



SAINT PHILIP NEWS

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CONDITIONS FOR GIVING THANKS

November 2011



*Now thank we all our God, With heart
and hands and voices,*

*Who wondrous things hath done, In
whom his world rejoices;*

*Who from our mother's arms, Hath
blessed us on our way*

*With countless gifts of love, And still is
ours today.*

What were the conditions that this great hymn composed in 1636 were written? Were they composed in times of prosperity and peace or a season of abundance and bounty? Quite the contrary! From 1618 to 1648 Europe, and especially Germany was being devastated by famine, disease and destruction during the Thirty Year's War. During this season unbelievable suffering, disease, starvation and death hit the town of Eilenburg, where Martin Rinkart a Lutheran pastor, was stationed. In 1637, a plague broke out in Eilenburg because of the overcrowding of refugees from the surrounding countryside and other factors associated with the war that claimed 8,000 people, including the vast majority of the town council, an exorbitant number of children and Rinkart's own wife. The plague devastated and scattered so many of the clergyman in the community that Rinkart was burying 40-50 people a day—totaling 4,480.

After the plague, the town was so hit by famine that “30-40 people might be seen fighting in the streets for a dead cat or crow.” Rinkart did his best to help and gave away everything, keeping only the barest rations for his own family. In time, he was forced to mortgage his future income to buy bread and clothes for his children. Such were the conditions that Martin Rinkart was living and ministering in when he wrote:

*O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.*

We give thanks under much different conditions than Martin Rinkart who wrote “Now Thank We All Our God.” His life and example teach us that the conditions for giving thanks are not about what we have around us, but the spirit to recognize the hand of God who sustains through it all within us. Thank-giving is basically an attitude that looks beyond outward conditions.

As we gather to worship on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2011 at 10:00 am, my prayer is that the words and life of Martin Rinkart when he penned under the worst conditions of famine, suffering, death, privation and war:

*And praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son and him who reigns, With him in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.*

Pastor William D. Watley, Ph.D.

“God has a vision for our lives that is greater than any vision we can have for ourselves or that others can have for us.”

Saint Philip A.M.E. Church

2011 Outstanding Volunteers

The following individuals were nominated as the 2011 “Outstanding Volunteers” who have gone above and beyond the call to service. They were honored on November 12, 2011 at the first Annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast.

*...If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.
1Peter 4:11 (NIV)*



Dana Abraham

Yvonne Ash

Carrie Baldwin

Linda Balkcom

Helen Barrow

Ray Barrow

Sarah Bell

Gracie Benjamin

David Bennette

Milton Blount

B. Bernice Calloway

Jim Carlisle

Leon Carter

Gwendolyn Coleman

Brenda Cole

Willie Cole

Robin Cross

Leotha Cunningham

Robert Cureton

Linda Davis

Kevin Daniels

Kaye Dixon

Yolanda Dixon

Rachelle Edwards Biddles

William English

Ora Esters

Richard Fields

Sylvia Fields

Patricia Franklyn

Leon Gray

Terri Gray

Monica Gilbert

Glenda Hargrove

Cathy Harper Hogan

Pamela Harris Jenkins

Arcelious Hudson

Vivian Hudson

Andrew Huff

Rochelle Jackson

Samuel Jakes

Richard Jenkins

Delores Johnson

Carter Jones

Jonathan Jones

Carla Kalip

Yvonne Lester

Aron Liles

Marilyn Littles

Jeanette Lomax

Cora Rhodes Lyles

Bernice Madden

Michelle McKenzie

Gregory McMichael

Keethe Moore

Gregory Neal

Janet Overton-Sligh

Jennifer French Parker

Myrtice Peavy

Faye Penamon

Catherine Roberts

Sharon Russell

Joe Safford

Tonie Sanders

Fred Seagraves

Venus Stevens

Anthony Stovall

Bernice Tanker

Samuel Taylor

Stan Thomas

Janice Truesdale Harris

Floyd Webster

Barbara White

Margo White

Gracie Williams

"The Season of Advent"

November 27, 2011—December 24, 2011



The word **advent** means "coming" or "arrival." Advent is a season of preparation; it begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve.

In it we thank God for Christ's first coming, prepare for his final coming at the end of time, and celebrate

His presence among us today through the Holy Spirit. It is far more than simply observing a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God; the revelation of God in Jesus Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to Him. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of that which we anticipate.

During advent, Christians celebrate that God loved us enough to send his only Son to redeem us and He wants us to share that love with others. It is a time to get ready by rejoicing that our God is not far away or unfamiliar with the struggles of human life. Christ is here right now among His followers and has already begun to bring in the Kingdom. It also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they af-

firm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power.

The lighting of the candles during advent is an essential part of the season. They remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others.

◆ The first candle (**Hope**) symbolizes the promises that foretold Christ's birth. It is a symbol of the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Isaiah 60:1-3; Matthew 24:44

◆ The second candle (**Love**) symbolizes that Jesus Christ is the way. Christians were lost in sin and He is the Light sent into the world to show them the way out of darkness. Matthew 3:1-2; John 14:6

◆ The third candle (**Joy**) indicates that the only lasting joy to be found in life on earth is through Jesus Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last. Isaiah 35:10; Luke 19:37-38

◆ The fourth candle (**Peace**) reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Him there is no peace. Luke 2:27b-32; Luke 1:78b-79

◆ The final candle represents Jesus Christ himself who is born to save people from their sins. It is Saint Philip's tradition to light this candle throughout the year for we continue to celebrate the life of Christ.

Thanksgiving Worship Service

Wednesday, November 24,
2011

10:00 A. M.

The Sanctuary



2011 Black Tie Affair
Saint Philip AME Church

Friday, December 2, 2011

7:30 pm - 12:00 midnight

Dinner Served promptly at 8:00 pm

Saint Philip AME Church
The Family Life and Administration Center
The Marcia Moss Fellowship Hall
240 Candler Road SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30317

Upcoming Events at Saint Philip

Thank Offering

Sunday

December 11, 2011

To show our appreciation to God for what he has done for us.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. Luke 17:15-16 (KJV)



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

The Christmas Eve and Candle Light Service will be held on Saturday, December 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Mass Choir of Saint Philip will provide the Christmas music. Please come out and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with us and bring a friend!

Watch Night Services

Saint Philip A.M.E. Church

Methodism founder John Wesley originated Watch Night services in the mid-18th century, sometimes calling them Covenant Renewal services. The original services were spontaneous prayer services designed to deepen the spiritual life of the Methodist Church.

Saint Philip will celebrate Watch Night services on Saturday, December 31, 2011 at 8:00 P.M. and 10:00 P. M. in the Sanctuary.

SPC FITNESS CENTER

Please note that we are installing a new door entry system and effective **November 21, 2011** all members who have not renewed their membership within the last **6 months** will need to do so immediately in order to gain entrance beyond that date. The Steward Board implemented a new fee structure:

MONTHLY FEE: \$25.00

6 Month Fees

SPC Individual	\$ 75.00	Community Individual	\$ 95.00
SPC Single Family	\$105.00	Community Family	\$125.00
SPC Family Household	\$135.00	Community Family Household	\$155.00
SPC Senior (60 & Older)	\$ 40.00	Community Senior (60 & Older)	\$ 40.00
SPC Student	\$ 45.00	Community Student	\$ 65.00

THE SAINT PHILIP NEWS Publication



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