

23. WE EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the Deacons for decorating the church so beautifully for our Christmas season. We are blessed by their service.

24. YOUR 2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at the rear of the Sanctuary. **ATTENTION!** If you are making direct payments via a financial institution and do not use nor wish to have envelopes, please notify the church office. In this case, you will be assigned a 600 account number. Pew envelopes remain for other giving.

COMMUNITY NEWS

25. ELFINWILD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY is in need of new members. If you're looking for a way to give something back to the community, this is a great opportunity! All training and equipment are provided either in-house or through local fire academies and schools. By making a commitment to the fire service, you can earn a FREE college degree through the FireVest program of the Community College of Allegheny County. For degrees offered or for more details, call 412-931-3158, ext. 5. Stop by the fire hall at 2807 Mt. Royal Blvd. on any Monday evening at 7:30 PM or call Dan at 412-377-5986.

Fill-A-Truck Suggested Items

- Package/box noodle side dish mixes
- Package/box rice side dish mixes
- Boxed hot dinners or salads
- Package/box rice
- Boxed potatoes
- Pasta (single serve Chef Boyardee)
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned salmon, sardines, crab, tuna
- Soup
- Broth – chicken/beef /vegetable
- Canned fruit
- Condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayo, pickles
- Salad dressings
- Peanut butter
- Puddings, gelatins (ready-made or boxed)
- Baking items: cake, cookie, or brownie mix
- Single serve cereals or instant oatmeal
- Single serve items such as granola bars, fruit cups, Easy Mac, applesauce, sandwich crackers, Ramen/Oodles of Noodles
- Personal items such as soap, shampoo, shaving cream, disposable razors

Please use this form to register for church events. After filling it out, you may tear it off and place into the offering plate. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Event: _____

Number of Registrants: Adults _____ Children _____

Ages of Children: _____

Other applicable information: _____

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 12-14-14

TODAY Bread of Life Food Pantry Fill A Truck Drive
8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Service – SA
9:45 AM – Sunday School- CE
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – All Church Retreat Meeting – KL
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH
6:00 PM – New Officer Training – CCR
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH
7:00 PM – Session Meeting – CCR

MONDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM –Preschool – CE
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Preschool Christmas Programs – FH
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM – 6th Grd. Girls' Bible Study
@Harbaughs
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – FH

TUESDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM –Preschool – CE
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Preschool Christmas Programs – FH
11:00 AM – Staff Christmas Lunch
6:30 PM – Girl Scouts All Camp Meeting - CCR
6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Financial Peace – YH

WEDNESDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Preschool Christmas Programs – FH
6:15 PM – Youth Group Deliver Presents at Orion
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Webelos I – PR
6:30 PM – Wolf Den – Red Room
7:00 PM – Chancel Choir – CR
7:30 PM – Confirmation Class – YH
8:05 PM – Music Ministry Bible Study – SA
8:25 PM – Praise Team – SA

THURSDAY 7:00 AM – Men's Bible Study – PS
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM –Preschool – CE
9:15 AM – 11:30 AM – Women's Stretch and Study – YH
10:30 AM – Grace Manor Service
7:15 PM – Youth Choir – CR

FRIDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM –Preschool – CE

SATURDAY 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Kids Music Workshop – FH

SUNDAY (12-21-14) 8:30 AM– Worship Service – SA
9:45 AM –Sunday School- CE
11:10 AM – Worship Service – SA
11:10 AM – A Children's Christmas Carol – SA
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Christmas Caroling – Meet in FH
5:00 PM – Youth Group Christmas Party – YH
7:00 PM – Longest Night Service – UGR

THE FLOWERS ON THE CHANCEL THIS MORNING are given in memory of Frank Klebacha by Bob and Joanne Popovich.

THE ELDER OF THE WEEK is Steve Heere.

OUR ORGANIST THIS MORNING is Alec Chapman. Alec will be serving as our organist until his graduation from Duquesne in May 2015.

TODAY WE WELCOME ZEPHYR – A member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Recorder Society, Zephyr is a locally based group of musicians. Thank you for your ministry today!

HEARING ENHANCING EQUIPMENT: If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please let one of the ushers know prior to the service, and you'll be given a hearing enhancer to use during the service.

