas is a story of revolution. When the world was crying out for a change...a peaceful revolution was born. A tiny babe was born in a lowly manger and the world was changed forever. Join the revolution this Christmas season and meet the Savior of the world. Let it be...Christmas!

Advent Sermon Series

November 28th ~ *Nothin's Gonna Change My World*

December 5th ~ *All The Lonely People*

December 12th ~ *I Believe In Yesterday*

December 19 ~ *You Say You Want A Revolution*

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24th ~ *Let It Be*

5 p.m. Family-Friendly

7 p.m. Contemporary Praise

9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight

11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight

The Messenger

Off the Blocks with Pastor John

“Let It Be...Christmas!”



Can you believe it...the Christmas rush is on! I know many of you are already in the rush hour of the season... looking for the perfect gift, wrapping presents, baking your famous sugar cookies, hosting special Christmas events, and wrestling with overly excited children. The same is true in the Shaver house...so here is a little help to keep with our theme and “Let It Be...Christmas.”

Stop right where you are. Think with me for a few moments. Take a deep breath and travel back with me to that first Advent Season...they didn't know it was a Season yet...a time when there was no hope and no celebration. Then Jesus came!

Jesus could have been born into a palace. His first home on earth could have been a mansion because he was, after all, a king. Instead, he came to a dirty smelly manger in a common barn and his birth was announced by shepherds instead of kings – the greatest of all miracles in the midst of total simplicity.

He could have come to us in many ways, but he chose to interrupt the very ordinary with the most extraordinary. The simplicity of his birth is one of his most precious

gifts and one of my most profound life lessons. Jesus still wants to meet us in the midst of our simple daily lives. It seems too easy and too good to be true, doesn't it?

I simply cannot imagine a world without Jesus, and yet I so often live a rushed life on my own. A situation comes and I try to handle it on my own...like the innkeeper, I sometimes put up a sign that reads, “No room!”

Here is the great hope! God wants to be involved in the simple, ordinary happenings of daily life: where we go, what we do, the smile we give the harried stranger, the patience we wear in the crowd of impatient shoppers, the love that prompts the secret gift, the heart that constantly celebrates his birth through every sparkling light, every beautifully wrapped gift, each special meal, every card, every phone call and sharing in the Miracle Offering. Christmas is a time to celebrate the very presence of Emmanuel, God with us. And when God is with us, life becomes a precious gift of worship we can give back to him.

Just like many of you each year I make a Christmas list of every

person for whom I am buying a gift. This year I'm going to try something a friend shared with me and make a “**God's list**” for my life. I invite you to take a moment with me and decide what you will share with God this year to truly “Let It Be...Christmas.” Maybe it's adding prayer time to the list, opening the Bible on those busy days, giving to a charity and honoring one of those folks “who has everything”, making Sunday worship a commitment and inviting someone to come with you, taking some time to celebrate with one of our WOW ministries... When you have a moment email me and share something special you've done to “Let It Be...Christmas”.

This moment is the perfect time to revisit the manger to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. I often wish I had been there that holy night when Jesus was born, but then he reminds me that I have my own manger, my own holy moments every single day when God's presence and power become reality to me. Join me this year as we stop rushing and “Let It Be...Christmas!”

Grace and Peace,

John

Things You Need To know.....

Office Hours:

12/28, 12/29, 12/30
9 a.m. to noon
End of Year Donations
By 11 a.m. 12/30

Save The Date:

2011 YUMC Women's Retreat
March 11-13, 2011
Canyon Creek
Explore God's Wonder Full World

Angel Food Early Deadlines:

Order through Church office 12/7
Order through website 12/9
Distribution Day 12/18

Let It Be...Christmas Have You Extended the Invitation?

The Christmas season is the perfect time to invite a friend or coworker to come to church with you. Many of us have "unchurched" friends who are more open to an invitation to attend a church worship service or event during this season than any other time of year. We have been inserting "Let It Be.. Christmas" cards in the Sunday bulletin. We encourage you to use that card to invite someone to come with you to worship and/or our Christmas Concert on December 12.

All the Sundays during Advent will be filled with beautiful music, joyful celebration and inspiring messages. Wouldn't it be great if everyone brought one guest and we doubled our numbers? We'd like to challenge you to do just that on the Sunday before Christmas, December 19. We will "double up" our worship with Choir and Praise Band at both hours, children will sing, the Drama Ministry will have a special surprise for us and it will just be "doubly" inspiring. Let's all bring a guest and share in the the joy of the day and "let it Be...Christmas"!

