

Zion United Methodist Church
 612 Locust Street
 Cambridge, MD 21613

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Advent: Preparing hearts, minds, and souls for Christmas

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We have had some people in the congregation that have gotten the coronavirus. Many are still recovering. Covid-19 has affected everyone in one way or another, including the effect it had on our Thanksgiving holiday.

There probably will not be a Norman Rockwell type of Christmas this year either due to the restrictions because of the coronavirus. I would have hoped by now that we would not be still dealing with this. Most of the time, Advent is seen as a speed bump to get over to get to Christmas. This year I feel that we need to concentrate more on the spiritual side of Advent and Christmas. We have been given the gift of time to be able to do just that. We need to treat Advent the way it was designed—as a time to prepare our hearts, minds and souls to welcome Jesus.

Scriptures remind us of the importance of preparing our hearts, minds and souls: “Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name” (Psalm 86:11); “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2); and “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

With all this preparation we need to ask the question, for what are we preparing? We know that Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago. Advent is both historical



and eschatological, that is, it refers to end times. Advent is a time to prepare to remember the birth of Christ and also to prepare for Christ to return. The promise of Christ’s return was told by the angels when Jesus ascended into heaven, “They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into

heaven” (Acts 1:11).

The season of Advent will begin on Sunday, November 29 and end on December 24. We have purchased an Advent devotion book for each family entitled *Joy to the World* by John Piper. This devotion will be available during the worship service on November 29, or you may contact the office to receive your copy. At our worship services during Advent, we will also be focused on God-with-us, Emmanuel; how we can be filled with hope, joy, love, and peace; and how we can share this with others.

This year, we have a golden opportunity not to rush through Advent to get to Christmas, but to really take time for meditation and reflection to prepare our hearts, minds and souls for Jesus’ coming. I pray you will take advantage of this time and truly prepare.

Stay Safe,
 Happy Advent towards a Merry Christmas!
 Pastor Dave

2020 Angel Tree

The Hattie B. Skinner Circle will once again sponsor the Angel Tree project of the Salvation Army. Angels will be available beginning Sunday, November 29. Gifts need to be returned no later than Sunday, December 13. We will have 25 angels on our tree in the Sanctuary. All of the recipients of this program are local, deserving kids.

If you would prefer to send a donation, please make checks payable to *The Hattie B. Skinner Circle* and note “Angel Tree” in the memo line.

Contact Janel Parke (410-228-0365/410-310-8769) with questions.

Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!



2020 - Zion's 240th Anniversary Year

What Was Happening The Year Zion Was Formed? 240 Years Ago - December 1780

December – Continental Army enters sixth winter with encampments in New York's Hudson Highlands and Pompton and Morristown, New Jersey

December 16 – Emperor Kōkaku accedes to the throne of Japan.

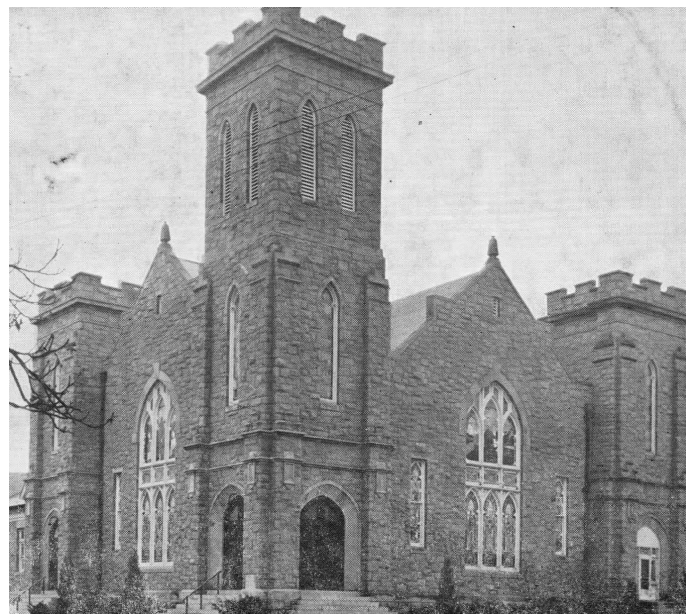
December 20 – The Fourth Anglo-Dutch War begins.

December News of the 1800s

Democrat & News: December 2, 1882—THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH BURNED. On Thanksgiving day the regular services were held in the Episcopal Church, Cambridge, in the morning and shortly after 1 o'clock p.m. the alarm of fire was heard and people from every section of the city flocked to the spot. The church was all ablaze inside and before the engine was in position the fire had so advanced that all saw the church was doomed. The wind was storming from the north west, and as it was an isolated building there was little danger of the fire spreading. In an hours time after the fire was discovered the roof and steeple fell, followed shortly by a part of the wall. Thus perished one of the old landmarks of a past generation. The church was built in 1794 and at that time was probably the largest and finest on the shore. The brick was brought from England and every part of the work was done with greatest care and out of the best materials. Modern windows, pulpit and a capacious wing had been added to the church, so that its seating capacity fully met the demands of the large congregation that worshipped there. Rev. Theodore Barber has been the pastor in charge for 34 years and the destruction of this church in which he has so often met and taught his devout flock is a blow which he feels most painfully and already looks 10 years older. Creighton's Hotel, situated opposite the church, was the nearest building to the fire and was saved by throwing a stream of water upon it. Several guests from Minneapolis arrived Tuesday to winter in this city, and they as well as the other guests were very much alarmed during the fire.

