

Advent 2016

# Ecclesia

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND GOD'S WORK AT KENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH




## Advent Sermon Series

### Expecting Christ in Numbers

**Advent is a special season of the year** as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. The birth of Christ marks the time of year when God's great saving purpose reaches a decisive climax. The coming of Christ brings hope, love, joy, and peace to the world. We mark these realities with the lighting of the Advent wreath leading up to Christmas Eve when we light the Christ candle. This evening service of communion and candlelight is one of our most special times. This year, we will gather all together for a single service on Christmas Sunday morning to worship and bear witness that Jesus Christ, the Savior of all who believe, has come!

On Sunday mornings during Advent, we will discover the life of Christ prefigured for us in the book of Numbers. Jesus taught His disciples that the Scriptures find ultimate fulfillment in Him (Luke 24:25-27). He is their Author and central Subject. The book of Numbers reveals the hope, love, joy, and peace that we find in Christ. We will find hope, as our Savior's birth is heralded in the wilderness by John the Baptist, who was a Nazirite from birth. We will discover love, as Jesus is faithful in wilderness temptations on our behalf. We will know joy, as Jesus is lifted up on the cross 'for the joy set before Him,' just as the bronze serpent was lifted up in the wilderness. We receive good news of peace when the star rising in the east, which was prophesied by Balaam, actually appears over Bethlehem. I warmly invite you and your family to share this Advent season together with us at Kenwood.



In January, we will turn our attention to a series on biblical leadership in the church. The Christian vision of leadership stands in stark contrast to many of the cultural or corporate paradigms around us. Biblical leaders are recognized not by their status, gifts, or influence, but by the godliness of their character. "For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Sam 16:7). Biblical leaders are called to exercise shared leadership as a group, with humility and dedicated service. In the New Testament, we see this most often as a consecrated group of elders. Elders are appointed in every church throughout Paul's missionary journeys (Acts 14:23). Near the end of his ministry, Paul instructs Titus to appoint godly elders to lead the church (Tit 1:5-9). Elders are to be people who know the Word of God, pay close attention to their own lives, and "care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). We will seek to understand and apply this series to our life together at Kenwood. May the Lord continue to fill us with wisdom and discernment. May He raise up additional godly leaders among us. May we continue to flourish in faith and follow Him wholeheartedly in the upcoming New Year. 

#### Numbers 24:17

*"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."*

## You're Invited

**November 27 - December 18**

Advent Sermon Series: Expecting Christ in Numbers

**December 3** Homebuilders' Christmas Party  
Noon  
Current and former members of the Homebuilders' class gather at deSha's in Harper's Point for fellowship, Christmas carols, and entertainment to kick off the Christmas season.

**December 9-11** "Bells of Christmas" Choral Program



Invite someone new to experience the wonder of the season. Tickets are \$10 and are available online, in the church office during the week, and on Sunday morning in the Narthex and Multi-Purpose Rm.

**December 16** "A Night in Bethlehem" for Children and Families  
Experience the Christmas story together. Enjoy Christmas cookies and hot cocoa. Hear the beautiful story of our Savior's birth in Bethlehem and experience the joy of the season together!

**December 24** Christmas Eve Services  
5:00 and 7:00 pm  
Worship with us at a Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service. This Christmas Eve tradition includes worship music, traditional Christmas carols and scripture readings in the many languages represented by our congregation. Child care is available through age 4.

**December 25** Christmas Morning Worship  
10:00 am  
Gather together as a church family for one worship service. There will be no Sunday School classes or child care.

**December 29** Student Ministries Festival of Lights

**January 1** New Year's Day Worship  
9:30 and 11:00 am

**January 1-29** "Biblical Leadership"  
January Sermon Series Begins

**January 11** Wednesday Night Dinner and Classes Resume

**January 19** Women's Bible Study Resumes

New Pastor to Children and Families

## Welcome Sara O'Connor



My family and I are very excited to be a part of the congregation at Kenwood! We have enjoyed getting to meet many of you and are looking forward to continuing to get to know you as we serve God together.

Kenwood has so many strengths as a church and gifts from God. We can't wait to see how God will continue to bless and work through Kenwood and your love for Him. It is my prayer that children and families would experience and know the love of God through His Word and His church. Thank you for the privilege of serving with you.

The O'Connor Family,  
Sara, Paul, Luke, Anna and Charlie

**January Sermon Series**  
**January 1-29, 2017**

## Biblical Leadership

**Acts 20:28**

*"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."*

