

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

December 2018

Upland Baptist Church
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Angels from the Realms of Glory

One of the joys of the Christmas season is the music. I love to listen to the music of the season though the week before Thanksgiving I turned off the radio as they were already playing Christmas music. There is so much beautiful music to celebrate the season of Christmas. We recently took the boys to see the latest Grinch movie. I was thrilled to hear *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* in the background of the movie, proclaiming Christ's birth. It is wonderful to hear the story of our salvation from the radio, movies and of course worship as we journey through Advent.

One of the hymns that we often sing during the season is *Angels from the Realms of Glory*. This hymn was written by James Montgomery. His story has a tragic beginning. James' parents felt called in the 1700's to become missionaries in Barbados. They left James at the age of 6 in a Moravian settlement in Ireland and left for Barbados. James never saw his parents again, for they perished in Barbados.

James was left with nothing. He was sent to England to go to school. He did not do well in school and became an apprentice to a baker. He soon learned that baking was not his gift. His teenage years were filled with drifting and searching. He eventually settled in Sheffield, England.

Soon James learned that he loved writing. He worked for the local newspaper, eventually purchasing the paper. James was jailed on two separate occasions for his editorials which were unpopular with local officials. James left prison a local hero. He used his status to help promote his favorite causes. He supported foreign missionaries and the British Bible Society.

According to **Then Sings My Soul** by Robert Morgan, *early on Christmas Eve, 1816, James, 45, opened his Bible to Luke 2, and was deeply impressed by verse 13. Pondering the story of the heralding angels, he took his pen and started writing. By the end of the day, his new Christmas poem was being read in the pages of his newspaper. It was later set to music and was first sung on Christmas Day, 1821.*

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

by James Montgomery, 1771-1854

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light:
Come and worship:
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

4. Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His Temple shall appear:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

In our hymnal the third stanza above is replaced with:

Wise men, leave your contemplation,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

There is also another stanza:

All creation, join in praising,
God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising,
To the eternal Three in one

Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

James Montgomery was dealt a difficult hand in life. Yet, he did not become bitter to turn from God. His faith is evident in the words to *Angels from the Realms of Glory*. No matter what is happening in your life, I pray that the music of the season will fill your heart with the hope, peace, joy and love that comes from knowing Christ.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Brenda

Thank You from James Williams, Guest Preacher

Rev. Brenda A. B. Shaw and the entire Upland Baptist Community,
I wanted to thank you for giving me the wonderful opportunity to join you all in Holy Fellowship this past July and August. I greatly enjoyed sharing God's word in your beautiful (air conditioned!) fellowship hall; more than that, I was blessed to be able to meet all of the friendly people of UBC. I instantly felt welcomed and was made comfortable by everyone I met. It's clear how proud your congregation is of its pastor, its music, its authenticity and its church history. The entire experience was one which I look back on fondly. Thank you for making me feel at home – UBC emanates Christ's love! What a blessed congregation you are!
In Christ,
James Williams

Just a note – James Williams will be the guest preacher on Sunday, December 30, 2018. Pastor Brenda will be on vacation December 26, 2018 through January 4, 2019.

CHRISTMAS CARD FUND



Are you sending Christmas cards this year? Be sure to include your friends at Upland Baptist Church by adding a card to the Church's Christmas tree. By giving one card, you can send Christmas wishes to the entire congregation and provide funds to one of our children's programs. Please put your card and donation in the boxes at the back and front of the Church by **December 16th** so your name appears in the

December 23rd and Christmas Eve Bulletins. Your name will also appear in the January *Spire*. All donations will go to our Summer VBS Activities and Lunch Program. Donations will be used to purchase more books for our lending library, craft supplies, and some additional board games. Your donations will be appreciated.

If you cannot make it to Church, but you would like to be included, please send your card to Upland Baptist Church c/o Linda Cook, 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015.

Disbursements:		
Benevolences:	2018	2019
Unified Mission Budget ABC*	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Baptist Home / White Cross - UBC Women's Union	\$100.00	\$100.00
Riverside Association \$ Local Ministries	\$150.00	\$50.00
Upland Fire Company	\$350.00	\$350.00
Center for Pastoral Counseling	\$200.00	
Total Benevolences	\$8,800.00	\$8,500.00
<i>*The Unified Mission Budget ABC is 10% of pledges - this number will be adjusted after the Stewardship Campaign is completed. \$1,000 to go to Partners in Ministry</i>		
Personnel / Salaries:	2018	2019
Pastor's Salary	\$38,934.00	\$38,934.00
Pastor's Housing / Utilities	\$25,956.00	\$25,956.00
Pastor's M & M (Retirement)	\$10,167.00	\$10,167.00
Pastor's SS / Medicare Offset	\$3,245.00	\$3,245.00
Secretary	\$11,776.00	\$11,776.00
Financial Team Leader	\$4,460.00	\$4,460.00
Financial Secretary	\$1,445.00	\$1,445.00
Sexton / Cleaner	\$14,853.00	\$14,853.00
Music - Vocalist	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Social Security Expenses	\$3,615.00	\$3,615.00
Pastor's Vacation Substitute	\$700.00	\$700.00
ADP Fees	\$2,730.00	\$2,800.00
Total Personnel / Salaries	\$124,381.00	\$124,451.00
Educational / Organizational:	2018	2019
Outreach Ministry	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
discipleship	\$600.00	\$1,000.00
VBS (summer only)	\$800.00	\$800.00
Ministry to Children (Monday Night/Sunday during school)	\$900.00	\$0.00
Ministry to Members	\$600.00	\$800.00
Worship team	\$1,000.00	\$800.00
Church Baby Nursery	\$810.00	\$810.00
Music Licensing	\$200.00	\$150.00
Organist	\$11,745.00	\$11,745.00
Total Educational / Organizational	\$18,155.00	\$17,605.00