Hill's Angel's Youth Prison Ministry

Here's what's coming up in December:

Dec. 5 & 12, between and after services. Here's a way for families to involve their children in our ministry, as we decorate Christmas cards for the youth.

Dec. 17, from 4:30-10:00. Christmas Concert at the Camps. Adults are welcome to join us.

Dec. 19, 11:45-12:15. Any and all hands welcome to join our Christmas Stuffer extravaganza! Delivery to Camps from 12:30-2:30.

For questions and to engage in unpaid servanthood, contact Wendy Langhans at 661-799-2965.

Sunday, December 26

One Worship Hour—10:30 a.m.

This will be a great morning for your family to enjoy breakfast, Christmas carols, and a special time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Come spend this fun morning with family and friends.

Special Schedule for Sunday, December 26th

9:00 Pancake Breakfast
Cost: \$4 per adult
\$2 per child (up to 12 years old) or \$15/family

Watch the bulletin for sign-up info!

10:00 Carol Sing

10:30 Worship
Kids' "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party



Christmas Concert ~ Let It Be...Christmas Music ~ Sunday, December 12 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 12th, all our choirs, hand bells, and Praise Band will join together to present a concert of outstanding Christmas music. You won't find a more inspiring or beautiful way to experience the glory of the Christmas story than this event. The concert is free, however an offering will be taken. Plan now to bring a friend and share the joy of the season.

The Messenger

YOUTH HAPS....The REFRESH Ministry

Love God—Love Others—Serve—Repeat



By Pastor Joseph Yoo

For our 2011 year, our youth ministry is going to embark on 4 goals. These goals involve the mission statement of "Invite-Nurture-Send."

A problem with youth ministries (and churches) is how self absorbed they can be in their thinking. We don't come to church if we don't like a certain event. We switch churches if the music doesn't satisfy our ears. We only come if the church does something we really like. Often, whether on purpose or subconsciously, we wonder what the church can do for us, and not the other way around (the way it should be.)

To avoid that, to get our students to think about the bigger picture, to get our students to think more missionally, these 4 goals were set. They focus on what we can do locally, state-wide, nationally and globally.

Locally, our goal is to help 10 houses a year with whatever work the house owner may need, be it yard work, set up holiday decorations, etc. The only caveat is that the owner doesn't mind a bunch of teenagers hanging around and working on their house. (If you know any neighbors that may need help with this type of work, let me know.)

State-wide, we want to go help people outside of our valley at least 6 times a year, whether it be through children's hospitals, foster homes, or feeding the homeless. For feeding the homeless, the students want to raise their own money through sacrificial giving. Instead of buying soda, I ask that they just get water and give that soda money to feeding/helping the homeless. Our goal is to raise \$200 every time we go help the homeless. I believe \$200 will buy us bread, cheese, ham, snacks, and drinks to give to the people in need through Los Angeles, San Fernando or Santa Barbara. This can teach our students how far (or how little) our money can go.

Nationally, we want to do mission work every summer. For the most part, we will be participating in the Sierra Service Project (SSP), and plan to go further east in the future. Globally, our goal is to raise \$1000 a year for Project Nicaragua, again through sacrificial giving. We hope that the money we raise can help our church mission team that goes to Nicaragua, or anything that can benefit the people of Nicaragua.

I want our students to know that our calling, our ministry, and our work for God goes beyond 25718 McBean Pkwy. We pray that you will help us in any and every way you can. You can pray for us. You can tell us which of your neighbors may want free house work done. You can donate a little change here and there to help us meet our monetary goals. You can lead by example by giving sacrificially to the church. You must definitely hold me accountable that we stay on top of things. You can urge your children and other youth to give their loose change here and there. But most importantly, again, you can continue to pray for us, that God will use our youth in awesome ways and that our youth are courageous enough to be used by God.

Order Poinsettias

Poinsettia dedications for Advent are being accepted through December 12th. You can help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of a special person or event in your life. Each poinsettia will cost \$10.00.

Envelopes are available in the narthex of the sanctuary. Remember to write clearly and be sure to indicate in memory or honor.

Valencia United Methodist Church

Vision Statement

We are a community of faith where lives are continuously transformed through Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Our Church exists to:

Invite people

Nurture them with Christ's love and the Word of God

Send them out to serve others

Our Core Values:

Worship—Public and private

Small Groups—Building relationships

Service—Using God given gifts

Pajama Party

You're Invited...to help us celebrate Jesus' birthday

Kids are invited to wear their PJs to a special party to celebrate Jesus' birthday on Sunday, December 26th. The kids' party will take place during the 10:30 Worship hour and is sure to be lots of fun. We're in need of a few older youth and adult "party elves".

