Vienna Presbyterian Church
A Disciple-Making Community

Sermon Series: God's Big Story
Isaiah 40:1-5

December 21, 2008
Prelude                          Terry Sisk, organist

Welcome

Call to Worship                                Patrick Sobolik
Comfort Ye                                  G.F. Handel

Hymn #56                                      THE FIRST NOWELL
The First Nowell                                         THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord.
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, And with His blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)

Scripture
Isaiah 40:1-5

Lighting of the Advent Wreath               Jeff, Lisa, Emily, Matthew and Andrew Fritz

Video

Silent Reflection
Prayer

Minute For Witness                           Maria Abdullah

Please request large-print hymnals from ushers
Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the Sound Technician
Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory
Little Drummer Boy

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Children in Bridges Sunday School are dismissed.

Sermon
Sermon Series: God’s Big Story

Hymn #13
Prepare the Way

Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came In God’s most holy name.

Christ brings God’s rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came In God’s most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior’s rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came In God’s most holy name.

Benediction

Postlude
Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00

Prelude                          Terry Sisk, organist

Welcome

Call to Worship                                Patrick Sobolik
Comfort Ye                                  G.F. Handel

Hymn #56
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Scripture
Isaiah 40:1-5

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
9:30 The Friendship Class
11:00 Steve, Pat, Annika, Elise, Michelle and Valerie Dirkse

Video

Silent Reflection
  Prayer

Anthem                                                                                       Small Ensemble
What Child is This?

Minute For Witness                                Maria Abdullah

Please request large-print hymnals from ushers
Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the Sound Technician

4
Children’s Message

Rita Lockwood

Children are dismissed for Sunday School.

Offertory
Breath of Heaven

Hillary Wolfe, Sarah Verley & Rebecca Verley

Amy Grant

Sermon
Sermon Series: God’s Big Story

Pastor Pete James

Hymn #13
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BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

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Benediction

Postlude

Terry Sisk, organist
**Intercessory Prayers**

**Grieving:** Mary Heppner (mother); the family of Midge Staver

**Hospitalized:** Charlotte Prunty (2); Clint Bennett’s father; Helen Franchois’s mother; Paula Lohrman’s cousin-in-law; Emily Mandell (2)

**Facing Tests or Surgery:** Rae Harpe; Arayanna Darst’s friend Howard; Barbara Denmon’s friend Barbara; Kathryn Gilchrist’s brother; Sarah-Joy Hunter’s father; Emma Lynch’s father

**Homebound:** Cathie Becker

**Ill or Convalescing:** Cecilia Baldwin; Cecily Bornemann; Jerry Brentlinger; Christine Calabrese; Ellie Cammer; Mary Carter; Sam Crawford; Marge Cremer; Sami Engle; Kasen Ertel; Thelma Haslam; Diane Hoag; Dick Hutcherson; Larry Kennedy; Charles Killion; Pat Palmer; Bill Phillips; Jerry Schnell; Eric Stephens; Courtney Sweeten (Alicea’s daughter); Kathy Van Meter; Hilary Viscount; Jane Vitray; June Vogan; Bill Windle

**Family and Friends:** Jeanne Bingham’s aunt; Bob & Joanne Bower’s friend Ralph; Bill Christopher’s brother; Jan Cricie’s stepmother; Beth Crowder’s brother; Arayanna Darst’s friends Joshua (5), Dave, Scott, Shirley, Doug & Margaret Hodge, the Jones family and Cindy’s mom; Bill Downer’s father; Karen Dunlop’s sister; Nancy Ensey’s friend Cyndy; Kathryn Gilchrist’s cousin; Gary Kanady’s son; Linda Kemple’s cousin; May Kepler’s stepmother; Ruth Klug’s mother; Ron Kuykendall’s sister; Beatrix Lafuente’s father; Stella Lansing’s mother; Amy Larsen’s student Santi (8); Kathy Legette’s brother; Lindsey Loving’s uncle; Allen & Suzie Martin’s grandson Wyatt (8) and Suzie’s friend Marcia; Jenn Mattson’s uncle; Vicky McLaine’s cousin-in-law Annie; Paige Meade’s friends Abagale and Michael; Chip Monie’s mother; Kerry Nikolich’s mother; Lois Poland’s mother; Becky Rutkiewicz’s friend Ellie; John & Susan Scott’s daughter; Dineke Shirley’s brother; Mary Ann Singlaub’s mother and stepmother; Dave Smith’s sister; Mary Smith’s friend Elizabeth; JC Stover’s friends Joe & Nancy, Shannon and Bouavanh; Bev Strean’s friends Bonnie and Louise; Tom Sutton’s sister; Dottie Swink’s son John; Joyce Hickson-Szten’s & Emil Szten’s daughter; Leslie Vereide’s stepfather; Pamela Vining’s friends Dianna and Linda; Malinda & Kurt Virkaitis’s friend Mary; Lori Wieneck’s friend John; Kenny Wilkerson’s mother-in-law; Mary Wiskenbaugh’s friend Sherry