8:30 AM USHERS

Mark Connelly
Curtis Neil
Marilyn Colaizzi
Len Colaizzi

11:10 AM USHERS

Henry Tomer
Jerry Nist
Dave Jenkins
Becky Winek

SOUND TECHNICIANS

8:30 AM – Zach Hughes
11:10 AM – Dan Clayton

UPCOMING SERVICE

Sunday, December 21, 2014
Dr. Lesnett preaching

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY

Birth – 6th Grade

For more information on these ministries, please contact Bethann Dolan, Elder for Children's Ministries at: mbergd@verizon.net or 412-492-9991

1. CRADLE ROLL ROOM FOR AGES BIRTH THROUGH 2 1/2. The Cradle Roll room is located past the church offices and choir room. The **TODDLER/PRESCHOOL ROOM** is open during the Sunday School time and 11:10 worship hour. This is a class for children who are 2 ½ to 4yrs. of age.

2. SUNDAY SCHOOL –Our classes will begin at 9:45 and end at 10:45 AM. Children 4 years old (Pre-K) through 2nd grade will meet in the RED room of the C.E. for Kids of the Kingdom Music to start class at 9:45. Children in 3rd grade through 6th will meet in their classrooms.

3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP – For ages Pre-K through 2nd grade during the 11:10 service. This week's lesson will be *Advent III, IV, V* by Linda Barto, Barb Harms, Nicole Graco, and Carolyn Hervey.

4. CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS are with the regular bulletins at the entrances to the Sanctuary. If your child would like one, please see one of the ushers.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

*For more information on these ministries,
please contact Jennifer Clayton at
jennifer@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.*

5. JAM WORKSHOP JAM (Jesus and Me) Music for pre-K through 6th grade workshop will be December 20th from 10:00 AM – Noon. Lunch will be included. No cost. The kids will offer their Advent story in worship the following day, December 21st, at the 11:10 service. Please contact Jennifer to sign up or to order your JAM shirts!

STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12

*For more information on these ministries, please contact
Rev. Jason Rea at
jason@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.*

6. JR. & SR. HIGH CLUB – Jr. High (grades 6-8) from 4:30 – 6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. This club is a wonderful time for fellowship with other students. We meet in the Youth House and play different games, have some good food and spend time in worship and study together. Please join us!

7. CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CAROLING DECEMBER 21ST -Join us at 3pm for caroling which will be directly followed by our Christmas party from 5-7pm. We will meet for caroling in Fellowship hall. The Party will be at the youth house. Even if you can't make caroling you can still come for the party (but you should try to come caroling as it will be fun). We will have dinner together at the party and each student should bring one wrapped gift (\$5 or under) for our annual gift exchange/game. We hope you will join us for this wonderful time of celebration.

8. ORION HOME PRESENTS FOR PATIENTS- We will deliver the presents as a group Wednesday, December 17th. We will meet at the Youth House at 6:15pm and then head over to the Orion home and then return to the Youth House around 7:30pm. If you purchased a present but cannot go with us to deliver it, please give Jason your present BY December 16th! We may need extra drivers for this event so parents let me know if you would like to help transport students. This has been a wonderful time the past few years and we encourage as many students to participate as possible.

ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

9. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT to be held January 23-25, 2015 at the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. The guest speaker, Saleem Ghubril, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Promise and volunteer pastor of the Mosaic Community Church, will lead us as we focus on the theme **Light of the World**. We will explore the meaning of Jesus as *the light of the world*, what His light brings to each of us, and how we may move toward becoming a light for Christ in our world. In addition to a great speaker, the retreat offers time for fellowship; fireside chats; hiking; a 1200 foot zipline; an inside climbing wall; laser tag; sledding; young child care; and lots of activities for the kids. The cost: Adults - \$75/ Children 10-17 - \$40/ Children 4-9 - \$30 (\$200 cap for families and additional financial assistance is available if needed).