Please contact Michelle Andrews if you can help out.



Caring and Sharing Tree

The Caring and Sharing Tree will be set up in the narthex of the sanctuary this year. This is an opportunity to give to give to others and share God's love this Christmas.

VUMC Community Care
Angel Food Families
SCV Winter Shelter
F.I.S.H. Families
Hill's Angels Prison Ministry

Stop by, pick out your ornament (or ornaments) and help make this Christmas have extra meaning for you and your family this year.

Chacocente Backpacks

Thanks to all who helped with this year's Chacocente Christmas project. We sent over 140 backpacks to Nicaragua in time for the kids living there to have them before Christmas. Your gifts will truly make a difference in a child's life. The photo above represents just part of the backpacks that are on their way to Nicaragua.



1 John 3:17-18

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.



Dine and Donate! Habit Sunday December 5th

Help support our Pioneer Clubs Program by having lunch or dinner at The Habit (located in the Granary Square). It's so easy! Just present your Sunday Bulletin to the cashier when you place your order and a portion of your total bill will be returned in support of our children's programs.

Winter Shelter

Our church is responsible for staffing the winter shelter for December 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. We will need morning hosts, dinner for 40-50 people and night time security patrol for each of these days. Please sign up after worship to if you would like to be an unpaid servant for this ministry.

Holiday Hospitality

During the season of Advent we will have many guests on our campus. We would like to add a special touch to our coffee fellowship by adding homemade cookies. If you would be willing to bake for one of the Sundays or Christmas Eve, please email sklahs@umcv.org. We are also looking for unpaid servants to host a fellowship time after the 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship. Please email sklahs@umcv.org if you would like to serve in this way.

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Habit Sunday—December 5th



Help support our Pioneer Clubs Program by having lunch or dinner at The Habit (located in the Granary Square). It's so easy! Just present your Sunday Bulletin to the cashier when you place your order and a portion of your total bill will be returned in support of our children's programs.

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Upcoming Events

December 2010

- 12/5 Habit Sunday
- 12/7 Angel Food Order Deadline
- 12/12 Christmas Concerts
3:30 and 6:00
- 12/18 Angel Food Distribution
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship
- 12/26 Pancake Breakfast
One Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 	6	7 Angel Food Deadline	8	9	10	11
12 Concerts 3:30 and 6	13	14	15	16	17	18 Angel Food Distrib.
19	20	21	22	23	24 Worship at 5, 7, 9, and 11 p.m.	25
26 Pancakes & 10:30 a.m. Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

Office Hours:
12/28, 12/29, 12/30
9 a.m. to noon
End of Year Donations
By 11 a.m. 12/30

Body & Soul

Meets every other Wednesday 9:00 am in Room 1. Contact Suzanne Bowman 513-0683

Chancel Bells

Tuesday 7:30 pm in the Choir Room. Contact Barb Hauge 259-2899

Chancel Choir

Thursday 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Contact Steven Applegate 284-1866 ext. 101

Contemporary Praise Band

Rehearses every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Contact Paul Anderson 259-7224

F.I.S.H.

Every Thursday 6:30 pm in the Kitchen. Sign-up on the FISH calendar posted on the wall in the kitchen

Men's Bible Study

Every Thursday 6:30 am in Room 1

Men's Ministry Breakfast

Meets periodically at various locations and times. Contact Pete Brosnan 263-8991

MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. Contact Michelle Jones - 284-2564

Prayer and Share

Women's Prayer Group 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 am in Room 1. Contact Vicki Cranmer 259-2774

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Contact Maria Sears 259-4142

Senior Service Ministry

Plans luncheons, sends cards, provides rides, makes visitations and calls. If you can help in any of these activities, contact Ron Kari at 799-3808 or Dick & Maria Sears 259-4142.

Youth Prison Ministry

Every Wednesday. Held at youth prison. Training materials, and childcare are provided.

Carpool departs from church at 5:30. Contact the Church Office for more information.

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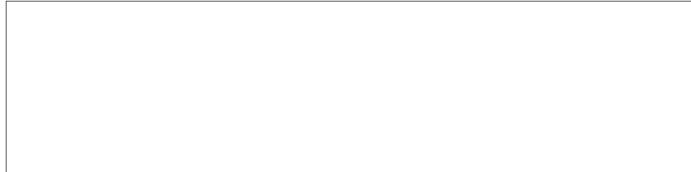
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We wish you all the blessings of Christmas!

Joann

*Joseph
Marg*

Henry

*Catherine
Deb*

Jan

Steven

Ann

Michelle

**The Pastors and Staff of
Valencia United Methodist Church**

