

Advent at Greystone



December 2019

www.greystonechurch.org

In our waiting...

"..Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord..." -James 5:7a

December 1st marks the beginning of Advent, a season in which Christians focus on the Incarnation, or the coming of God to dwell with us. This is a season ripe with surprise and wonder as we wait for God to break into our lives, like a thief in the night (according to Matthew's Gospel).

As a child I looked forward to this season, because it became a countdown to Christmas, which was about presents, NC Frasier Firs, sugary snacks, and popular carols. Now, the season has its own depth and meaning to offer, which often have nothing to do with the trappings of Christmas that stole my attention in earlier years. Now, the season is an opportunity to pause and wait and watch for signs that God is near.

In the Bible, Jesus reminds us that we cannot know the day or the hour when the Son of Man returns but, "keep awake," he tells us in Matthew 24, so that we might be found faithful in our waiting.

This year at Greystone, we will explore the weekly themes of Advent as means of faithful waiting. Each week we will consider how hope, peace, joy, or love are growing within us. How are we embracing hope in the midst of hopelessness? How are we inviting peace into our day to day living? Is there joy to be found? What does love look like when it is set free to grow in our whole lives?

If we begin to open ourselves to these things (hope, peace, joy, love) might we grow more and more familiar with the ways that God desires to interrupt our daily routines?

Worship With Us During Advent

Sun., Dec. 1 - 10:30 Morning Worship, *Growing in Hope*

Sun., Dec. 8 - 10:30 Morning Worship,
Growing in Peace;

6:30 Christmas at Greystone: *Sounds of the Season*
(prelude begins at 6:15)

Sun., Dec. 15 - **10:30** Morning Worship, *Growing in Joy*,
PM Sunday School Christmas Fellowships

Wed., Dec. 18 - 6:15 PM and 7:00 PM Living Nativity

Thur., Dec. 19 - AM Preschool Christmas Program;
6:15 PM & 7:00 PM Living Nativity (rain date)

Sun., Dec. 22 - 10:30 Morning Worship,
Growing in Love,
with Children's Nativity;

6:30 Service of Hope and Remembrance

Tue., Dec. 24 - **5:30** Christmas Eve Service

Sun., Dec. 29 - No Sunday School; 10:00 Coffee &
Donuts;

10:30 Morning Worship, April Alston, preaching

Note: We will worship together in one morning worship service each Sunday during Advent at 10:30 AM with Sunday School at 9:30 AM.

Embracing the season, my prayer is this:

In our waiting
keep us faithful in love
and watchful in prayer,*
awaken our bodies
and arise our souls as your gifts of hope,
peace, joy, and love come to rest
and grow in us.

*2nd and 3rd lines from *Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion* p. 3

Christmas Meals for Urban Ministries

The Missions Committee is partnering with Urban Ministries of Wake County to provide Christmas dinner boxes. If your family or a group of friends would like to contribute a Christmas meal, please use the list below for suggested items. We hope you will consider this mission outreach as an opportunity to extend our holiday tables of joy, hope and love in this season. We will collect food items each Sunday through December 8.



- Main Course: \$25 gift card for Food Lion for a turkey, ham, or chicken.
- Side Dishes: Stuffing, potatoes/yams, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, canned vegetables, biscuit mix, and cream of mushroom soup.
- Dessert: Cake mix, prepared icing, and pie filling.

Urban Ministries of Wake County will then share the meal kits with their clients before the Christmas holiday. Urban Ministries serves over 29,000 people each year through their food pantry. Thank you for helping us set a table for our neighbors.



Christmas at Greystone: *Sounds of the Season*

Sunday, Dec. 8, 6:30 PM

This year's Christmas musical will be presented by Greystone's Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Grace Tones women's ensemble, Handbell Choir, other instrumentalists, Sound and Lighting Team, and narrators. Please invite your family, neighbors, coworkers, and other friends to join us at Greystone Baptist for this special evening of music and worship. (Please note the prelude begins at 6:15 PM, program at 6:30 PM.)



