

Thoughts On Advent

The Advent season brings me into a deeper understanding of the gift of Christ as my Savior. The songs we sing and the decorations of the season resonate in my thoughts and remind me of His birth.

- Marilyn Ingram



(Ministry for Adults 55+)
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Hanging of the Green

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28th

9:00 and 11:00 AM

by Kely Hatley

As I write this article, I am listening to the Cambridge Singers, a favorite choir of mine, sing lovely Christmas selections. One of the most beautiful parts of the Advent and Christmas seasons is the music used in the worship services. Our church has a rich history of elegant and meaningful music for the Advent season. We begin in the Advent season with our annual Hanging of the Green services. I invite you to come to hear again the music and the meanings behind the Advent/Christmas decorations we dearly love. We will adorn the sanctuary with candles, rich purple cloth paraments, greenery and holly, poinsettias, the Chrismon Tree and the majestic nativity. We will share scripture passages and short readings which will explain why we use these decorations.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the service is that we decorate the sanctuary in a "live" setting. When worshipers enter, (aside from the Chrismon Tree and the nativity) there will be no other signs of decorations. Each person will be able to see the decorations come to life during the service. By the time the service is over, worshipers will leave with the sanctuary fully decorated for the festive season ahead. We hope to have the Chapel Choir, the Sanctuary Ensemble, and the (Voices in Bronze) handbell quartet to provide the music for the service. Make plans to participate with us as we dress the sanctuary in preparation for the coming of our Savior!

ADVENT

ACL Monthly Luncheons



Thursday, November 11

**Shellie Powe – “Safe Holiday Travel
in a Covid-19 World”**

11:30 a.m.

Cost \$7

Heritage Hall

Reservations are open Now!

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday travel season is upon us! Our ACL Luncheon Topic team thought it would be helpful for us all to hear from a professional travel agent regarding recommendations and advice for safe travel practices in our current pandemic status. Shellie is a travel advisor for the local company CV Humanitarian Travel. CV Humanitarian is a local travel company that helps people put their faith into action. One of the many goals at CV Humanitarian Travel is mobilization — “we get people from the pews to the field. We work to remove the uncertainty and anxiety from international travel.” CV Humanitarian specializes in travel for faith-based workers and it ensures the safest possible travel experience.

Shellie was born in Bessemer, AL and is a graduate of the University of Alabama in marketing. She has been a travel advisor for CVHT since 1994. She is a member of the Unity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Bessemer. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from her on how to travel as safely as possible during these uncertain health days. **Please make reservations by Tuesday, November 9.**

Thursday, December 9

SINE NOMINE – “A Recorder Christmas”

11:30 a.m.

Cost \$7

Heritage Hall

Reservations will open November 22!

Do you remember learning to play the recorder in elementary school music class? What about your children? Do grandchildren drive you crazy playing “Hot Cross Buns” while you want to cover your ears? Well, have no fear. This month's program features a professional group of recorder players in the three-member group, “Sine Nomine.” Janice Williams, the contact person of the Birmingham chapter of the American Recorder Society, is one of the three members of this group. She says that their group focuses mainly on early music, but that they will be playing some Christmas music for us as well. The group is not all business though. They have a humorous side to them as represented by their group's name. She tells the story that they all thought and thought about what to call themselves for a long time. Finally one of the members suggested “Sine Nomine” which is Latin for “Without a Name.” Ha! She said they all agreed to that as long as they could use the Latin phrase because “Sine Nomine” sounds much more sophisticated than the English translation equivalent!

Make your reservation to hear this great group and enjoy a wonderful meal together with your friends. You may register and pay online or call the church office to make your reservation. **Please make reservations by Tuesday, December 7.**



Service Day Grand Success!

by Kely Hatley



This year's service day was even more successful than last year! We upped our participation by 12 people over last year for a total of 40 working diligently to help pack 75 Christmas Stockings for the BMBA's "Season of the Savior" campaign. The BMBA distributes the stuffed stockings to churches throughout the city who in turn distribute them to children who are in need. We also packed 150 backpacks with needed items for children to be distributed in the same manner. In addition, our volunteers also assembled our monthly "At Home" visitation bags that are distributed to our members who are no longer able to attend church physically. I am so thankful to

Pat Ferguson and June Whitlow for ordering our supplies and helping with our set up to make our service day run smoothly. I am also grateful for all the volunteers who came to help us. Yes, we had a lot of people so the work was done very quickly, but without that many volunteers, I think I'd still be packing stockings in the gym even now!

Order a Poinsettia to Adorn the Sanctuary!

Each Advent/Christmas season we are blessed by the beauty of having poinsettias in our sanctuary. These flowers are given each year by generous church members seeking to honor someone or to remember a loved one. The flowers are placed in each window and throughout the narthex and Hudson Hall to add to the festive nature of the season which celebrates the hope of the second coming of our Savior as well as the remembrance of His holy birth. The first Sunday of Advent is November 28th but due to the fragile nature of poinsettias we will wait to place them until December 12. If you would like to give a poinsettia in memory of honor of someone please contact Barbara Morgan (205) 803-3443 or barbara@mbbc.org. **The price is \$20 each. The deadline for orders is Thursday, December 2.**



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



A FESTIVAL of NINE
**LESSONS
& CAROLS**

On Sunday, December 5, in the 9:00 worship service only, the Sanctuary Choir Ensembles will present a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The service will follow the format of the beloved service broadcast live from King's College in England on Christmas Eve. The service will trace the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus using nine short Bible readings (lessons) interspersed with the singing of Christmas Carols, hymns, and choral anthems.

Instrumentalists assisting in the service will be a flute, clarinet, violin and cello. Don't miss this elegant telling of the Christmas story in person.



Make Your Reservations TODAY!

ACTIVITY SCALE

Level	Definition
	Easy: minimal walking
	Moderate: walk up to a mile
	Active: walk as much as two miles
	Challenging: spend most of the day on the go

Calendar At A Glance

- **ACTIVE November Luncheon** - Thursday, November 11 | Heritage Hall | 11:30 a.m. | Shellie Powe | Cost: \$7
- **Hanging of the Green** - Sunday, November 28 | Sanctuary | 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** - Sunday, December 5 | Sanctuary | 9 a.m. only
- **ACTIVE December Luncheon** - Thursday, December 9 | Heritage Hall | 11:30 a.m. | "SINE NOMINE" | Cost: \$7