



Joy to the World!

By Mr. Alexander S. Brown, Minister

The Christmas season, and really the whole month of December, is an extraordinary time of year. For these few weeks much around us changes, whether it be the often dramatic way in which our homes are decorated (both inside and out), the special food we eat, and the special social gatherings we attend. One of the most dramatic changes, however, has to be that in a relatively secular society, some of the most robust theology is heard virtually everywhere we go.

Without a doubt the hymns of Christmas contain some of the richest theology in our hymnals, as we sing about the whole story of Redemption coming to a head with the birth of Christ, the Second Adam, and it is extraordinary that these are some of the most played, most sung songs at this time of year. Whether it be on the 24/7 Christmas Music radio station as we drive, or in the stores we walk through looking for those special gifts, we are surrounded by songs which talk profoundly about Christ and about His incarnation.

One of these hymns that is most often played is Isaac Watts' hymn, *Joy to the World!* And if ever a song hit at the heart of why the incarnation is world changing, this is it:

Joy to world! The Lord has come:
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
 Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love.

As Isaac Watts re-wrote Psalm 98 in the light of the incarnation, he eloquently and fully describes the importance of the incarnation, and what it means for the world. As we look at this child in the manger, we don't just see a little baby to coo over, but we see the answer to humanity's groanings.

(Continued on the next page)



December Calendar

Thu	12/1	Mission Team Meeting (6:30 p.m., Huddlestons)
Sun	12/4	Communion, AM Worship (<i>Poinsettia orders due</i>)
Tue	12/6	"Beyond the Pages" Book Club meets (6:00 p.m., Taylor home)
Wed	12/7	Midweek Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m., GIPC)
Thu	12/8	Stated Session Meeting
Sat	12/10	Men's Monthly Breakfast & Bible Study (8:00 a.m., Brown home)
Sat	12/10	Women in the Church Christmas Open House & Cookie Exchange (2-4:00 p.m., Brown home)
Wed	12/14	Midweek Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m., GIPC)
Sun	12/18	Service of Lessons & Carols (6:00 p.m., GIPC)
There will be no Midweek Prayer Meeting on 12/21 or 12/28.		
Sun	12/25	Christmas Day (10:30 a.m. Worship only)



TIDINGS OF JOY!

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 6PM
 GOLDEN ISLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In this issue

December Calendar.....	1
Committee Updates.....	2
Book Club News.....	2
<i>Missions Emphasis Highlights!</i>	3
Bible Reading Plan.....	4
December Fighter Verses.....	4

Joy to the World!

(Continued from the previous page)

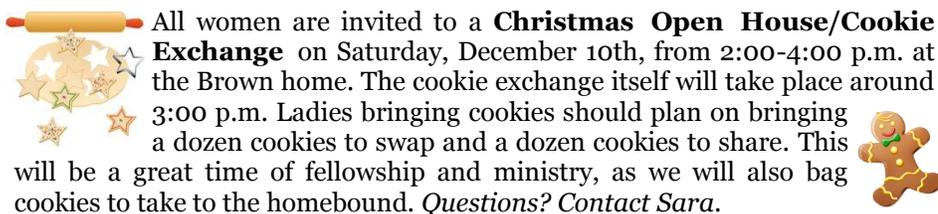
Here, in this Child, is the One promised to Adam who will reverse that curse; the One promised to David who will establish a Kingdom of truth and grace that will extend as far as the curse is found!

As we celebrate Christmas, what we are really celebrating is the whole plan of redemption come to fulfillment in the birth of Christ – the long awaited Savior. What all the Old Testament saints only saw through a glass darkly, what they longingly anticipated we see wonderfully come to fulfillment in the birth of Christ.

This Christmas season let us pray that the Lord would open the ears of many to truly wonder at the words they sing, and that many would join us in declaring “Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!” ☪

Women in the Church (WIC)

The final **Bible Study** (*Counterfeit Gods*) for this year will be held on Tuesday, November 29th at 6:30 p.m. (location TBA).