Youth Christmas Party - December 14, 12:15 - 6 PM

On Saturday, December 14 our youth will gather for a day of service and celebration. We will kick off our time together with a service project at Oak City Cares serving homeless individuals in our community. You can help contribute to this time of service by signing up to donate items for the blessing bags we will distribute (signup link is in *E-News* and *Youth Happenings* email). After our time of service, we will come back to church for a time of celebration complete with food, games and our annual gift exchange. Youth should bring a \$10 wrapped gift to exchange. Serving and celebrating together will be a great way to spend a day this Advent season.





LIVING *Nativity*

Wednesday, December 18

6:15 & 7:00 PM

(rain date 12/19, same times)



Service of Hope and Remembrance

Sunday, December 22, 6:30 PM

Gathering Room

Children's Nativity | December 22 | 10:30 AM

Our children will present the story of Christ's birth on Sunday, December 22 during worship at 10:30 AM. Preschool children will gather in their classrooms and school-age children in the fellowship hall at 9:15 AM that day to get dressed in their costumes, hear the Christmas story, have a snack, and do a craft. Children can bring their own costumes, if they would like. We also have plenty to share! Let us know if your children would like to participate, so that we have enough volunteers to help! Email Annie Hardison-Moody at anniehardison@gmail.com or text to 919-740-5920. Contact April Alston with questions.



Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 pm

Join us as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child, with a service of lessons and carols this Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm. Filled with traditional scripture lessons, Advent songs, and Christmas carols, this candlelight communion service will end with Greystone's customary congregational singing of "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." We are delighted to share that Pepper Choplin will lead the music for this service. You won't want to miss this special time together!

Growing In. . . a Podcast!

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. It's much more than just a countdown to Christmas. It begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve.



It is a time to reflect on how we as disciples can grow and develop in a season devoted to hope, peace, joy and love. As we expectantly wait for the birth of Jesus the Christ, we have the opportunity to learn from each other, to share with our friends what we have learned and what we are learning on this journey to Bethlehem.

This season we will launch Greystone's first Advent Podcast. Members of our church will be discussing how they hear this beautiful story of our Savior's birth and how it is helping them to deepen their faith. We hope that you will download and listen to Greystone's Advent Podcast this season. Look for information in your worship guides and on our social media sites for links and information about how to follow.

What is a Podcast? You might be asking.

A podcast is a series of audio episodes that can be streamed (listened to through an internet or cellular connection) or downloaded (stored on your device). People listen to podcasts while driving, exercising, waiting, or doing a whole myriad of other things. If you find a particular podcast you like listening to, you can "Subscribe" to it. Once subscribed, your phone / tablet / device will automatically download new episodes of that podcast. This makes it very easy for you to know about new content from your favorite podcasters.

Why is Greystone launching a Podcast?

Greystone is creating a podcast to extend our ministry into the digital world. By adding a podcast, we can record conversations (think: radio interview) and publish them for you to listen to during the week. We can also post the recorded sermons from each Sunday and make them available quickly and easily. We hope that our first listeners will be you, the members of GBC. We also hope it won't stop there. If you like what you hear on Greystone's podcast, would you share it on your social media pages? Would you email, call, or text your friends to tell them about it and invite them to listen in? Who knows! Maybe you'll be a guest on one of our future episodes!!!

How can I find Greystone's Podcast?

On your smartphone or tablet, open your podcast app. If you don't have a podcast app, you can download one from your app store. The icon might look similar to the purple logo at the top of this page. Once you're in your podcast app, search for "The Living Stone," and look for the logo image (left of this article). Click on the logo, then click on the "Subscribe" button. Once subscribed, you will be notified when new episodes are posted. To listen, scroll down to the list of episodes, where you'll be able to select the episode you want to hear. If you need help finding or playing Greystone's podcasts, let us know! We want to help you stay connected through this new media!

