

The Shiloh Visitor

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m.



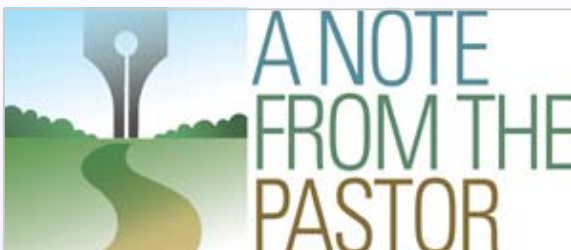
A monthly newsletter from Shiloh Baptist Church

December 2011

Glorifying God by ... Reaching, Building, Serving

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Barbara Perry, Minister of Music
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Hearing and Seeing Christmas

Do you find yourself at this time of the year wishing for a simpler, less hectic life? Do you hope for returning to the way things used to be?

When you try to focus on the real meaning of Christmas do you think, 'Oh, if I had only been there at Bethlehem that night I would have seen the Glory of the Lord. I would have understood. I would have known it was the Christ child. Would you? There is one way of knowing:

Ask yourself what you have seen and heard this Christmas Season.

- When you watch the 6 o'clock news do you see chaos and strife, or do you see sheep without a shepherd.
- When you go out to do your shopping do you see only hordes of people in the stores, or do you notice the worried expressions on some of their faces – worried because they are facing this Christmas without employment or enough money and they don't know how they are going to make ends meet.

What do you hear this Christmas?

- Do you hear only the blast of music and carols, or do you hear the silent sighs of the lonely and the bereaved who may be dreading Christmas because it accentuates their loneliness.
- And in the midst of the sounds of honking horns and people arguing over parking places, do you hear faint sounds of laughter coming from Shiloh Baptist outreach projects because you furnished support for families and children.

You see, so often what you see and what you hear is not dependent upon the event but upon you. If you did in fact hear the cry from the lonely, the laughter of underserved children, if you saw the sheep without a shepherd, then, and only then might you have noticed the events that took place in Bethlehem that night. If you lacked that spiritual seeing and hearing now, then you probably would have been with the 99% who were present then but who saw or heard nothing out of the ordinary.

In the end perhaps that familiar carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" words it best, 'No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin. Where meek souls shall receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.' May the Christ of Christmas be ever present in your life this holiday season.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Mike

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Shiloh is sad to report the recent death of Tony Rollins, son of the late Rev. Warren Rollins. Warren grew up in Shiloh Baptist Church, and the connection has been long and strong. Tony's death takes some of us down memory lane to another sad event in January 1952, the funeral of Warren and Gertrude's infant daughter, Judith Evelyn Rollins. She is buried in the Shiloh cemetery. Her tombstone, crowned by a flawless little lamb, has engraved on it "a flower too soon faded."

Warren and Gertrude have always been a part of Shiloh. Warren was raised in the church and served in many capacities. He was ordained "to the Gospel ministry" at Shiloh on June 9, 1957. "Pastors participating included Reverends John B. Hodge, Gordon George, James M. Parker, John Morgan, Sr., and Ted Reynolds." (from *Shiloh Baptist Church minutes*, March 8, 1955, to December 31, 1963, Virginia Baptist Historical Society, p. 63)

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In the Spotlight...

Baptism in Israel

by Ted Hodge



Chaplain Ted Hodge
re-baptized in Israel

The baptistery in Shiloh Baptist Church in King George County, Virginia, had a larger than life, traditional painting of Jesus wearing a long white robe, standing with arms outstretched. The Jordan River, flowing as if in the Garden of Eden, lies beneath his feet and he has a beckoning look. This was a scene that was etched in my mind as my father preached every Sunday. I was there when a traveling artist was commissioned to add the scene to an otherwise blank wall. The scent of oil and paint combined with his incredible talent stirred my interest and imagination. In 1954, at age 9 after “accepting Jesus as my personal savior” at a revival meeting in our church, I was baptized by my father. It happened just below what was conceived in the mind of this artist to be the setting where Jesus might have been baptized.