**Other:** Andrea & Jeremy Ables; Greta Anderson; Kristin Brown; Greg Coats; David Li; Bev Strean’s goddaughter and Bev’s friend Judy; Leslie Vereide’s mother

**A note of thanks from Shirley Worth:** “I am so grateful for so many dear friends who came to honor and celebrate Ralph’s life at his memorial service. He would have enjoyed the humor and laughter with all of you, and would probably have been embarrassed by what he would have considered undeserved accolades.”


**Non-Military, also “In Harm’s Way”:** Mark Bochetti

**Need Prayer for Yourself or Someone You Love?**

USE the cards in the Friendship Pad in your pew, or at the rear of the church, and place them in the collection plate or the wooden box in the lobby/narthex; or

CALL the church office at 703.938.9050, ext. 301; or

SEND an email to david.jordan-haas@viennapres.org or enter a prayer request via the website at www.viennapres.org (homepage “Prayer Requests.”)

Please make sure that you have permission before submitting a prayer request on behalf of someone else. Confidentiality requests are strictly honored.

If requested for the weekly bulletin, prayer notices will be made for two weeks but can certainly be extended upon request.
Make Plans Now

Glorious Sounds of Christmas Concert
TODAY at 4 & 7 pm

Our choirs, orchestra, brass and strings—over 165 musicians in all—will present a delightful traditional Christmas program, including an opportunity for you and your guests to sing well-loved Christmas Carols. Escape the hustle and bustle of the Christmas rush and come see why overwhelming demand last year has required that we present two performances this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbors to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, Dec 24

4 & 5:15 pm
Live Nativity for families with young children
Childcare through age 3

7 pm
Candlelight Service with Sanctuary Choir
Childcare through age 6

8:45 pm
Candlelight Service with Sanctuary Choir
No childcare available

10:30 pm
Candlelight Communion Service with Youth Choir
No childcare available
The VPC Web Team
is pleased to introduce our brand new website!

www.viennapres.org

We hope you will visit the website often to learn more about VPC as a disciple-making church, as well as to find opportunities for you and your loved ones to take the next steps in your spiritual journeys. We also invite your prayers that God will use this communication tool to draw others to our community.

Take a look…Enjoy!
Welcome Gifts for Visitors and Guests:
VPC cordially welcomes our visitors and guests.
We are delighted you are here! Please stop by the
Welcome Table in the narthex for a special gift.
We hope you visit with us again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Congregational Meeting on December 28, directly
following the 11 am service. The purpose for this
meeting is to vote on extending for one month, the
current office of all Boards.

SWATT (55+) Trip to Toby’s Dinner Theater:
Join us Jan. 21 for a VPC bus trip to Columbia, MD.
We will enjoy a buffet lunch and hilarious afternoon
at “Midlife Crisis.” Paid reservations ($40 check
made to VPC) required by Dec. 21. Al Grouge,
703.620.9360 or bonnienal@aol.com.

Save the dates: The next New Member Seminar will
be in three parts: Saturday, Jan 31 (8:30 am–1:30 pm)
and Sundays, Feb 1 (10:45 am–noon) and Feb 8
(11 am–noon). Stay tuned for more details. Call
Linda Kemple in the church office (703.938.9050)
with questions or to register.

Your Prayerful Response to God’s Plan for VPC is Important!

Thanks to all who have submitted their estimate-of-giving pledge cards toward the 2009 Ministry and Missions budget. If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully fill out a Pledge Card and turn it in. We need everyone’s commitment to help God’s plan for VPC’s Ministry and Missions to move forward. Our planning process depends on how God is moving in the giving of the congregation, so we need to hear from you.

The other prayerful response opportunity is year-end 2008 giving. December has historically been a big giving month at VPC and this year we have the big number of $837,000 needed to make budget. If you have not fulfilled your church giving for this year and plan to do so, please do not wait. God is moving in the life of VPC. It takes the stewardship of your God-given time, talents and financial resources to keep vibrant the Disciple-making Outreach, Worship, Education, Fellowship, Care, and Missions activities of the church.

We have worked for three years to make “Giving Generously” a more spiritual exercise of personal prayer, discernment, communication and congregational response.