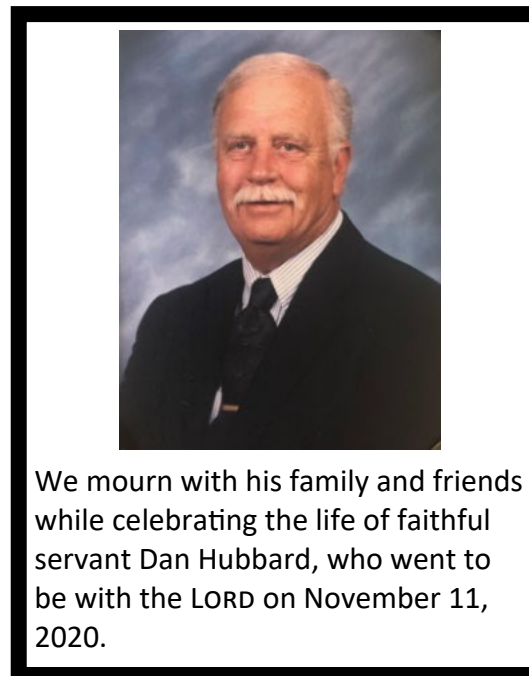
Democrat & News: December 1, 1894—There is a great deal of interest at present among Methodists over the vote which will be taken in relation to admitting women to the General Conference of the church. Nearly all the churches in Wilmington will vote this month. Every member of the church in good standing over 21 years of age will be entitled to vote. The election will also decide whether the word layman in the laws of the church applies to women as well as men.

1940s before 1949 the fire



Note the changes in the roof and the stained glass windows on the Mill St. side, the removal of the crenulations on the towers, and the removal of the side windows on the Locust St side.

Today



We mourn with his family and friends while celebrating the life of faithful servant Dan Hubbard, who went to be with the LORD on November 11, 2020.



Vista Cheesman Making Christmas Wreaths for Zion's Church Doors



Trunk or Treat!

Thanks to Diane Hoge, Robin Herman, and Jack & Diana Brooks, and to the ladies of the Hattie B. Skinner Circle for making the Trick or Treat event a success! They safely shared 100+ bags of candy along with a big helping of God's love with the children of Cambridge.



Early Christmas Memories of Zion

By Kenny Thomas



As a youngster the two things that stick out in my memory most at Zion as major Christmas events are the choir recitals at the old Nathan’s Furniture Store and the Christmas light displays in front of the church.

Two Zion women, Richie Morgan and Helen Hastings, managed the Nathan’s Furniture Store which for many years was located where the Dorchester Center for the Arts is now located. The beautiful stairway that is still there today was the platform for the annual Christmas recitals performed by our choir. It was really a big deal at the time, and today the stairway does not look nearly as large as I thought it was. Our choir consisted of 35 plus members and the concerts were always well attended. Since my mother was the organist, I was privileged to have access to a front row seat. That was also a big deal at the time.

Prior to the disastrous fire of New Years Eve 1949, the Locust Street façade of the church was decorated for Christmas with two long strings of lights from the peak of the granite wall down to the ground on both sides making an inverted vee. What was even more thrilling to me than the lights themselves was watching the local firemen putting the lights up and taking them down using the 75 foot aerial ladder truck. Living just across the street from the church I always looked forward to this event.

Today these things seem so insignificant but to a ten year old in those days they were major events and ones that are dearly remembered.



We are again planning on placing poinsettias in our Sanctuary for the Christmas season. You can provide a poinsettia, OR you can donate any amount to our Good Samaritan Fund in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. In both cases your loved one will be recognized in a special insert during our Christmas worship services.

Christmas Sunday is December 20, so we must have your information submitted by Monday, December 14.

If you are providing a poinsettia please deliver to the Church by noon on Saturday, December 19. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent by mail. Make checks payable to Zion UMC and note for “Good Sam”.

Direct any questions to Elaine Horseman (410-228-9134) or email to office@zionumccambridge.org.

Thank you!



.....
(circle one) In memory of: or In honor of:

BY:

ANNIVERSARIES in December

9-Christy & Charley Lednum
23-Joyce & Joe Turner
26-Debbie & Kenny Thomas

BIRTHDAYS in December

6-Debbie Collins
6-Ashlie Price
9-Brian Dukes
9-Ann Moore
9-Madison Schuyler
9-Sara Waldsachs
10-Mitch Parke

10-Charlotte Payne
11-Nan Powell
12-Helen Thomas
12-Delmer Willey
15-Aaron Atkinson
15-Eva Bartrum
18-Robert Creighton

19-Bambi Stevens
20-Carla Edmondson
23-Allen Hoge
25-Joseph Williams
26-Kay Bramble
26-Gavin Schunick

Baptized in December: 1978-Steven Waldsachs
1996-Corinne Kowitski
2004-Marci Schuyler

Confirmed In December: 2000-Brandon Crawford
2000-Chad Edmondson
2000-Eddie Howard
2000-Angela Meekins
2000-Amy Norton
2000-Lauren Zacharko

Joined Zion in December: 1961-Debbie Thomas
1975-Denis L. Lamparter
1975-Patsy Lamparter
1981-Christine Pridgen
1999-Faith M. Marshall
1999-Bettye Mae Meredith
2005-Daniel Insley
2005-Amy Insley
2005-Mark Masden
2007-Joan Reinisch
2008-Nan Duerling
2008-Craig Duerling

Do you recognize the person in the photo with his name blacked out?

Hint: He says, "Sang in the choir while in high school. Dropped out until about a year ago. Fortunately the extensive training stayed with me."

Answer below the Finance article.

