

PRESIDENT'S OCCASIONAL CAMPUS COMMUNIQUÉ

December 22, 2009

Two calendars clash in early December and make for a hectic schedule.

The fall semester ends at this time of year, filling the two or three week period following the Thanksgiving Day weekend with special activities. Students rush to complete course assignments, faculty members read final exams and submit semester grades, service groups depart to destinations near and far, basketball teams begin competition, students pack for travel home, and we celebrate the winter commencement convocation.

Simultaneously, the season of Advent unfolds. The church year begins anew, Advent wreaths are displayed with a candle to light each Sunday, and we hang an Advent calendar in our home to open each day. On campus we celebrate the grand Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols, the Red Hymnal Society takes to our neighborhood streets for an evening of caroling, we gather as a campus community for a holiday luncheon, service awards, and recognition of faculty and staff giving to North Park, and many from the campus gather in Hawkinson House on two evenings for joy-filled conversation and a bit of delicious pie. We decorate our homes, trim our Christmas tree, purchase and wrap gifts, and await the arrival of family to gather around our Christmas table.

As the two calendars clash, as the semester is silenced and the coming of Advent becomes more prominent, certain words enrich our conversation.

Peace . . . Joy . . . Light . . . Hope . . . Mystery . . . Promise . . . Salvation

Gift giving . . . snow falling . . . bells ringing . . . lights twinkling . . . sheep grazing . . . shepherds sleeping . . . stars guiding . . . angels announcing

Virgin, yet mother . . . infant, yet Savior

How can this be?

This is a grand time of year—at school, in our homes, and in our churches. Each day of this season I've prayed that the blessing of God will be richly present in your home this year, for you and all those you love.

May God's light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives.

David L. Parkyn
President