At age 65, I never imagined that I might actually stand at the Jordan River in Israel, much less be baptized again. It was a place I had only pictured in my mind from that baptistery scene. The real scene was not like the picture. It was blocked by an entrance building with gift shop and countless tourists. One could rent a white robe and get a certificate of baptism. Past the gates was the river about 30-40 ft. wide with concrete

terraces and green metal railings for people to approach the water or watch from above.

I went there in May 2010 as part of a group from my professional organization. We were requested to consult with a group of Israeli allied health professionals and interested persons about helping them establish training programs and methods for providing spiritual care in their hospitals. Fifteen of us from the United States had the privilege of hearing about the unique aspects of attempting to do this in Israel and sharing our experience. At the beginning of our trip, one of our African-American members announced that he wanted to be re-baptized in the Jordan River—not sprinkled but dunked since he was an American Baptist. Immersion for Baptist is not a sacrament but a symbolic act of obedience, representing that one has been “buried with Jesus in the baptism and raised to walk in newness of life.” Since I was the only other Baptist, I immediately responded without thinking, “Harry, I will baptize you if you will baptize me.”

As the week progressed and we saw Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Massada, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, and other Biblical sites, my mind occasionally wondered why I had agreed to do the baptism and what it would mean. Near the end of our trip, as I walked into this less-than-perfect picture scene of the Jordan River, these feelings were heightened. After paying ten dollars, something changed. As I donned the white robe over my swim suit, images of my father and sister, who are both dead, surfaced. Nostalgic images of childhood and tender decisions made brought tears momentarily. At that moment one of the Jewish rabbis who was traveling with us asked if he could say a blessing. I felt his care and responded quickly, “That would be great.” With his hands on my shoulders and eyes closed, he spoke tenderly and prayed that this would be a meaningful experience and a blessing.

After Harry received a similar blessing, we approached the water and I thought of my desire to recommit myself to work for peace and community.

Here we were, our group of fifteen, Jews and Christians, blacks and whites, together in a land that has been torn by conflict for centuries, experiencing community. We all had our own traditions and beliefs but were together in this ritual that has deep meaning and significance for me. As Harry stood ready to lay me gently under the water I looked over at my wife and wondered a less than spiritual thought, “Does she have my camera?” Then I let it go, and for a moment it seemed time stood still. My head went under the cold water supported by Harry’s hand. He lifted me back to my feet and we gave each other a big bear hug. As we exited the water everyone began to sing “Mazel tov.” Another rabbi said that he could tell how happy Harry and I were and felt that he had to say something. Nothing came so he started singing Mazel tov. It could not have been better if the angels sang. After more hugs, the first rabbi continued asking me how I felt and what the experience had meant. Words were slow in coming, but I realized how bitter sweet the experience was. I recalled with him the past with its losses. As I spoke of my hope for the future I felt a renewed commitment and a strong sense of support, care and community. It was then that the meaning I had wondered about was being found in the land of Jesus. Two pictures, one imagined from a nostalgic period of my life and the other from a real, not always pretty reality, one from childhood and one from my senior years were somehow united in that moment of baptism—a symbol of new life and hope in the face of what was and is still unknown. †

Dr. Ted Hodge serves as Director of Pastoral Care, Baptist Hospital East, in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the older son of the Reverend John Hodge,



Music Notes by Barbara Perry

I am now finishing my fifth month at Shiloh and wanted to share a few personal thoughts with you. People ask me all the time “How do you like Shiloh?” Well, I absolutely LOVE it!! The people are so nice and welcoming. The musicians that I am working with are talented and motivated too. The teachers and volunteers

I am working with are professional and hard workers. And everyone I have met and worked with is filled with the love of God. You know Pastor Mike often says “Shiloh is a great place to be!” Well, I believe it! I feel so fortunate to be a part of this community.

We have had some great music at Shiloh this month. The piece with Meredith Busic, Jennifer Hagewood, Angela Clatterbuck, and Christian Reger was a delight. It was also great to hear LeeLynn Crowell for the first time, very special to hear Rod Meade share a song that his father used to sing, and it is just fabulous to hear Bruce Thoemke any time!!