 All women are invited to a **Christmas Open House/Cookie Exchange** on Saturday, December 10th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Brown home. The cookie exchange itself will take place around 3:00 p.m. Ladies bringing cookies should plan on bringing a dozen cookies to swap and a dozen cookies to share. This will be a great time of fellowship and ministry, as we will also bag cookies to take to the homebound. *Questions? Contact Sara.*

“Beyond the Pages” Book Group for Women

Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m.; Sue Taylor’s home

The December selection is *Wish You Well*, by David Baldacci. It is a special book that portrays a time when life was not as it is now, with our many modern conveniences. It serves as a reminder as to what is really important in life. The author’s dedication is: “*To my mother, the inspiration for this novel.*” He comments on his book as follows:

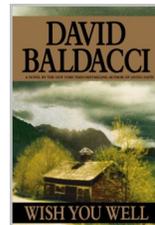
(AUTHOR’S NOTE)

The story in Wish You Well is fictional, but the setting, other than the place names, is not. I have been to those mountains, and also was fortunate to grow up with two women who called the high rock home for many years. My maternal grandmother, Cora Rose, lived with my family in Richmond for the last ten years of her life, but spent the prior six decades or so on the top of a mountain in southwestern Virginia. At her knee I learned about that land and the life there.

My mother, the youngest of ten, lived on that mountain for the first seventeen years of her life, and while I was growing up she passed along to me many fascinating stories from her youth. Indeed, both the hardships and the adventures experienced by the characters in the novel would not be unfamiliar to her. . .

Once we reach adulthood, most of us assume we know all there is to know about our parents and other family members. However, if you take the time to ask questions and actually listen to the answers, you may find there is still much to learn about people so close to you. Thus this novel is, in part, an oral history of both where and how my mother grew up.

Oral histories are a dying art, which is sad indeed, for they show appropriate respect for the lives and experiences of those who have come before. And, just as important, they document those remembrances, for once those lives are over, that personal knowledge is lost forever. . . Ironically, as a writer, I’ve spent the last twenty years or so hunting relentlessly for story material, and utterly failed to see a lumberyard-full within my own family. . . Writing this novel was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.



Finance Committee

The budgeting process for fiscal year 2012 is nearing completion. Budget proposals were submitted by the GIPC ministry teams and reviewed at the November Finance Committee meeting. The Proposed 2012 Budget has been forwarded to the GIPC Session for review and action.

GIPC Monthly Update— Loan Balance

Loan Balance 1/1/11	\$874,729
Principal Paid YTD through 10/31/11	\$ 24,493
Loan Balance 10/31/11	<u>\$850,236</u>

October Monthly Payment:

Interest	\$2,758
Principal	<u>\$2,491</u>
	<u>\$5,249</u>

Men in the Church

All men are invited to gather at the Brown home on Saturday, December 10th for **Breakfast and Bible Study** (8:00 a.m.). *Led by Mr. Brown.*

Significant Sessional Actions

Luis and Dana Haza were approved as members of GIPC by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Troy and Charlotte Hull, and Bill and Nancy Wood were approved as members of GIPC by Transfer of Letter.

The next Stated Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2011.

Connect with us!

Church Office

Ph: 912.638.2563

E-Mail: office@gipc-pca.org
48 Hampton Point Drive
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

Sunday Worship

Sunday School • 9:30 AM

Morning Worship • 10:30 AM

Evening Worship • 6:00 PM

(Nursery, Children’s Church available)

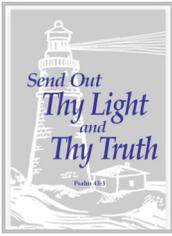
Missed a Sunday?

Sermons, bulletins, and monthly newsletters are available on the web:

www.gipc-pca.org

2011 Missions Emphasis Highlights!

Theme: "Send Out Thy Light and Thy Truth" – Psalm 43:3



November 11-13

GIPC was host to four guest missionaries who serve primarily in Southeast Asia. Our 16th Annual Missions Emphasis weekend began with Dr. Herb Ward, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Ward, a former missionary, is currently teacher of Missions and Bible at Covenant College.

Following the "International Dinner" on Friday evening Dr. Ward brought a stirring and enlightening message on the "Care and Feeding of Missionaries." He issued the reminder: *"Missionaries are in every sense our family, not employees, and not to be managed like a business."*



Herb and Kathy Ward

We were challenged to think of practical ways to love and encourage our missionaries emotionally, financially, prayerfully, kindly and thoughtfully. As with our own families, we are to love them at all times and never stop our faithful support! We are to communicate in ways that edify and encourage them.

Dr. Ward also shared with us some powerful information such as:

- 2,250 – number of foreign languages still needing scripture translation into native tongues
- 1,000 – number of Covenant College students that we need to pray would yield their lives to Christian service.

"Go and make disciples" best translates "as we go, make disciples." We should pray to have the attitude of perseverance in making disciples, remembering it is a life process.

