38th Annual Return to Bethlehem



In its 38th year, ABCCM's Return to Bethlehem is the longest running Nativity production in North Carolina. It is our gift to your church and the community. Groce United Methodist has once again opened their doors – and hearts for us. Return to Bethlehem is a re-creation of the Bethlehem marketplace as it might have been one day, long ago when a Child was born in a stable behind a crowded and busy inn. In groups of seven, visitors walk through the streets of Bethlehem and overhear conversations of the townspeople while experiencing ancient sights, sounds and smells. The set, props, costumes, live animals, Roman soldiers, and shopkeepers help convey the story of that most important night over two thousand years ago - a story that all hearts then and now long to hear ... the story that actually came true.

20 20th St. Asheville, NC 28806 (828) 259-5300 | (828) 259-5323 (F) www.abccm.org



We Need Your Help

Volunteer actors needed! We're looking for all ages of adults and teens to take short, one to four line parts. Volunteers may also serve in non-acting roles.

Costumes provided and food for all involved each day. On-site childcare is also provided. Included in this packet is the "Cast Sign Up" sheet that can be copied, completed, and fax/scan/emailed. Or the volunteer can contact Pam Barbee at pam.barbee@abccm.org or (828) 259-5300 ext. 1618.

Holy Family

The Holy family is the central part of Return to Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph, and a baby between birth and four months old in the quiet of the manger. The audience will travel twenty minutes through the noise of Bethlehem's streets and will end at the manger pondering the ultimate story that came true. Holy Families will have 90 minute slots and their own trustworthy attendant for costume and/or help holding the baby, in a separate room. Baby feeding time, bottled water, or other help will also be discretely provided during performance. This is a great memory for the parents and the child. If only one parent can attend, we will have a Joseph or Mary available to stand in.

Musical Performances

Share your church's musical talents! An Advent medley of Christmas songs and/or hymns help guests wait and prepare for their walk through Bethlehem. Ask your church's music ministry members, teens needing performance practice, or adults who still love to play or sing. All sets are 30 - 60 minutes.

Actors

Costumes provided; costumers will help you. Catered food provided with sandwiches, hot soup, dessert, snacks, and water. Water and mints will be discretely taken to actors during the performance as well. This is a great way to act out faith and build fellowship among Sunday School classes, small groups, Bible studies, civic organization, and neighbors. Speaking parts are brief one to four lines. Many family and couple roles are available. All ages are needed. Children are very welcomed, but they need to enjoy being in character through a three hour shift with brief breaks permitted. Enjoyable roles include but are not limited to shopkeepers of various types, woodworkers, Roman guards, Jewish prisoners, small animal handlers, temple children, women at a well, and more.

Return to Bethlehem

"A Journey of the Heart"

Participant Sign-Up Sheet

Each Christmas season, ABCCM presents **Return to Bethlehem**, a live drama depicting Bethlehem as it might have been at the time of Jesus' birth. This is a special thank you gift from ABCCM to our community. Bethlehem comes to life because of talented, dedicated volunteers - like you - who make it happen.

We invite you to join the ABCCM family in our "Journey of the Heart."

Address	Name		Church		
Cast Opportunities There are a variety of speaking and non-speaking parts for people of all ages. We attempt to cast families together where appropriate, but those spaces are limited. Children must be mature enough to realize the importance of remaining in character throughout the performance. The following information will aid with casting: Female Male If male, check if you have a beard Age	Address		City	zip	
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Chease write name, age and character on the back of this sheet for each person.) Have you participated before? Yes No What part did you play?	those spaces are limited. Children mu	ist be mature enough to rea			
Please check ALL the days & times that you would be available to participate. Newcomers especially should attend a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 6th 6 pm at Groce United Methodist Church, 954 Tunnel Rd. Charter Hall You will receive a script and confirmation of your performance times in the mail. All participants will enjoy catered snacks and drinks every performance day. Shift Times: (including before shift snack and costuming) Thursday, Dec. 7	☐ Female ☐ Male If male, check if y	70u have a beard □ Age	Are you partio	cipating as a family? Yes No e, age and character on the back of this sheet for each person.)	
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Friday, Dec.8	Shift Times: (including before shift snac	ck and costuming)			
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performance, for 60- or 90-minute shifts (indoors). If you can be a Holy Family, or can suggest friends with a new baby, please call Pam Barbee at (828) 398-6618 sanctuary to set the mood while people await their journey through Bethlehem. To arrange for a performance time, call Rev. Caleb Bradshaw at (828) 398-6836. sanctuary to set the mood while people await their journey through Bethlehem. To arrange for a performance time, call Rev. Caleb Bradshaw at (828) 398-6836.	The performance requires 15 Holy Families. Holy Families with babies, to three months at the time of the performance, for 60- or 90-minute sh (indoors). If you can be a Holy Familican suggest friends with a new baby,	birth Performers provi soft instrumenta etc. for a 30-min sanctuary to set t y, or await their journ arrange for a per	ide holiday music, hymns ls, duet, quartet, acapella ute set in the church the mood while people ey through Bethlehem. T formance time, call	There are a variety of needs for people who want to help, but prefer not to perform. These include set preparation, breakdown and clean up; cast support (costumes, food, clean up) animal care, etc. If you would like to help, call Rev. Caleb Bradshaw at	

Sign up online at www.abccm.org/return-to-bethlehem

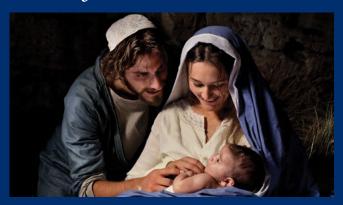
Copy this form & distribute to friends in your church/community. Please complete this form and return as soon as possible – no later than November 6th to: Rev. Caleb Bradshaw ABCCM, 20 20th Street, Asheville, NC 28806 Or scan and email to caleb.bradshaw@abccm.org Thank you!



Return to Bethlehem A Journey of the Heart

December 7th - 10th

Holy Families are needed



Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus in the manger have the most powerful Gospel impact on the audience.

Who: Babies up to 3 months old, mom and dad or a stand-in Joseph or Mary if either is not always available during 90 -minute shift.

Where: Indoor setting, costume and personal costume and baby helper in private dressing room with additional childcare while performing.

Other Features: catered food, drinks, and snacks for all!

Groce United Methodist Church, 954 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC

To sign up for a day and time, visit www.abccm.org/return-to-bethlehem or contact: Rev. Caleb Bradshaw at caleb.bradshaw@abccm.org or 828-398-6836



Presented as a Gift to the Community by