



# Advent 2011

**Special points of interest:**

- ◆ Electronic Newsletter - If you would like to receive your newsletter via email instead of a paper copy please email : office@cedarbayou.org



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Dear Members and Friends,

As the angel spoke to the shepherds at Bethlehem he said, "Don't be afraid, I am here with good news for you, which shall bring great joy to all the people." (Luke 2:10-11 TEV) The news is still great and joyful for us today, "Your Savior was born - Christ the Lord!"

For some of us though, our Christmas traditions feel worn and weary - not at all like a true celebration of good news. If your Christmas traditions seem a little more chore-full than cheerful, I would like to suggest that we reclaim some celebrations as additions or alternatives.

On December 6 remember St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas the Roman Catholic bishop of long ago reportedly distributed gifts to poor children during this season. In the Dutch tradition children leave their shoes out for St. Nicholas to place gifts inside them on Dec. 6. Why not keep the tradition by filling your penny jar with dollar bills instead of pennies and presenting it in worship the following Sunday? Our church children will use the money to buy clothes and toys for poor children. Our goal is \$3,000. So far we have collected \$673.55.

On December 14 our Bayou Brigade children will be celebrating Santa Lucia Day like they do in Sweden. You can too. Traditionally the eldest daughter, dressed in a white dress with a red ribbon around her waist and a crown of lights on her head, serves a breakfast of Santa Lucia buns (like sweet rolls) and coffee to her family. Maybe we could keep the tradition by inviting a friend or neighbor out for coffee and do-nuts?

Also, remember our Christmas caroling on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. You do not have to be a good singer to enjoy this tradition. Bring a friend. We'll be back to the church by 5 for hot chocolate.

Worship of the living Savior will certainly bring forth the joy of the savior's birth. Christmas Eve brings a children's service at 4 and an informal service of candles, carols, and communion at 6. The next morning we'll worship again with carols and the Christmas story at 10 a.m.

There are many more ways to celebrate Christmas. As you discover the ones for you, may God bless you with the joy of Christmas today and always.

Joy and peace,  
Carol Turner

# Announcements



## Staff Love Offering

Santa Hats and SPRC ask you to join us in remembering our hard working church clergy and staff this Christmas by contributing to a love offering for them. Please, mark your generous check to "staff Christmas." You may include it in an envelope in the offering plate, mail to the church or give to Don Coffey, Debbie Busch or any member of the Staff Parish Committee. Thank you.



*New Year's Eve  
Family Celebration*

## Faith and Fun on New Year's Eve

It's a New Year's Eve party and watch night service all rolled into one - Dec. 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 in the Busch Center. Bring a game and finger foods to share. If you are just coming for worship, come from 5:30 to 6 to give thanks for the year past and launch the new year in worship. Afterward we'll eat and play games.



LET'S GO  
CAROLING

## Christmas Caroling Dec. 11 from 3 to 5 p.m.

It's time to remember our Shut-ins and those for whom this may be a difficult time of year. We need every smiling face, young or old, even if you can't sing to join us as we travel house to house to spread Christmas love and joy. We will meet in the Busch Center at 3, divide into teams, make door-step visits and return to the church for refreshments by 5. We sing the first verse of familiar carols with Jingle Bells and We Wish You a Merry Christmas, also. We need drivers, singers and people just to smile. Don't miss it. Guaranteed to put the joy in your Christmas.



## Holy Communion

Due to the Dec. 4 Choir Cantata, Holy Communion will be offered in worship on December 18 and December 24 this month.

## Boat Parade

It's our great joy to offer the 2011 Boat Parade as a gift to our community. Will you help to extend our CBG welcome by helping serve refreshments? by patrolling the parking lot? by assisting the launch at Roseland Park? If so, contact Rev. Ramirez at 281-427-4754 or [iramirez@cedarbayougrace.org](mailto:iramirez@cedarbayougrace.org)



