



Vernon Park Church of God

December 2018

Committed to loving God, loving others and serving others!

Merry Christmas



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Vernon Park Church of God

The Corner of Hope & Possibilities

A monthly reminder of what's possible!

Dear Family & Friends,

Most of mankind is preparing to celebrate the day we call Christmas. We know that Christmas is the annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on December 25th in the Western Church. Many of us grew up with the sense of possibility the day would bring. There was nothing like the music, the generosity and spirit the day delivered to our homes. Like many of you, Lady Maura and I are anticipating a wonderful Christmas Day this year.

Unfortunately, so much of what our families experienced on Christmas has been co-opted into avenues of over-spending and piles of unnecessary debt. Probably what's even more alarming is the amount of depression and darkness that is experienced this time of the year. Experts say much of the problem comes from people's inability to reach the level of joy others experience. For some it's due to loneliness and/or a lack of purchasing power. Therefore, each year the numbers of those who suffer during the holiday has grown.

However, the Word of God has life that permeates generations of sorrow. You can join our family as we share the Power of God this season with those who may have forgotten or have never been privy to the Light of Christ. The ancient declaration of the past still holds the power and promise today.

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

I encourage you all to celebrate holiday joy publicly and intentionally this year and be part of the spreading of the Good News of Christmas to the world.

My pen is positioned,

Pastor J



PASTOR OF POSSIBILITIES®



Vernon Park Church of God

Announcements

YOUTH MINISTRY

Seeking Youth 13 to 19 years of age for a meeting in Room 102 to plan events for 2019

Sunday, December 2nd immediately after church service

Christmas Game Night



At the Millers' home



Saturday, December 29th

ALL TEENS AND TWEENS ARE WELCOME!

PLEASE SEE PASTOR FRANK OR MINISTER MONICA MILLER FOR DETAILS.

Wedding Anniversaries

Herman & Beverly Holton - 24 years, December 4th

Deon & Geraldine McClinton - 19 years, December 11th

Andre & Wrenetha Poindexter - 25 years, December 15th

Calvin & Angela Lane - 9 years, December 26th



Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

December 2, 2018, Psalm 32:1-11, "The Lord Covers Our Sin"

Lead: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Cong: For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Lead: Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Cong: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Lead: Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

Together: Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Vernon Park Church of God Holiday Services

Christmas Service - Sunday, December 23rd
New Year's Service - Sunday, December 30th





Responsive Reading

December 9, 2018, Matthew 1:17-24 “Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son”

Lead: There were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah. This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:

Cong: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Lead: But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Cong: She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Lead: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” which means “God with us”.

Together: When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.





Responsive Reading

December 16, 2018, Matthew 2:1-11, "The Magi Visit the Messiah"

Lead: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Cong: When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Lead: "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Cong: Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Lead: After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Together: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

December 23, 2018, Isaiah 9: 1-7, "The Coming Messiah"

Lead: There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan.

Cong: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Lead: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

Cong: For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

Lead: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Together: Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.



Responsive Reading

December 30, 2018, Isaiah 40:1-9 “Comfort for God’s People”

Lead: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

Cong: A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

Lead: And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Cong: A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

Lead: Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever. ”You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

Together: You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”





Vernon Park Church of God

Announcements



Eat better...feel better!

Reaching Beyond the Walls

With

Pastor Jerald January, Sr.

SATURDAYS 8:00 A.M. - CHICAGO CABLE CHANNEL 25 - CITY OF CHICAGO

MONDAYS 9:00 P.M. - COMCAST CABLE CHANNEL 19 - SOUTH SUBURBS

ONLINE AT VPCOG.ORG

VPCOG College Care

VPCOG College Care sends care packages to college students living and studying away from home. We send biblical inspirational items, snacks, personal care items, church bulletins, and school supplies to the students. There are 2 packages/year, 1 each semester. These packages are intended to let the students know that while they are away, their VPCOG family is thinking of them and praying for them.

If you have any questions, please see members of the VPCOG College Care Team, Sis. DeShonda Sisco, Sis. Julia Hill or Sis. Danielle Garner Tillman.



Announcements



Vernon Park Church of God

Special Events Committee

“While they were talking and discussing,
Jesus Himself approached
and began traveling with them.”
Luke 24:15

“They were continually devoting themselves
to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship...”
Acts 2:42

“...that is, that I may be encouraged together
with you while among you, each of us
by the other's faith, both yours and mine.”
Romans 1:12

Come join us!
~ All are welcome ~

Sis. Sarah Barber, Special Events Chairman

Sis. Jackie Morris, Co-Chairman

Sis. Cheryl Nelson, Co-Chairman

Sis. LaVeda Scurlock, Co-Chairman

Rev. Jerald January, Sr., Pastor



Vernon Park Church of God

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 2, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 9, 2018



Vernon Park Church of God

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 16, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 23, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: December 30, 2018



Souvenir Journal



There's still time to get your ad into the Souvenir Journal ... a collector's item that will commemorate the opening of our new main sanctuary.

Full Page Color - \$250 Full Page Black & White - \$200

Half Page Color - \$175 Half Page Black & White - \$125

Quarter Page Black & White - \$75 Patron - \$25

For more information, contact the church office at 708.753.1975