Registration forms available on tables outside the sanctuary and on the church website. Questions? Patty Robinson: 412-487-0413

10. BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Over the past years a faithful group of individuals has provided a light luncheon, at a small cost, for the family and friends of a deceased individual following the funeral service. This group has dwindled in size. We need your help and assistance in creating a new group of folks who can help with this ministry. If you are interested in assisting in or leading this ministry, please contact the church office at 412-486-5400 or Jim Giel, Jr. at 412-486-2774.

11. THE PRESBYTERIAN PROJECT (includes local Presbyterian churches, Calvert Memorial, Elfinwild, Fox Chapel, Glenshaw, John McMillan, Hiland and Parkwood) has a project to which you can be part of in the early winter months. Please see the green flyer on the tables for more information.

***January 26-31, 2015 – Mission trip to Norman, Oklahoma**

The Oklahoma City suburbs experienced tremendous loss of life and property from tornadoes that swept through the area in May 2013. Volunteers will work on new construction, and install in-ground storm shelters in existing homes. There are two options for cost: - Driving in the van - \$200/person includes 1 overnight each way; Flying - \$400/person Please contact Jeff Potter (revjeff@parkwoodchurch.org) or Penny Young (youngp@fcpc.us) if you have any questions or to reserve your spot.

12. LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – Sunday, December 21st at 7 PM in the Upper Gathering Room. This is a special service of healing and wholeness for those for whom the Holiday season is difficult for reasons of grief or loneliness. All are warmly invited and welcome.

13. DID YOU KNOW that you can listen to the sermons on our website? Please go to www.elfinwildchurch.org and click on the link.

14. ATTENTION MEN: There are several upcoming opportunities to strengthen your relationship with God as well as be His ambassador in the community.

* A new CLC group will be starting soon and will be meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 AM on Saturdays. Mike Gaydos and Mark Connelly will be the co-facilitators.

*Dirk will be leading a small group on fatherhood which will begin on January 8th.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Gaydos at 724-272-6951 or projecteng@hotmail.com.

15. FILL THE TRUCK! We will be filling a truck with food items to be donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry TODAY. Please see the list on the back of the announcements for more information. Please contact Jim Giel, Jr. at 412-486-2774 with any questions or how you can help this worthy cause.

16. ELFINWILD MEALS MINISTRY DRIVERS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – As our snowbirds go south for the winter, we have a need for additional drivers and volunteers during the winter months. If you have a couple of hours during the week to assist in the kitchen or can assist in delivery of the meals, please contact Marion

Berberich at 412-486-8000. Any time that you can provide would be greatly appreciated for this important ministry.

17. ELFINWILD MEALS MINISTRY HOLIDAY TREATS NEEDED – As you begin preparations for your holiday baking, the Elfinwild Meals Ministry would appreciate your considering baking an extra dozen of cookies or other baking items that we could include in the daily meals that we provide to our clients. These additional items mean a great deal to individuals who otherwise would not be able to enjoy the holiday treats many of us enjoy. Please leave your donation in the church kitchen marked for the Elfinwild Meals Ministry or contact Marion Berberich at 412-486-8000 to make arrangements to drop off your donation. Thanks in advance for considering making this type of addition to our meals ministry.

18. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER PITTSBURGH Alternative Gifts of Health & Organic Fair Trade Coffee For Sale – Sundays in December During Coffee Hour

Each donation comes with a lovely Christmas ornament explaining what has been purchased as well as the mission of Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh. Gifts of Health will be on sale each Sunday during the month of December and on Christmas Eve. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% of donations go directly to the people of San Jose del Negrito, Honduras. Proceeds from the sale of coffee fund the education of a Honduran youth. Since 2000, twenty-four medical brigades have traveled to San Jose del Negrito. Elfinwild Presbyterian sent a mission team to Honduras during the summer of 2011 and again in 2014! As this partnership grows, we appreciate your support. More information is available by contacting Mark & Amy Meyer, littlepine@verizon.net.

19. ATTENTION FATHERS!!! Every father knows how difficult parenting can be. If you want to find some encouragement for, support in, and guidance to being a father who loves his children with a godly type of love, we invite you to come and join us. We will begin meeting Thursday, January 8 at 7:15 pm in the Corner Conference Room. This time coincides with the Youth Choir rehearsal time. We will meet initially for six weeks through February 13th. If you have any questions or would like to confirm your place around the table, please email or call Pastor Dirk Lesnett at dirk@elfinwildchurch.org or 412-486-5400.