Saturday morning we heard directly from our guest missionaries whom we, as a Church, support by prayer and or finances. Lingering messages that still

echo in our minds as we remember our missionaries standing before us and sharing are:

- Missionaries, like "us", are not spiritual giants. Rather "we" are ordinary people simply called by God. "We" face the same temptations, aggravations and discouragements as any person.
- Pray for "our" personal devotional lives and interpersonal relationships within "our" teams. Pray for harmony and a sense of true community among missionary team members.
- Pray for more native church planters and teams from different tribal and cultural backgrounds.
- Pray for development of supportive church partnerships from within the PCA.
- Pray "our" missionary efforts would not rely on any man, but on God alone.
- Behind-the-scene support activity, such as aviation, keeps many missionaries on the field, for without small airplanes and their skilled pilots the ministries could shut down.
- Pray for the 63 aircraft employed by "our" one Christian aviation ministry – landing safely onto dirt runways, airborne pilot skills, aircraft maintenance, functioning radios, gyros, and landing gear, cooperative weather, health of "our" pilots.

PRAY – PRAY – PRAY.

Sunday Dr. Ward preached twice, challenging our hearts to be engaged in a God-empowered, great worldwide, missionary activity. As God works around the world to bring the Light of the Gospel, our involvement and participation should be (1) by prayer for our missionaries and their teams, (2) by sacrificially, financially giving to them, (3) by going on short-term mission trips ourselves, (4) by surrendering ourselves to full-time mission service remembering God uses small things to accomplish BIG things.

Each instance of global missions involvement outlined above is a way for us to "Send out Thy Light and Thy Truth."

God calls us to Himself to be **fellow-workers, witnesses, and worshipers**. Our labor for and with Him is prompted by His love for us and by returning our love for Him, by endurance produced by our Hope in Him alone and by bearing witness to what He has done in our lives. Each one of us at Golden Isles Presbyterian has a testimony of God working in our lives we are to TELL IT and SEND IT OUT!



The GIPC Missions Team has set \$36,000 as a goal for 2012 missions support, increased from \$30,980 this year. We now financially support six missionary families serving overseas, one U.S. based missionary, one U.S. military chaplain and two PCA college campus ministers.

With an increase in GIPC support, by means of Faith Promise commitments, we would have the capability to add one additional missionary family in a strategic area of international ministry and also consider a small increase in support where most needed among present missionaries and RUF ministers.

Anonymous Faith Promise commitment cards received to date have totaled \$27,950, only \$8,050 below our next year's goal. If you have not made a Faith Promise for 2012, please be encouraged to prayerfully determine an amount of money that you will trust God to provide in the coming year to further His Kingdom. This money is over and above the tithe as He might provide in different ways such as: (a) an increase in your income, (b) a decrease in your expenses, (c) ways God may lead you to sacrifice, (d) an inheritance, sale of assets or other one-time unplanned increases in cash. Unlike a pledge, you will never be asked for money. The commitment is between you and the Lord. Monies may be committed weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly.

Trust God, and see what a faithful God and a yielded heart can accomplish!

DECEMBER

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip." (Psalm 37:31)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>I Chronicles</i>	29	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<i>II Chronicles</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		5-6:11	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		6:12-42	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		11,12	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		14,15	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		19,20	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		22,23	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		27,28	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		32	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		33	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		34	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		36	<input type="checkbox"/>

DECEMBER

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip." (Psalm 37:31)

Family Worship

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>II Peter</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<i>I John</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<i>II John</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	<i>III John</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	<i>Jude</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	<i>Revelation</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
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26		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		22	<input type="checkbox"/>

DECEMBER

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip." (Psalm 37:31)

Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Micah</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<i>Nahum</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<i>Habakkuk</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	<i>Zephaniah</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	<i>Haggai</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	<i>Zechariah</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		12-13:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		13:2-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	<i>Malachi</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		4	<input type="checkbox"/>

DECEMBER

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip." (Psalm 37:31)

Private

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Luke</i>	15	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	<i>John</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		21	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week beginning NOVEMBER 27

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Week beginning DECEMBER 4

Lamentations 3:21-22

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end.

Week beginning DECEMBER 11

Lamentations 3:23-24

They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him."

Week beginning DECEMBER 18

Lamentations 3:25-26

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Week beginning DECEMBER 25

Lamentations 3:31-33

For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though He cause grief, He will have compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love; for He does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.