

Our Christmas traditions have many origins

By DEBORAH TEMPLETON
Holiday customs and traditions, like art, music and literature, are important expressions of a nation's culture. In the United States, these are carried on as part of a yearly ritual, the Christmas tree, religious observances, the exchanging of gifts, the family gatherings.

Each part of the festival tradition represents the practicing of a tradition.

But what is the meaning behind these diverse ways of celebrating?

Most of the Christmas folk customs come to this country from England, Holland and Germany.

Colonists from these countries emphasized eating, drinking and general merry-making during the Christmas season, which began well in advance of Dec. 25 and extended to well beyond the New Year.

The Yule log custom was brought from England, along with mince pies and plum pudding for the Christmas dinner. England also is responsible for

the wassail custom. The term originally meant "warm ale" and later embraced a wide variety of special Christmas beverages that became part of the good cheer syndrome.

CAROLING was a folk practice that became popular in the colonies. Religious and folk songs emphasized mirth, good fellowship and the happy quality of Christmas, and carolers' visits were met by the custom of decorating houses with holly, ivy and mistletoe.

The Dutch colonists brought to New Amsterdam (New York) a number of Christmas customs which were incorporated later into the American celebration. Chief among these was the visit of St. Nicholas, who was popular with Catholics and Protestants alike in Holland.

Both the Dutch and the Germans stressed the importance of including children in celebrations stressing the idea of gift-giving, which is now a major portion of Christmas.

The Germans who settled in Penn-

sylvania brought the Christmas tree with them. This custom began its popularity in the United States in the middle of the 19th century. The importance of having a decorated tree spread from Philadelphia to Richmond to Cleveland and on across the land.

THE BELLEFS, symbols and customs described entered this country between 1620 and 1800. Each section of the country developed a Christmas celebration which mirrored its local culture, national background and national surroundings.

The book "Brother Jonathon," published in 1842, contains this passage: "Tomorrow will be Christmas, jolly, rosy Christmas, the Saturnalia of children. Ah, how the little rogues long for the advent of this day, for with it comes their generous friend, Santa Claus, with his sleigh."

Here appear several themes—Santa Claus, his sleigh, the untold treasure—all of which have become central to the contemporary American Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

EMERSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
429 Linden, Troy (The Sun Church)
Sunday, Dec. 24
no morning service
CHRISTMAS EVE
5:30 PM Family Worship
Sunday, Dec. 31
no service

HOLY CROSS
Greek Orthodox Church
Farm Hills
25225 Middlebelt Rd.
Sunday, Dec. 24
7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
Traditional Christmas Carols
Second Annual Family Christmas Party

NATIVITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
21220 W. 14 Mile Rd. Bldg.
Sunday, Dec. 24 - no 8 AM service
Christmas Eve
5 PM Family Catechist & Epiphany
11 PM Nativity Service
Sunday, Dec. 31 - no 8 AM service
New Year's Eve
7:30 PM Festival Epiphany

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
26275 Northwestern Hwy.
near Lathrop
Sunday, Dec. 24
Rev. Paul Young, Jr.
Pastor
Morning Worship
Sunday School
CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Service 7:00 PM
Reception for friends and members

FIRST APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
26325 Holstead Road
Farmington Hills
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Sunday 11 A.M. & 7 P.M.
Christmas Day
11 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.
Tuesday and Wednesday
7:30 P.M.
Guest Speaker
David Tarnowski
ALL ARE WELCOME!

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED METHODIST
(on the Village Green)
7:30 PM
Family Candlelight Service
11:00 PM
Traditional Candlelight Service
Special Music
Brass Ensemble
Senior Minister
Frank B. Cowick
Associate Minister
J. Chester Stubbs

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
L.L.A.
30330 Ten Mile Farm Rd.
SUNDAY, DEC. 24
Sunday School For Adults 9:45 AM
Folk Worship 11:00 AM
Candlelight Service 5:00 PM
Christmas Day Worship 11:00 AM
Pastor Jeff Henry 476-3355

ASCENSION OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
16935 W. 14 Mile, Bldg.
Sunday, Dec. 24
Family Learning Hour 9 AM
Morning Worship 10:15 AM
Christmas Eve
Choral Vespers 7 PM
Choral Communion Service
11 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
Christmas Males 10:15 AM
Sunday, Dec. 31
Family Learning Hour 9:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:15 AM
New Year's Eve
Holy Communion 7 PM

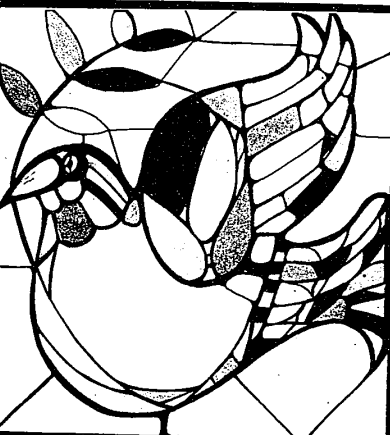
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Episcopal
Carnell Rd. at Southfield
(between 8 & 9 Mile Rd.)
550-4418
Christmas Eve 7:00 PM
Holy Communion
11:00 PM Holy Communion
Christmas Day 10:00 AM
Holy Communion
1928 Prayer Book Services Only

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29887 W. Eleven Mile Road Farmington Hills
476-8860

Christmas Eve Service
6 PM for Families with younger children
8 PM Traditional Candlelighting and Carol Singing

Nursery Provided

Dr. Wm. D. Mercer, Senior Minister
Rev. Wm. E. Frayer, Associate
Rev. Al Campbell, Director of Youth
Mr. Melvin Rookus, Director of Music



WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA
Six Mile and Farmington Roads 422-1150

Celebrate Christmas with Us

Christmas Sunday - December 24
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. "God's Signpost: The Star"
Dr. Bartlett L. Hess

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5:30 and 7:30 p.m. "The Surprises of Christmas"
Dr. Bartlett L. Hess

5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Pre-service concert
Onita Sanders - professional harpist and vocalist

Sunday - December 31
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. "New Life for the New Year"
Dr. Bartlett L. Hess

New Year's Eve Dinner and Program
6:15 p.m. Punch bowl and dinner (by reservation only)
8:15 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION around the tables
Meditation: "He Touches Me" - Rev. L. Edward Davis
9:30 p.m. Film: "He Leadeth Me" - Life story of Ken Medema
11:00 p.m. Watchnight Service
Message: "Move On" - Dr. Bartlett L. Hess
Join us for part or all of the New Year's Eve program
(Nursery provided at all services except New Year's Eve)

9:30 a.m. Services and 5:30 Christmas Eve Service
broadcast over WMUZ-FM 103.5

Celebrate Christmas at Covenant

Sunday, Dec. 24

9:45 AM Church School - Classes for all ages
including 12 adult classes

11:00 AM Worship Dr. William F. Keucher
Jesus Came Serving

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM Family Candlelight Service with
Special emphasis on children

Sunday, Dec. 31

9:45 Church School

11:00 AM Morning Worship

NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00 PM Communion Service

COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH

5800 W. Maple Rd., Bloomfield, Mich.
1/2 Mile W. of Orchard Lake Rd.

Service Schedule for Sunday, December 24:

11:15 a.m. One-morning service only

Holy Communion

5:00 p.m. Family Carol Service

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

F. Morgan Roberts preaching
Chancel Choir and instruments

(Child care available for all services)

Price of Peace Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
12 Mile & Farmington Roads
Sunday, December 24
10:45 AM Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve
7:30 Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day
10 AM Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 31
10:45 Sunday Worship

New Year's Eve
7:30 Worship with Communion

Rev. R.A. St. Pierre - Pastor
553-3383

Emanuel Lutheran Church

23425 Lathrop Rd. Horns of 9 Mile

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

10:30 AM "Christmas with the Organ & Choir"

11 PM The Service of Carols & Candles

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:45 Christmas Family Communion

Rev. L. Alden Erickson - Pastor

Unto You a Child is Born

BLOOMFIELD HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

currently meeting at the Birmingham Community House

380 S. Bates, Birmingham

851-8516

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Bible Study.....10:00 AM

Worship.....11:00 AM

no evening service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Bible Study.....10:00 AM

Worship.....11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

8:30 PM Food and Fellowship

until midnight

Special Singing

No nursery facilities New Year's Eve

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

LONG PINE AND TELEGRAPH

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Worship Service.....9:00, 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Classes.....10:30 AM

Children's Christmas Eve Service.....5:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.....7:30, 11:00 PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Family Service.....10:30 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Worship Service.....9:00, 10:30 AM

New Year's Eve Service.....7:30 PM



Rev. Gordon H. Light - Pastor
Mr. David Bipes - Minister of
Education of Youth

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
30450 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 626-6820
Rev. Robert L. S. Brown & Rev. James F. Thomas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Morning Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve

"His Love Reaching"

by Youth Club & Chancel Choirs

Church School during both services

nursery provided

CHRISTMAS EVE

A MUSIC - DRAMA CELEBRATION

"The Night Before Christmas"

5:00 PM Youth Club Choir

Family Service City Nursery

9:00 and 11:00 PM Chancel Choir

Communion at 11:00 PM

All 3 services concluding with traditional

candlelighting ceremony

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

11:00 AM

Rev. Duane T. Wiggizer

Pastor - 664-0210

Rev. Holger G. Cettar

Pastor of Visitation

EMBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14 Mile East of

Woodward

Services on Dec. 24th

10:30 a.m. Worship Pastor

Prayer, preaching "Ready

for the Second Coming"

7:00 a.m. Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service with

Special Music and

Drama

11:00 to 12:00 p.m.

Sacrament

Communion with Organ

Reflections

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5500 N. Adams Rd., Troy-Opposite Westview

December 24, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist, Sermon & Church School

December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30 pm I CHRIST MASS & FURNISHING OF CRECHE

11:30 pm II CHRIST MASS

December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am III CHRIST MASS

December 31, FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist & Sermon

December 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE

Open House at the Rectory, 9 pm - 1 am

January 1, THE HOLY NAME

10 am Holy Eucharist & Celebration of Dr. Sayers 18th Anniversary

as Rector of St. Stephen's

January 7, FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist, Sermon and Church School