

# The Messenger

## Perry United Methodist Church

### Perry, Georgia

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## RISKY MANEUVERS

Did you watch the video on YouTube? It's the final seconds of the October 27, 2007, football game between Trinity University and Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. (I described this scene to you in detail in my Sunday sermon a few days after the game, but it's worth mentioning again.) When the ball was snapped with just two seconds left in the game, Trinity players headed down the field. After no fewer than 15 lateral passes, a Trinity player crossed the goal line to win the game for his team.

One lateral is considered a risky move in football — but 15? So extraordinary was this play that TIME magazine named it its 2007 Sports Moment of the Year.

Yet, how risky was it, really? By the time of the first lateral pass, the clock had already run out. The Trinity University players had, literally, nothing to lose. With each ball handler, in turn, tossing the ball away to a teammate moments before being tackled, it was 15 separate risky decisions. Incredibly, the strategy (if it could be called that) paid off.

Sometimes, you've just got to keep pressing on.

Tom Wolfe, in *The Right Stuff*, tells a similar story-- of the jet pilots who tested the early supersonic aircraft. Theirs was a life of heart-stopping risk, but also great excitement. The credo they lived by was "to push the outside of the envelope" — to fly higher and higher into the cold void between earth and space, pressing their planes ever faster, risking mental fatigue, flirting with unconsciousness from oxygen deprivation, until they crossed the threshold of the speed of sound.

That's what your faith ought to be like — ever learning, ever growing, not afraid to ask the tough questions, the questions that challenge faith.

Someone once asked the Roman scholar Cato why, at the age of 80, he had undertaken to study Greek. "It's the earliest age I have left," Cato replied.

In our present circumstances, pressing on should mean at least trying things: new programs, new strategies, new schedules, new packaging for the timeless gospel. But keep trying new approaches-- even if some of these new approaches don't succeed.

As Paul put it to the Corinthians, "Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"(1 Corinthians 15:58).

See you in church this Sunday!

*Rev. Jenny*

## The Church At Worship

### December 7

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM  
**Rev. Jenny Jackson-Adams**  
*No Communion*

**Children's Program**  
**"Operation Christmas Child"**  
**4:00 PM**

**Christmas at the Crossroads**  
**Children's Choir**  
Front Steps of the Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m.

*No Evening Worship Service*

### Greeters 9:00 a.m.

Billy and Dawn Jerles  
11:00 a.m.  
Hatsie Kinsley  
Jane Whipple

### Advent Readers 9:00 a.m.

Gene and Betty Salyer

### Acolytes 9:00 a.m.

Tyler Hall  
11:00 a.m.  
TBA

11:00 a.m.  
Matt and Judy Perfect  
and Family



Elizabeth Chapman ~ Coliseum Rehab

### Mission . . . Possible!

Many thanks to all the members and volunteers that participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. We took 388 shoeboxes to Byron on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. This was a year-long project that every age in the church participated in. Many children all over the world will receive gifts that they would not have without your help. They will also be receiving the story of Jesus in their language. Please remember to pray for the boxes and the children that receive them. To God be the glory!



### Birth Announcement!

Madison Josephine Lewis (Mattie Jo)  
born to Mike and Jennifer Lewis  
on Tuesday, November 25.

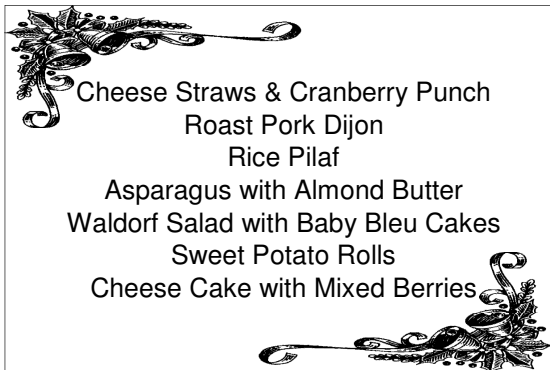
### PRIME TIME CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 11 ~ 6:30 P.M.  
FELLOWSHIP HALL ~ \$10 Per Person

#### Program

“Baby Jesus”

Performed by Al Pearson



Cheese Straws & Cranberry Punch  
Roast Pork Dijon  
Rice Pilaf  
Asparagus with Almond Butter  
Waldorf Salad with Baby Bleu Cakes  
Sweet Potato Rolls  
Cheese Cake with Mixed Berries

Make your reservations by 9:00 a.m. on the Tuesday before the dinner. If you make a reservation and find that you cannot attend, please call the church office and cancel by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday before the dinner. If cancellation is not made by the deadline, the payment of \$10 per person is due. For reservations call 987-1852.

