



# The Christmas Newsletter

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*Happy holidays from Dr. Doris Spooner Hall to administration, faculty, friends from all over the world, staff, students, and other colleagues*

Christmas is a sacred festival of the Christians. It is celebrated with great enthusiasm and gaiety all over the world. It is observed on 25th December to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is largely characterized by exchanging gifts within families and by gifts brought by Santa Claus or other mythical figures.

Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Christians. The exact date of the birth of Christ was unanimously fixed some two centuries after his death, as the Catholic Church began to establish its tradition. Now Christmas is celebrated on 25th December in Catholic, Protestant and most orthodox churches.

Christmas, the period of celebration varies in different countries. In the United Kingdom, the Christmas season traditionally runs for twelve days following the Christmas Day. These twelve days of Christmas are a period of feasting and merrymaking which ends on Twelfth Night the feast of the Epiphany. Christmas period has grown much longer in some countries including the United States. It begins many weeks before. During Christmas people enjoy shopping and meet one another. The celebration continues up to New Year's Day.

The numerous customs related to Christmas vary from country to country. Most of the familiar traditional practices and symbols of Christmas, such as the Christmas tree, the Christmas ornaments, and other decoration has become a tradition among many for years.

The Christmas tree is believed to have first been used in Germany. Gift giving is a near-universal part of Christmas celebrations. The concept of a mythical figure that brings gifts to children derives from Saint Nicholas, a good-hearted bishop of Asia Minor.

Besides this, in the UK and many Western African countries, 'Father Christmas' is more common. In Anglo-American tradition, he is believed to arrive on Christmas Eve.

In many countries, offices, schools and social communities organize Christmas parties and dances during the several weeks before Christmas Day. Christmas pageants, which include the retelling of the story of the birth of Christ, are common in Latin America.

People sing Carols and visit neighbourhood homes and exchange gifts. Traditional feasting with special meals has always been a part of the Christmas traditions. We must pray that everyone enjoys Christmas!

## Dr. Doris Hall Performs with the Valley Conservatory Orchestra



Valley Conservatory Lyceum Series  
PRESENTS

# MESSIAH

Sunday, December 16, 2012 • 4 PM  
*First Christian Church*  
3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802

COMBINED CHOIRS

- Oakwood University Church
- New Market United Methodist Church
- Our Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church
- Grace Presbyterian Church in Madison
- First Christian Church

Suzanne Galer Wert, Soprano  
Marilyn Mims, Mezzo-Soprano  
Shane Kennedy, Tenor  
Jeremy Howe, Bass

Dr. Eurydice Osterman, Chorus Master  
Valley Conservatory Chamber Orchestra  
Dr. Beatrice Renee Collins-Williams, Music Director/Conductor

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Dr. Doris Spooner Hall performs with Valley Conservatory Symphony Orchestra as Principal Flutist at First Christian Church on Whitesburg Dr. in Huntsville, Alabama – Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Handel's Messiah was performed at First Christian Church located on 3209 Whitesburg Dr in Huntsville, Alabama on Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m. The performance is part of Valley Conservatory's Lyceum Series and is free and open to the public. Soprano Suzanne Galer Wert, mezzo-soprano Marilyn Mims, tenor Shane Kennedy and bass-baritone Jeremy Howe will join the combined choirs of Oakwood University Church, Our Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church, Grace Presbyterian Church in Madison, New Market United Methodist Church and First Christian Church, Dr. Eurydice Osterman Chorus Master and the Valley Conservatory Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Beatrice Renee Collins-Williams.

Dr. Doris Spooner Hall performed as Principal Flute in the orchestra which consisted of members from the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Huntsville, Teachers, Faculty, and String Students from Oakwood College, Huntsville Youth Symphony, and former members of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. It was a tremendous attendance by the community and churches, including university families. The music consisted of all literature from the Handel's "Messiah." It was a great performance and loved by all in attendance.



*Dr. Doris Spooner Hall Performs at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Huntsville, AL*



*Good Shepherd Catholic Church – Huntsville, Alabama  
Dr. Doris Hall performed “A Christmas Cantata” during the  
Christmas Holidays at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in  
Huntsville, Alabama for the Christmas Program and Church  
Services every Sunday mornings.  
She also performs as a Flute Soloist*



Dr. Hall performed at Saint Paul’s Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana performing a Flute Recital of Bach, Handel, and Christmas Carols to the public and church members. A reception was given, and all were invited to attend. This is the home church where Dr. Hall performed as the church pianist and organist for 13 years, taught private students piano, and was over the church choir.

Her former student Irice Rodney is the pianist for the church, and has been for the last 20 years. It is always great to perform for your home town church. Christmas was even more Merrily!!