Any giving questions, contact Rob McLallen, ext 119.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008 Budgeted Tithes &amp; Offerings</th>
<th>Received Through November</th>
<th>Needed to Make Budget</th>
<th>Month to Date Giving</th>
<th>Remaining to Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3,560,700</td>
<td>$2,723,214</td>
<td>$837,486</td>
<td>$194,394</td>
<td>$643,092</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save The Date: Centerpoint is planning a 2-week trip to the Holy Land in late Oct/Nov 2009. Watch for more info.

Administrative Assistant Position Available in VPC Weekday Preschool: The position is 6-9 hours weekly between the hours of 9 am and Noon, and requires experience with Excel and Word. Please call Bonnie Downs, 703.255.1419 for more information.

"Live Faithfully" Stories: Do you know the stories behind some of the memorials around VPC? Do you have, or have you had, a spiritual mentor who was part of VPC? We will be compiling this type of testimony and invite you to join us. Submit stories to Linda Kemple at linda.kemple@viennapres.org. Please, no VPC parking in the Spokes east side lot. We need to respect their limited employee and customer parking spaces. Thank you!

HIGHPOINT (Children’s Ministries)

We're looking for a twice-a-month lead teacher for our 11 am Kindergarten class after Christmas. If you enjoy working with small groups of children in a lively atmosphere please contact clare.maynard@viennapres.org.

Children's and Music Ministries have volunteer positions available! We need an accompanist for Psalm Psingers (grades 2-3). We meet Sunday evenings, 5-6 pm, during the school year (on non-FCPS holiday weekends). Not able to make a long-term commitment? We could use your musical talent to provide back-up if the regular director/accompanist is unable to come. Please contact lance.vining@viennapres.org for more information.

What is the Christmas Joy Offering? A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering if one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the PC(USA) denomination to provide direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. Please use the Christmas Joy Offering envelope or designate on your check Christmas Joy Offering.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

New Women's Bible Study starting on Tuesday nights in January! Interested in an in-depth Bible study? Come explore the Old Testament Tabernacle and see how it relates to our walk with God today. We will work through Bible teacher Beth Moore's interactive video study: A Woman's Heart; God's Dwelling Place. Meeting time: 7:30 - 9:15 pm. [January 13 -May 19.] Books are on sale in the bookstore. Contact LeslieVereide@msn.com if interested so we can know how many workbooks to order.

Sacraments Classes for 3rd and 4th graders begin February 1st. Please see the church website for more details and to download a registration form. Your child can also pick up a form in their classroom in January. Contact clare.maynard@viennapres.org with questions.

Be sure to stop by Grapevine Books for special gifts for those on your list. Open 9-12:30 today and special hours tonight from 5-8:30 pm.
Announcements

All Adult Sunday School classes are invited today to the Beyond Basics, 9:30 am Sunday School class, in Room 202/203 for our annual sing-a-long. We have live music provided by Christine McCauley at the piano, Jon (Guitar) and Amy (flute) Lochhaas, Julia Billington (base) and Alexandria MacCracken (violin). And, of course, our voices will provide a joyful noise. Please come and join us!

Young Adults Bible study will resume Jan 7, 2009. Questions? Contact kelly.gould@viennapres.org.

The UNDERGROUND (Student Ministries)

Last Sunday School of 2008 is today at 9:30. Come join us for breakfast and a great time!

MS and HS Youth Group are on break until 2009. Enjoy the holiday!

Confirmation Class registration will soon begin for all high school students who wish to participate in this year’s Confirmation Class. There will be a mandatory parent and student interest meeting on Sunday, Jan 11, 2009 at 12:30 pm in the Underground. Questions? Contact Barry Hill barry.hill@viennapres.org


CARE AND SUPPORT

A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend: Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister may be able to offer the support he or she needs. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation trained to provide emotional and spiritual care to people who are hurting. It’s confidential, free and very helpful.

Christian Cancer Companions was formed a few years ago by members of VPC who are all cancer survivors and felt called to outreach to individuals newly diagnosed with cancer. If you know of others who would benefit from this support, feel free to invite them. Questions? Rita Lockwood, 703.573.6168 or luckylister3@cox.net.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The annual Committee for Helping Others (CHO) food drive will be held through Dec 31. Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the box across the hall from the office on the second floor. We are partnering with the Northeast Vienna Citizen's Association to supply food, thru CHO, to local families in need during the holidays.