20. WOMEN'S BREAKFAST – The Women's Ministry Committee is hosting a breakfast and warmly invites the women of Elfinwild to attend on Saturday, January 17th from 9 AM to 11 AM. To make reservations, please fill out a form located on the tables and place in the offering plate or call the church office. Please let us know if you will need child care.

21. FRIENDS TO REMEMBER IN THIS SEASON – Located on the tables outside of the Sanctuary, is a list of members who are unable to come to Church or live out of the area. They would certainly be pleased to receive a Christmas greeting or note. Please remember them as you prepare your Christmas cards this year!

22. THE 2015 FLOWER CHART is now available! The cost for flowers in 2015 is \$44.00. Please contact the church office with any questions or sign up on the chart located in the north narthex.

I was just thinking ... how blessed I have been by various devotional readings I practice each Advent. I always read two essays by C.S. Lewis on Christmas, pull out a devotional with various authors and reopen the book Kneeling in Bethlehem, a collection of poems written by Ann Weems for this season. I like many of them and find it hard to choose only one favorite. Here is one that I like called "The Coming God."

"The Coming of God"

Our God is the One who comes to us
in a burning bush,
in an angel's song,
in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found
locked in the church,
not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be
with no constraints,
no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives,
and destruction has no power
and even death cannot stop
the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born,
but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready
God will come
even to a godforsaken place
like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...
for you know not when
God comes.

Watch, that you might be found
whenever
wherever
God comes.

God is "with us" and God is "coming!" Let's be on watch and prepared to eyes that see and lives ready to receive Him. Can you catch a glimpse of where God has already come?

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett – dirk@elfinwildchurch.org
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea – jason@elfinwildchurch.org
Director of Worship and Music: Jennifer Harris Clayton – jennifer@elfinwildchurch.org
Organist: Alec Chapman
Office Manager: Cindy Neil – cindy@elfinwildchurch.org
Business Manager/Treasurer: Karen Dorsey – karen@elfinwildchurch.org
John Steinmiller – Sexton
Bob Slahtovsky – Sexton
Bob Kennedy – Financial Secretary – rgkmjk1@verizon.net
Jim Thompson – Parish Visitor
Amanda Gaydos — Web Page and CALL Editor – amandaga@consolidated.net
Parish Associate: The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh – harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com

Officers

Clerk of Session – Mark Riethmuller
President of Trustees – Steve Coco
President of Deacons – Tessa Connelly

MINISTRIES

Elfinwild Home Meals Ministry
Marian Berberich - 412-486-8000

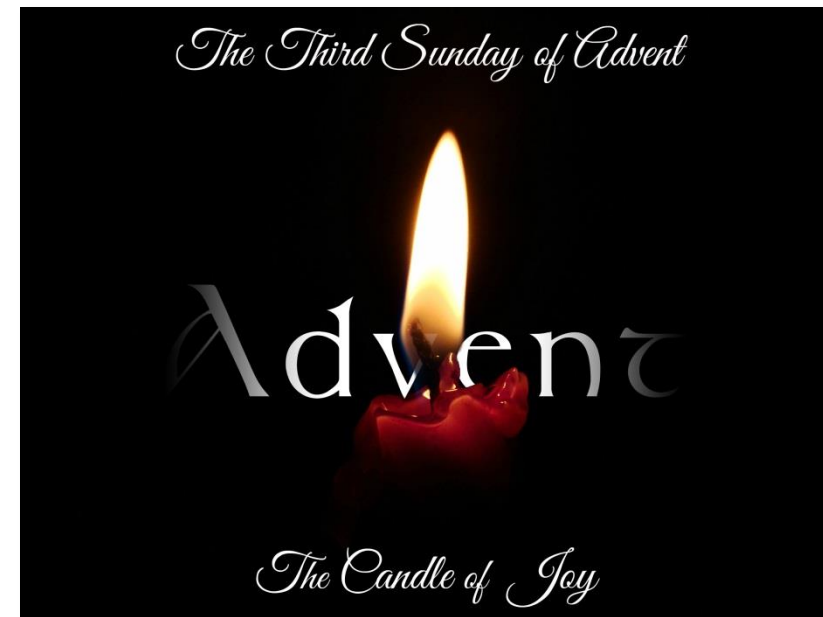
Deacons' Hospitality Contact
Marilyn Colaizzi – 412-487-6071