Disbursements (cont.):		
Property	2018	2019
Fuel Oil (Heating)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Gas, Water, Electric, Sewer	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Telephone / Internet	\$3,600.00	\$3,500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Alarm Services	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
Office Supplies, Contracts and Janitorial Supplies	\$9,500.00	\$8,500.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	\$1,700.00	\$1,500.00
Bell Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Total Building Services / Maintenance	\$66,100.00	\$64,300.00
General Program:	2018	2019
Pastor's Car & Cell Phone Allowance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Convention Expenses	\$700.00	\$500.00
Book Allowance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Church Envelopes	\$500.00	\$250.00
Auditing Expenses	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Total General Program	\$12,200.00	\$11,750.00
Total Disbursements	\$229,636.00	\$226,606.00
Income:		
Other Income:	2018	2019
Plate Collections	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Non-pledged giving through envelopes	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Special Offerings (Holiday envelopes)	\$1,400.00	\$1,000.00
Envelope Reimbursement	\$75.00	\$75.00
Memorial Fund	\$30,000.00	\$45,000.00
Property Fund	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
Total Other Income	\$80,675.00	\$95,575.00
Total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2019 budget:		\$131,031.00

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – Frank Kulp

We want to hear from you if you are watching the broadcast at home. Please email the church or give the office a call and let us know how you are doing.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Joyful Noise Bell Choir

The Bell Choir Participated in Worship on November 18. We have more opportunities to enjoy their music on December 17 at the Night of Music, on Sun. Dec. 23, and on Dec. 24 at the Christmas Eve worship service If you missed them. They are working hard to learn new music.

Christmas Night of Music - December 17 at 6:30pm

Join us to celebrate the Christmas Season with an evening of bells and carols. Manger crafts were made at the Sunday Social on 11/25 and an invitation was attached. There are extras in back of the church. Take one and give it to a friend or neighbor to invite them to come out and enjoy the sounds of the season. Bring the kids and take a picture with Santa.

Belvedere Worship

The next service will be December 23 at 2:30 pm. Jane Kofroth is making small crafts to take to the residents. There are some singers in the group and they do enjoy Christmas carols. The Giving Tree gifts are due in by Sun December 16. Thanks to everyone who took a name or two from the tree to help make Christmas brighter for these residents.

Greeters and Ushers

We need greeters for the Night of Music on December 17 and on Christmas Eve. Sign up at the back of the church.

Christmas Worship

The First Sunday of Advent is December 2. Families from our church will be lighting the Advent Candles during Worship on December 2nd, 9th 16th, and 23rd and at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Monday, December 24 at 7pm.

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE WRAPPED IN WARMTH, TOUCHED WITH JOY, AND FILLED WITH PEACE AND LOVE

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

Aaron Johnston is back home from his deployment and is gradually getting his family and his life back to normal. It is good to have him home and we appreciate his service.

Looking ahead to a bowling activity sometime in February. Sounds like a fun time so keep looking for information in the church bulletin and Spire.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

A Savior is Born! It's an exciting time of year as we learn about the birth of Jesus. It's true that we are a small group on Sunday mornings but it's an opportunity to share Gods love for us. Please give thoughtful consideration to joining us downstairs during worship and sharing your experience with our children.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

Giving Tree

A big thank you to all the elves who took Christmas tree tags. This is a very nice outreach project. The staff at Belvedere are very grateful for this at Christmas. Some of the residents would not have a gift for Christmas. I am thankful for our church family who care so much. Fifty tags were made up. A list came from Belvedere as to what the residents wanted or needed. The gifts will be delivered the week of December 19, 2018 and the activity staff at Belvedere will give the gifts to the residents on Christmas day.

Food Bank

The Food Bank is always in need of food items paper bags and plastic bags. Please remember giving to the food bank helps people in our community. You can place these items in the box at the back of the church. The item for December is Manwich.

Abundance of Blessings

The Abundance of Blessings was a great success for Thanksgiving. It helped with keeping the expenses down for buying turkeys. Many families had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. Upland Baptist Church thanks everyone who helped make this a success.

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday.

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER 2018

All cards for International Missionaries are to be sent to the following address:

International Ministries
1003 W. 9th Ave., Suite A
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Rev. David Reed 12/25

December Birthdays

- 4 Bobbi Jean Simcox
- 7 Deloris Hanley
- 16 Ben Geveke
Cheryl Rhoads
- 24 Amanda Harman
- 26 Kathleen Geveke
- 27 Courtney Klimek

December Anniversaries

- 18 Carol and Richard Arscott