*Christmas  
Brunch*

## Christmas Brunch

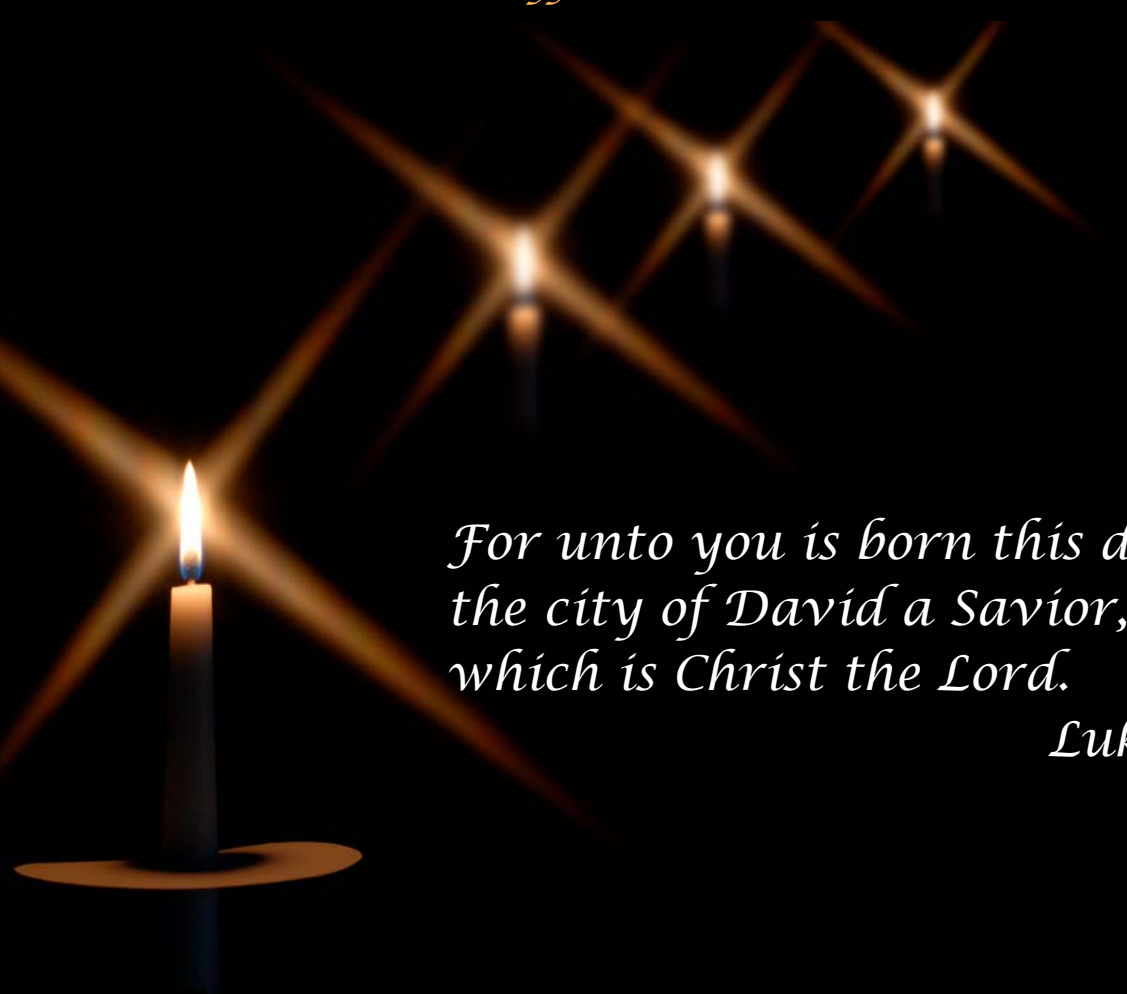
Our annual Family Christmas Brunch will be held on Sunday, December 18th from 9:30 to 10:30 (our Sunday School hour). Bring a dish to share and enjoy visiting with your church family.

*Christmas Eve*  
*Candlelight Services*

*4 p.m. - Children's Service*

*6 p.m. - Carols & Candles*

*Communion will be offered at both services.*



*For unto you is born this day in  
the city of David a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord.*

*Luke 2:11*

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## Christmas Day Schedule

**There will be one wor-  
ship service at 10:00 A.M.  
on Christmas Day**



## New Year's Day Schedule

**There will be one wor-  
ship service at 10:00  
A.M. on New Year's Day.**