The children’s choir also delighted our ears in November. There are so many kids and such wonderful voices. I was personally excited to hear my son, Benjamin going around the house singing about the “arky, arky!” My older son, Winston, told me on the way to choir one night “Wednesday is my lucky day!” I said Why? He said, “Well it starts with a W, like my name, and I get to go to church.” Well, Praise God!!! Thanks to Jennifer, Meredith, Lynne, Hailey, Cathy, and Christian for bringing out their love of music and praising God in song with these kids!!

The kids are also working on the Mary Burnley Christmas play. Be sure to save December 18th on your calendar. They will sing a few of their selections in the morning and then at 7 p.m. that evening they will put on their Christmas Play. Thank you, Ms. Burnley, we can’t wait to see it!!

The Sounds of Praise are the highlight of my week. This group of people is loving, kind, fun, patient, motivate and talented too! I am sure you have noticed that they are getting crowded up there in that choir loft. We are excited to have so many new members and some returning members. The choir is working hard on their Christmas Cantata for the December 11th church service. You don’t want to miss this, it will be wonderful.

WEDNESDAY’S SCHEDULE

6:10-6:55 Children’s Choir (Ages 4-6)
Children’s Choir (Ages 7-12)
Teen Choir
7:00-8:30 Sounds of Praise (adult choir)

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 11 Sounds of Praise Christmas Cantata “The Winter Rose”
December 18 Children’s Choir sings at the church service 11:00 a.m.
Ms. Burnley’s Christmas Pageant 7:00 p.m.
Living Nativity
December 19 Living Nativity
December 22 Christmas caroling with the Choir, all are welcome!

In closing, if you have hymns or songs you would like me to include in the service, feel free to drop me a note and I will see when I can fit it in. And don’t hesitate to get involved. You can join a choir anytime you want! Psalm 98:1 says “Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.” Please join us!

Children & Youth



Shiloh’s AWANA™ program is going full steam ahead! We currently have 45 children on the role and 18 adults helping/leading each week. We are so excited about the growth of this ministry and the children that God has placed in our care. In each monthly newsletter we are highlighting a club so everyone can see the wonderful opportunity that Christ has given us to “Let the little children come.” The club we are highlighting is Truth and Training (T & T). Shiloh has 22 T&T participants. This group incorporates grades 3-6, and is divided into 2 groups and has 2 distinct uniforms. The AWANA books engage this age by answering the questions about the Bible and God. The 1st book in the series gives 8 reasons and scriptures as to why God gave us the Bible. The hope is to deepen their knowledge about God, memorize His Word, and teach them how to apply what they are learning and incorporate it into their daily life. Two of our LITs (Leaders in Training) work with this group. If you would like to join AWANA™ at Shiloh, it is not too late. Here are the details:

Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m.

Snack Supper 5:30 p.m. (cost is \$3 a person, or \$10 family max)

COME JOIN US!!

Church Resource Center
by Diana Moore and Barb Yancey

Christmas is coming soon! Books and videos are now on display in the library and on the shelves by the choir room. There is something for every age. Keep your children reading over the holidays. They can then share what they learn about the reason we celebrate the season - Christ's birth. The lovely Christmas scene miniature by Henrietta and Ed Hastings is lit up in the library. We also have three new videos that were highly recommended by several members of the church. They are:

- Soul Surfer
- Fireproof
- Courageous

Curl up with some hot cider and cookies and watch one of these on a cold winter evening.



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Shiloh Baptist Church, 13457 Kings Hwy, King George, VA 22485

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The Shiloh visitor is published monthly as an official communications medium for Shiloh Baptist Church. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Saturday, December 24
5:00 p.m.

REACHING BUILDING SERVING

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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Gertrude met Warren about 66 years ago at Shiloh while visiting her uncle, Pastor John Hodge and his wife, Vera. She helped Vera with the Hodges' new baby boy. Following his retirement, Warren regularly filled the pulpit at Shiloh right on up to the time he passed away in 1999. He is buried alongside his baby girl. Once again, our heartfelt sympathy and Christian love go to this special Rollins Family: Tony's wife, Diana; his daughter, Courtney Rollins and her sons Taylor and James Banbury of Staunton; son, Daniel Rollins and his wife Leslie of Silver Spring, Maryland; his mother, Gertrude Rollins of Clifton Forge; and his brothers, Keith Rollins (Margaret), Pastor Mike Rollins (Tracy), and Jonathan Rollins (Jennifer).