Christmas Cards for the Troops: Do you have an extra Christmas card or two? Please feel free to drop a card (no envelopes necessary) in the S.O.S. box in the narthex either today. They will be mailed to troops deployed overseas. Sponsored by Operation S.O.S. (Support our Servicemen/women) ministry.

More service opportunities listed at www.viennapres.org/connections.
### Room Assignments 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room #</th>
<th>Age/Grade – 9:30</th>
<th>Age/Grade – 11:00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>Younger 3's</td>
<td>3's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3 on/before 12/31/08)</td>
<td>(3 on/before 9/30/08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Older 3's</td>
<td>3's</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3 on/before 9/30/08)</td>
<td>(3 on/before 9/30/08)</td>
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<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>4's/Pre-K</td>
<td>4's/PreK: cherub choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4 on/before 9/30/08)</td>
<td>(4 on/before 9/30/08)</td>
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<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>313</td>
<td>1st Grade</td>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd Grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>317</td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
<td>3rd &amp; 4th Grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>321</td>
<td>4th Grade</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>322-323</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grade Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>308-309</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grade Boys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>Bridges (4's – 1st Grade)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>Gateways (2nd – 4th grade)</td>
<td>Gateways (2nd – 4th grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>311</td>
<td>Friendship Club</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Adult Education Classes:**

**Beyond Basics:** Everyone is invited to come and hear Jon Lochhaas present a series of lessons on William Wilberforce's book, *Real Christianity*. Room 203/204. Coordinator: Kate Lund

**Friendship Class:** For developmentally-challenged adults. Room 108C. Teachers: Emmy Parker & Beth Gourley

**Lightseekers East:** An in-depth discussion of this morning’s scripture text. Attendance at 8 am service not required. Room 211

**Lightseekers West:** An in-depth discussion of this morning’s scripture text. Attendance at 8 am service not required. Parlor. Coordinator: Leslie Vereide

**Searchers in the Word:** An in-depth study of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, a message for our cynical times, with the Bible as the main text, plus written and audio commentaries. Room 312. Coordinator: Marion Billington

**Partners With Christ:** We are studying "The Father of Israel: Trusting God's Promises." Newcomers always welcome. Study guides available at Grapevine Books. Room 205. Contact: Martha Strauss, 703.319.7050

**11:00 am**

**Berean:** 9/14/08– 8/23/09 “Through the Bible in 48 Sessions.” Class sessions begin with a 30 minute video lecture and are followed by discussion. Drop-ins are welcome! Room 203/204. Coordinators: Esther and Duane Harder

**Apprentices:** Each Sunday during Advent, class discussion and reflection will center around music and scripture text from a portion of Handel's “Messiah”. Drop-ins are welcome. Room 205. Coordinator: Connie Edens

**ESOL Bible Study (English for Speakers of Other Languages).** For intermediate and advanced adult students from every country. Room 317. Coordinators: Shun and Doris Ling

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**Vienna Presbyterian Church**

124 Park Street NE, Vienna, VA 22180

703.938.9050; Pastor on call: 703.568.0000

**Pastors**  
Peter James  
Glenda Simpkins Hoffman  
David Jordan-Haas  

**Teaching Pastor**  
E. Stanley Ott

**Parish Associate Pastor**  
Chris Hammond

**Music Director**  
L. Thomas Vining

**Associate Music Director**  
J. Kerry Wilkerson

**Organist**  
Terry Sisk

**Children’s Ministries Director**  
Clare Maynard

**Asst. Children’s Ministries Director**  
Daryl Wright

**Student Ministries Director**  
Barry Hill

**High School Director**  
Elizabeth Foskey

**Middle School Director**  
Kim Snyder

**College Ministries Director**  
Kayla Gray

**Young Adult Ministries Coordinator**  
Kelly Gould

**Preschool Director**  
Bonnie Downs

**Evangelism Director**  
Phil Kratovil

**Missions Director**  
Sheila Breuer

**Connections Coordinator**  
Barb Jones

**Interim Director of Finance**  
Rob McLallen

**Executive Director**  
Dick Eagan

**Office hours**  
Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–5:30 pm

**Website**  
[www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org)

(To register, use username: faithful; password: christian)

**Newsletter**  
newsletter@viennapres.org

**Worship Bulletin**  
bulletin@viennapres.org

Sermons are available anytime at [www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org) under worship

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**VPC Core Beliefs**

*As a disciple-making community, we believe...*

Jesus is Lord  
Scripture is our authority  
Everyone is called to discipleship

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**VPC Mission**

*As a disciple-making community, we will...*

Call people to faith  
Equip people for discipleship  
Send people to love and serve

---

Give Generously

...both individually and in community