



**December 1, 2013**  
**The First Sunday of Advent – HOPE**

**Welcome and Announcements** Chad Seay

**Invocation/Prayer of Confession** Buck Wicker

**Advent Reading and Prayer** Gibson Family

**Congregational Singing** Harvest Praise Team

*O Come All Ye Faithful/Sing to the King  
By Faith*

**New City Catechism – Question 48** Alex Crain

<http://www.newcitycatechism.com/home.php>

**Q - What is the church?**

A - God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

S - II Thessalonians 2:13

**Pastoral/Offertory Prayer** Joel Bradberry

**Offertory/Congregational Singing** Harvest Praise Team

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**Message** Joel Bradberry

**Closing Song** Harvest Praise Team  
*Doxology*

**Benediction** Alex Crain  
Colossians 3:15

Pastor Joel is preaching through Genesis. Members are encouraged to read ahead in Genesis and pray that God's word would be faithfully preached and accurately received all to the glory of God.

HCF will welcome a summer intern this year to minister to our college students and young adults, as well as to work closely with our pastors in a mentoring relationship. Our perspective intern, who is a first year seminary student at SEBTS, will need a place to stay while serving at HCF. If you possibly could provide a place for him to live for about 10 weeks this summer please call Pastor Joel to get more details. This is a tentative time period based on SEBTS academic calendar, actual dates are subject to change. Earliest start date May 19, 2014 and latest departure date is August 13, 2014. The intern will be away from HCF attending a required SBCV event July 21-25, 2014.

**Men's Bible Study** - Men's 24/27 Bible Study meets on Friday mornings at 6:00am at the HCF Office (Seay Realty).

There will be an elder (Buck Wicker) available in the front office at the conclusion of worship to pray with you or attempt to answer any questions you have about HCF or the Christian faith.



### The Legend of the Candy Cane

It is widely believed that the candy, which earlier was straight as a stick, was given its distinctive J-shape by a German choirmaster. It is said that during service one evening, the children were being very loud and noisy, creating quite a ruckus and not paying any attention to the choirmaster. To keep them quiet and still for the nativity ceremony, he gave them a long, white, sugar candy stick. Since giving chocolates and candies at church was considered sacrilegious, he bent these sticks at one end to make them look like a shepherd's cane and thus, attached a religious significance to them. In Christianity, Jesus is regarded as the Good Shepherd and so, the staff is considered to be a sacred symbol. The Staff also represents the shepherds who came to visit the infant Jesus.

The candy cane became popular when, in 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant in Wooster, Ohio, who liked candy canes a lot, decided to string them on his Christmas tree as decorations. The idea soon caught up and became quite a fashion in no time. By 1900, candy canes, which were earlier only white, came in red stripes, and with peppermint and cinnamon flavoring.

Traditionally, the only symbolism that was associated with the candy was that of the shepherd's staff. But now, there is a modern allegorical interpretation of the candy cane. It is said that since the candy cane, when inverted, becomes J-shaped, it is a direct representation of Jesus Christ. The white color of the candy denotes the purity of Christ while the stripes represent His sacrifice and the whipping he received at the hands of the Romans, the color red symbolizing his blood. It is believed that even the peppermint flavor of the candy is so because it is similar to hyssop which, according to the Old Testament, symbolizes purification and sacrifice.

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**Worshiping at Cold Harbor Elementary School  
6740 Cold Harbor Road  
Mechanicsville, Virginia**

**Theology @ 9  
Worship Service - 10:15 A.M.**

*"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."*

II Thessalonians 2:13