### Sympathy is extended to ~



The Walker family in the death of Helen Parker.

Jean Campbell and family in the death of Jean’s brother, Verlin Mathis.

### Music Notes



#### Operation Christmas Child Musical

presented by  
The Covenant, Celebration and Cherub Choirs  
Sunday, December, 7 at 4:00pm  
Fellowship Hall  
Refreshments will follow

The children will sing on the front church steps at 6:45 for the downtown Christmas at the Crossroads Celebration.

#### Festival of Carols

A traditional service of reading and carols  
presented by  
The Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Bells and Orchestra  
Sunday, December 14, at 9:00 and 11:00

#### A Note About Sunday's Music.....

Principal cellist with the Macon Symphony Orchestra Barbara Altman will play during worship on Sunday. Barbara teaches privately and at Wesleyan College and Georgia College and State University. She performs with the Columbus, Valdosta and Hilton Head Orchestras and with several chamber music ensembles in Macon and Atlanta.

Barbara will play solo cello selections and accompany our Ladies' Ensemble. The ensemble will sing three beautiful selections, one of which was composed by Miriam Marchetti's sister, Gwen Hester of Rome, Georgia, in honor of their mother. Ensemble members are Jackie Beeland, Kellie Bowen, Grace Daniel, Fran Hartman and Miriam Marchetti (director) and Dianne Scruggs.

Blessings,  
Jane

#### PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY:

**Capt. Elmo Cooper Wright, III , Lt. William R. Wright**, grandsons of Elmo and Elaine Wright

**Lt. Barrett Perdue, PFC John Lane Sirmon**, grandsons of Rene Fendley Sirmon and John Sirmon

**Lt. Phillip Ferris**, son of Mark and Gloria Ferris

# Perry UMC Children's Ministry

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." -Luke 2:11-12

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSICAL  
THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 4:00  
PUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL**



**MISSION: TO FIND THE CHRISTMAS CHILD  
AND DELIVER THE SHOEBOX GIFTS  
COME SEE UNIT 12-25 FIND THE SIMPLE AND  
TRUE MEANING BEHIND THE SAMARITAN'S  
PURSE SHOEBOX MINISTRY!**



**SPEAKING PART PRACTICE FRIDAY NIGHT 5-8 PM  
DRESS REHEARSAL SATURDAY MORNING 9-10:30 AM**

**A few things to remember on December 14th-**  
The Sanctuary Choir will perform A Festival of Carols at the 9 and 11 am Services...This is a family-friendly presentation of Christmas songs the children will recognize and enjoy,  
There will be NO Children's Church on the 14th.  
Our PICNIC Christmas Party (Birthday Party for Jesus) will be December 14th from 5-6 pm...Children should bring a \$5 gift for our gift exchange game.



Our Moms Bible Study has had an exciting fall of "Stepping Up" with Beth Moore as we have studied the Psalms of Ascent and journeyed on a spiritual pilgrimage together. Our final meeting is December 16th and we will be traveling to Fort Valley to the Peach Palette to paint pottery, close out with our final session, and celebrate the Season together. All of our moms are invited to join us for this "Field trip," even if it has not worked out for you to do the study! We will meet at PUMC at 6pm...bring a goodie to share! Nursery provided.

# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

**MYF, Sunday December 7, 2008**

## **Joint Schedule**

All youth should come to the Youth Center at 5:00pm. We will have snack supper at 5:45 and dismiss at 6:00 pm so that we can attend Christmas at the Crossroads with our families. All Youth will be given an opportunity to choose an Angel from the Angel Tree. The Youth will be serving hot chocolate and cookies on the lawn of our church after the service.



