

The Lexington United Methodist Church

an inclusive and reconciling United Methodist Congregation

Newsletter

December 2003

Vol. 51, No. 11

From the Pastor's Study...

Advent - A Time of Waiting

My understanding of the meaning of *waiting* has evolved over time. Oh, Advent has always been a time of waiting, but for what I am waiting has changed. As a child, I loved marking Advent time by opening the doors on an Advent calendar. Each door brought me closer to Christmas. And of course, I was waiting for Santa and the presents under the tree.

Years later, as a young married woman, I found myself "with child" waiting for the birth of a child. I sensed a relationship with my kinswoman, Mary, and I understood about waiting for birth and new life.

In seminary, I learned about the eschaton, Christ's second coming and the arrival of the fullness of God. I became aware of all that needed to be changed and transformed. Issues of justice called out to me and Advent became a time to ponder my own partnership with God and how I might birth hope in a despairing world.

Now as a seasoned, mature person (Can you think of a kinder way of describing the aging process?!), I find Advent to be a time of "active waiting." I realize how much God depends on me and on you for bringing the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love to others and to all creation. It is a time of waiting again for the birth of the Word made Flesh, whose life and unconditional love inspire and challenge and comfort us always.

Advent used to be a time of waiting for something for me. Now Advent is a time of actively waiting on others. And the Gift is not under the tree. The Gift is a Savior, God's precious gift to each of us and for the salvation of the whole world.

May you be generous with your gifts of hope, peace, joy and love this Advent. God is waiting on you!

With Advent anticipation,

Rev. Susan

Rev. Susan J. Morrison



A Prayer

*Holy and gracious God,
the season of Advent is so important to me:
And it's not all about me!
What I wait for each year
is your coming,
your love born again, as if never before.*

*Remind me in my waiting
that Advent is not just for individuals,
it is for the whole world and everything in it,
for all peoples and nations,
for justice with peace,
and for enough care of all creation to make the hills sing with joy.*

Come, Christ Jesus, come. Amen.

(inspired by the Iona Community)

On the Inside...

December Worship 2
Christian Education News 4
Adult Study Opportunities 5

New Members 6
Reaching Out 7
Fair Trade Coffee Petition 11