Elfinwild Church Preschool
Carolyn Hervey, Director
Telephone – 412-486-2322

3200 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116
Telephone 412-486-5400 Fax 412-486-7080
Email: epchurch@elfinwildchurch.org

**Elfinwild Presbyterian Church
Financial Statement
November 30, 2014**

Actual Tithes & Gifts Given		\$575,790
Total Expenses	(Y.T.D.)	\$574,226
Favorable	(Y.T.D.)	\$1,564



**WELCOME TO
ELFINWILD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

*We offer a warm welcome to every worshipper,
and a way to serve for all who are willing.*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
THE LORD'S DAY
December 14, 2014
Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 & 11:10 AM Worship**

*You are invited to use the following Scripture for reflection
as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

**The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

Isaiah 61

PRELUDE *In dulce jubilo* Zephyr Recorder Group
Walter, Gesius and Bach Settings

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH
Please sign the blue Friendship Pad in the pew near the center aisle.

BRINGING THE LIGHT

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF JOY

8:30 – The Connelly Family
11:10 – The Giel and Bovaird Families

UNISON PRAYER

**God of hope, God of peace, God of joy,
You have promised that, in your presence,
We will find unending joy.
Dispel the gloom that threatens to overtake us,
And raise us up as a joyful people,
That our joy will spread the good news of our God who comes near.
God of promise, God of joy, into our darkness come.**

(8:30)

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 14

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

(11:10)

*SONG OF PRAISE

“Glorious Day”

Verse 1

**One day when heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men my example is He
The Word became flesh, and the light shined among us
His glory revealed**

Chorus

**Living He loved me, dying He saved me,
Buried He carried my sins far away;
Rising He justified, freely forever
One day He's coming, O glorious day**

Verse 2

**One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish despised and rejected
Bearing our sins my Redeemer is He
The hand that healed nations
Stretched out on a tree, and took the nails for me
(Chorus)**

Verse 3

**One day the grave could conceal Him no longer
One day the stone rolled away from the door
Then He arose over death He had conquered
Now is ascended my Lord evermore
Death could not hold Him
The grave could not keep Him from rising again**

Chorus

**Living He loved me, dying He saved me,
Buried He carried my sins far away;
Rising He justified, freely forever
One day He's coming, O glorious day**

**One day the trumpet will sound for His coming
One day the skies with His glories will shine
Wonderful day my beloved one bringing
My Savior Jesus is mine (Chorus)**

*John Wilbur Chapman | Mark Hall | Michael Bleecker
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*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

(11:10)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Words of Introduction
Questions to the Parent – Lindsay McKay
Questions to the Congregation
Presentation of Gifts
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Baptism of Isaac James McKay

(11:10)

BAPTISM HYMN No. 498 “Child of Blessings, Child of Promise”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: John the Baptist was sent by God to announce the coming of Jesus on earth. As he proclaimed long ago, we continue to say, “Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight paths for him in your heart.” Let us do so by confessing our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Wondrous God,
we confess that sometimes our doubts and fears
override our hope and peace.
Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love
and fall into sadness and gloom.
Lift up our spirits, Lord,
and restore the joy that comes to us
as a baby in a manger.
By the power of your ever-present Spirit, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and the promise of new life in God through Christ.

**All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve. In Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*RESPONSE OF THANKS No. 23 (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

8:30

“Emmanuel”

Chancel Choir

11:10

“Follow the Light”

Praise Team

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Oh, sing we, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One,
Oh, sing we Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever, Amen.**

ANTHEM

Von Himmel hoch, da komm ich hier
Gumpelzhaimer and Bach Settings

Zephyr

ADVENT READING

based on John 1
Bob Lindeman, Anna Meyer, & Kelly Simile, Readers

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28
(page 935 in the pew Bible)

SERMON

“The True Light”

Dr. Dirk Lesnett

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 40

“Joy to the World”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE