

## 2009 Christmas Special Offering MINUTE FOR MISSION

### “O Come, All You Faithful”

“Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” Luke 2:15b

Traveling today is certainly a lot different than it was for those “out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night’. Then, the shepherds may have faced rough terrain, some distance, and the darkness of night as they journeyed towards the manger. Even though they had experienced a radical announcement, the trip to Bethlehem was no less a journey filled with all kinds of peril.

Today, we look forward to traveling towards Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Family plans often mean a trip out of town to visit relatives. Such a trip might be made by car, train, bus, or airplane on relatively smooth pathways compared to those faced by the shepherds. We know no matter how long it takes, the journey will be worth it. We enjoy our visits because of the warm welcomes that await us.

Our life in the church is, in many ways, a journey....a faith journey that invites us on a path prepared for us by God. It is a journey that we do not make alone. We are accompanied by pastors and teachers and elders and deacons and leaders in our congregations. They walk with us and beside us, sometimes leading and sometimes following, but always present for the journey.

Alongside those that journey with us in our congregations, are our regional church pastors and associate pastors. They provide a witness, a beacon along the path that invites us to be part of the whole people of God. They spend a lot of time on the road...traveling to meet with pastors, to visit with congregational Search Committees, to offer counsel, to share what God is doing thru mission and service to others. When we give to the Christmas Offering, every dollar raised returns to the regional church to make certain that our regional church staff will be able to journey with us.

“O come, all you faithful. Let's give generously to the 2009 Christmas Offering so that the journey might continue!”

Rev. Thomas R. Jewell  
Oklahoma Regional Church Pastor

