

Ash Avenue Baptist Dispatch

ISSUE # 162

DECEMBER 2011

From Eure Pastor's Desk

by John D. Eure

Purple has been a color often associated with royalty. Since Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords it is quite fitting that purple is used as a symbol of His sovereign reign of the universe. During the seasons of Advent and Lent (7 weeks before Easter), many congregations will trim their rooms of worship with paraments and banners of purple.

However, this violet tone symbolizes not only the majesty of our Savior, but reminds us of His suffering on our behalf, also. If Christians are to celebrate His birth with integrity, it must be attached to the story of His suffering, death, and resurrection, too.

Mark 15:17f and **John 19:2f** both record that as the Roman soldiers beat, flogged, and mocked Jesus, they placed a purple robe around Him... along with a crown of thorns. Now I

realize this account of Jesus' life can burst our sweet thoughts of the serenity of shepherds, angels, and a tiny baby lying in a manger. The story may not conjure up our dreams of *peace on earth*. Yet, it was for this reason He came- death & resurrection... His sacrifice for our salvation.

Purple is a rich beautiful color. It is certainly fitting for the King, both in His highness and in His humility.

But what about you and me? What colors should we wear for Christmas? For all who faithfully follow Jesus, perhaps we should wear purple, figuratively speaking.

In Christ, people no longer have to live in a broken relationship with God. Through Him, the connection is restored between God and humans. This restoration brings the promise of kinship and inheritance. In other words, Jesus paid the price

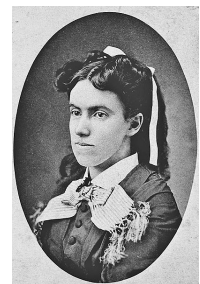
for all to become part of the eternal family of God. You might even say we're royal!

While we should celebrate the joy that comes from the identity of belonging to God, we're to wear purple in another spiritual sense.... suffering. This isn't exactly the Christmas gift most hope for, is it? However, when we proclaim and live in the hope of Christ, we will face resistance from others (John 15:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:12f). But when we do, we experience joy in being identified with Him!

As we dress ourselves in spiritual purple, let's rejoice that we have become a part of the royal family of God. And as we live in praise of Him, let's remember that our purple status includes faithfully placing ourselves before Him... our lives lived for Him. This is our gift to Jesus. Wrap yourself in purple!

Charlotte "Lottie" Moon was born in Albemarle County, Virginia December 12, 1840 into an affluent family of culture and means. Her parents were staunch Baptists but Lottie was indifferent to her Christian upbringing until she experienced a spiritual awakening at the age of 18, following a series of revival meetings. She began her life of ministering to the poor in Bartow County, Georgia but soon followed her younger sister to North China to work as a missionary. During her early days in China she came to realize, the more she shed her westernized trappings and identified with the Chinese people, the more their curiosity about her turned into genuine interest in the Gospel. She encouraged Southern Baptist women to organize mission societies to help support missionary candidates and in 1887 she proposed that the week before Christmas each year be established as a time of giving to foreign missions. Throughout her missionary career Lottie faced plague, famine, revolution, and war. Famine and disease took their toll, as well. When she returned to China from a furlough back home she was deeply struck by the suffering of the people who were literally starving to death all around her. She pleaded to the Southern Baptist Mission Board for more money and resources but the Board was unable to send anything. Unknown to her fellow missionaries, Lottie shared her personal finances and food with anyone in need, severely affecting her own health. In 1912 she weighed just 50 pounds. Alarmed, her fellow missionaries arranged for her to be sent back home. However, she died en route, at the age of 72, on December 24, 1912. Her legacy endures today. Since 1888, the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Missions has raised more than \$1.5 billion for missions.

Week of Prayer: December 4-11, 2011. Our goal: \$2,000.00.



One of the exciting new ministries



December

- 12/4 Randy Guill
Jerry Crenshaw
Randy Hupp
Jason Snead
- 12/11 Dennis Stewart
Jimmy Allen
Tom Hahn
Daniel Ivey
- 12/18 Don Williams
Victor Crump
Dickie Fallen
Don Gainey
- 12/25 Ricky Brogden
Jim Chandler
Fred Flinn
Mike Harris



AABC Offering Report as of 11/28/11

**Budget offering received...
\$ 166,281.87**

**Budget offering needed...
\$ 188,772.00**

**Offering deficit:
(22,490.13)**



• **During SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The December Nursery Coordinator:
Joy Eure

• **During WORSHIP**

The December Nursery Coordinator:
Cynthia Camp

Volunteer Assistants:

- December 4th– Peggy Vassar
- December 11th– Sharon Brogden
- December 18th– Ella Evans & Alex Powell
- December 25th– Ed Cliborne

• **December Children's Church Leader:**
Joyce Guill

**** Please note:**

Children's Church will be held on just the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month.



4:30 pm
Saturday December 24th

On Sunday, December 18th we will deliver gift bags to our homebound members, as well as entertain them with Christmas carols. If you would like to participate please see the Pastor for more information.



First Day of Winter, December 22, 2011

The ladies of the WMCU will have a joint Christmas celebration. Please watch bulletin for more information



The Worship Choir of Ash Avenue Baptist Church will present "Mary Did You Know" on Sunday, December 11th. You're invited to join us in our sanctuary at 6:30 for the Cantata. A Christmas Social follows in our Fellowship Hall



**Friday December 16th
6:30pm
Jeanne Taylor Sunday
School Class
Christmas Party**



Friday, December 23rd:
Office Closed

Monday, December 26th:
Office Closed

Friday, December 30th:
Office Closes at Noon

Monday, January 2nd:
Office Closed

May you each find *peace within* during this most wonderful season of the year!



Properties Contacts for December
Don Gainey & Calvin Owen

Deacons of the Month for December
Bill Haley & John Lewandowski

December van contact
Debra Cage.



**Check out our
website:
www.aabc900.org**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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