**MYF, Sunday December 14, 2008**

**Regular Schedule**



## **Angel Tree**

The tree has been delivered and is covered with Angels. Please come and choose an Angel and make a child's Christmas wish come true. All gifts should be returned gift wrapped with angel attached to the Church Office by December 14.

I wish to offer special thanks to all of those who helped with Dinner Theatre. Every year this production is handled completely by volunteers and every job is so important. Thank you to the table decorators, table setters, actors and actresses, director, producer, kitchen crew, cook, and anyone I forgot to mention. Especially the audience. Without an audience it just wouldn't be any fun! Thank you for another successful production!

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## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, December 7 (No Evening Worship Service)

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
**4:00 p.m.** - "Operation Christmas Child" Children's Christmas Program  
5:00 p.m. - UMYF  
**6:30 P.M.** - Children's Choirs Sing on the Front Steps of the Sanctuary

### Monday, December 8

4:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study  
6:15 p.m. - Handbell Quartet Rehearsal  
6:45 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room  
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. - Mary Martha Circle Meeting

### Tuesday, December 9

12:00 p.m. - JOY Choir Christmas Party - at Martha Johnson's Home  
2:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, December 10

6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 11

6:30 p.m. - Prime Time Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall - see info inside page.

Attendance Report 2008	November 23	November 30
<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	225	171
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	252	238
<b>Sunday School</b>	268	242
<b>Evening Worship</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Youth</b>	39	19

Finance Report 2008	November 23	November 30
Budget Needed Weekly	22,376.25	22,376.25
Budget Receipts	31,512.48	12,458.03
Needed Year to Date	1,051,683.75	1,074,060.00
Disbursements to Date	1,016,895.11	1,031,510.09
Received Year to Date	969,866.22	982,324.25
<b>Other Contributions</b>		
Memorial	25.00	
2009 Pledge Contribution	2,000.00	
Children's Ministry		100.00
UMCOR, World Hunger/Poverty		1,000.00

## THE CHRISMON TREE

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



**Chrismon Trees** are a popular variation of the Christmas tree developed by Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She originated the concept in 1957 when she set out to create decorations appropriate for a church's Christmas celebrations. The ornaments she created using leftover supplies used for wrapping Christmas presents quickly became popular, so Spencer began creating additional ornaments and wrote a series of how-to books. After her death in 1990, Spencer willed the rights to the Chrismons name and patterns to the Ascension church to continue its non-profit ministry.

The Chrismon Tree is highly symbolic, conveying the life of Christ and the meaning of Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols borrowed or modified from other sources. The tree is evergreen, representing eternal life, and decorated with traditional and modified ancient Christian symbols, called Chrismons which are usually handmade by members of a local congregation using beads, sequins, glitter and styrofoam in colors of white and gold.

***Chi Rho Chrismon** (symbol top left) The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet, and is of Phoenician origin. A combination of the Greek letters Chi and Rho (monogram and symbol for Christ, consisting of the superimposed Greek letters chi (χ) and rho (ρ), often embroidered on altar cloths and clerical vestments. Also called Christogram.*

## MARY MARTHA CIRCLE WILL MEET DECEMBER 8!

At Janie Pugh's home.  
301 Downing Circle, Kathleen, at 7:30 pm.

### Church Staff and Our Methodist Connection

Rev. Jenny Jackson-Adams	Senior Pastor
Rev. Roland Fall	Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
Rev. Billy Kimbrel	Associate Pastor for Evangelism
Dr. Billy Key	Pastor Emeritus
Krissy Pope	Children's Pastor & Dir. Of Christian Ed.
Jane Kimbrel	Minister of Music
Miriam Marchetti	Music Associate/Pianist
John Williams, Building Supt.	<i>Nursery Workers</i>
Dicky Gilbert, Audiovisual Tech.	Christie Rooks
Leslie Mercer, Financial Secretary	Linda Hall
Ginger Vance, Admin. Assistant	Amanda Suttmueller
Grace Daniel, Organist	Patricia Burton
Deborah Walker, Pianist	
Bishop James R. King, Jr.	Resident Bishop
Rev. Ronnie Wills	District Superintendent