



"FALL BACK' INTO SERVING GOD"

December 2013



WHAT'S INSIDE!

Page 2 --

Note from Finance Committee  
Advent Season Tree Offerings  
and other information  
Advent Offering  
Typhoon Haiyan Help  
Fellowship & Refreshments  
Grace Bible Study

Page 3 -

Youth News  
BackPack Pals Information  
Summer Camps  
UMW News  
#Giving Tuesday  
Episcopal Church - Christmas  
Eve Service

Page 4 - -

News Around the  
Congregation  
December Birthdays  
Christmas Caroling  
Prayer Request  
Note from Staff

Inserts -

December Srvice Page  
December Calendar  
Kid's Page

Advent Greetings, and may God's grace and peace be with you!

Over the years, one of the activities that Jean (my wife) and I enjoy is gazing up into the sky on a clear evening, watching the stars, satellites and sometimes planets and comets glisten against the nighttime backdrop!

Earlier this year, from the back deck of our Farmville UMC parsonage, we watched the space shuttle fly over—and what seemed to be...right over our house! Though we did not have a telescope then, we looked at it through my binoculars and could see it pretty well, as it lasted only a couple of minutes. It was an amazing experience that inspired wonder, awe and amazement!

Seeing something so remarkable, made by human hands, reminds me of how breathtaking it must have been when another visual display two thousand years took place, announcing a special birth of hope to the world! The excitement, awe and fear that gripped the shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night, must have been simply overwhelming upon seeing the angel of the Lord suddenly standing before them...as the glory of the Lord shone around them and they heard the good news!

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...And suddenly there was with the angel a **multitude of the heavenly host** praising God...And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven...(the shepherds decided to go straight to Bethlehem to see this wondrous happening)" (Luke 2:9-15 NASB)

My excitement in seeing something made by humans, drastically pales in comparison to the wonder of what the shepherds experienced that holy night...**being of Almighty God!** It must have been a truly wondrous sight!

So as we prepare for Christmas, not the opening of gifts and presents but the celebrating and offering thanks and praise to God for loving us so much, that He came in the flesh... wrapped in swaddling cloth's and was laid in a manger. Maybe instead of being busy and looking down, we should simply look up now and then! Who knows what amazing sights we may see!

May your season of Advent and Christmas be filled with hope and love...as you grow in your faith...in the One who was born---The Savior of the world!!

Have a blessed Christmas season! Take Care....peace....

Pastor Bill

**NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**All contributions for 2013 should be in the church office on or before  
 December 31 to go on this year's statement.**



### Christmas Worship Schedule

**Verse** about Jesus; **Dec. 22** - Folded and sealed **Gift Card** with a personal note of the gift you are giving to Jesus this Christmas, signed by you. **NOTE:** The intent is for each of us to spend quality time with our Lord in deciding what to bring. **Homemade Christmas cards, pictures, note and gift cards are welcomed.** My prayer is that each of us look forward to coming to worship each Sunday during Advent! Any questions, contact Pastor Bill. Please put something on the item for hanging. All items will be available to pick up after the Christmas Eve Service.

**Other Events During Dec:** **Thur. Dec. 12, Church-wide Christmas Caroling; Sun., Dec. 22: Jesus' Birthday Party** at 10:00am; **Live Nativity** from 6:30pm – 8:30pm; **Tue., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Communion and Candle Light Service** at 6:30pm (time change); **Tue., Dec. 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**; **Sun., Dec. 29: Combine Worship Service--11:00am.**

### **ADVENT SEASON TREE OFFERINGS**

Once again this Advent Season, you are asked to bring an item each week to be hung on our tree during our time of service worship. Each person may bring their own item or an item may be brought by the entire family—your choice! The weekly Sunday items are:

**Dec. 1** - **Picture of Jesus** (baby, child, or adult); **Dec. 8** - **Christmas Card** with a personal note of thanks and signed by each person; **Dec. 15** - Small Card with **Favorite**

**Verse** about Jesus; **Dec. 22** - Folded and sealed **Gift Card** with a personal note of the gift you are giving to Jesus this Christmas, signed by you. **NOTE:** The intent is for each of us to spend quality time with our Lord in

deciding what to bring. **Homemade Christmas cards, pictures, note and gift cards are welcomed.** My prayer is that each of us look forward to coming to worship each Sunday during Advent! Any questions, contact Pastor Bill. Please put something on the item for hanging. All items will be available to pick up after the Christmas Eve Service.

**Other Events During Dec:** **Thur. Dec. 12, Church-wide Christmas Caroling; Sun., Dec. 22: Jesus' Birthday Party** at 10:00am; **Live Nativity** from 6:30pm – 8:30pm; **Tue., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Communion and Candle Light Service**

at 6:30pm (time change); **Tue., Dec. 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**; **Sun., Dec. 29: Combine Worship Service--11:00am.**



### **ADVENT BEGINS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

The Advent Season is upon us. This offering provides a means for us to have some flexibility in the months ahead to support special

mission needs, to sometimes respond to unexpected natural disasters, etc. The entire amount raised goes to missions. The ushers will be handing out Advent coin folders and Advent Boxes. Please bring the folder or box to the church on Sunday, December 22. At any time, you may contribute by personal check, just indicate on the envelope/check "**Advent Offering,**" and drop it in the offering plate. Thanking you in advance for your generous gift in the name of the One who gave all for us



### Fellowship & Refreshments

Just a reminder to those who

participate in the Fellowship time between the Early Service and Sunday School: please sign up to provide refreshments for December and beyond. We definitely want to have refreshments each Sunday in December as we usually have more visitors during the Christmas season. The calendar is located by the coffee pot in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to those who have already done this several times this year.



### **Aid Needed for Philippines**

### **HELP NEEDED IMMEDIATELY FOR THE PHILLIPPINES**

The devastation in The Philippines is overwhelming. The support and generosity of United Methodist during disasters has been great. If you are led by the Holy Spirit to help that in need, please indicate on your check or envelope "**Typhoon Haiyan**" and place it in the offering plate. Thank you in advance for your prayers and gifts for the people of the Philippines, during this great emergency. As a reminder, 100% of all gifts will go to "**Typhoon Haiyan**" response and relief.



### **GRACE BIBLE STUDY**

The Grace Study continues meeting on Sundays in the parlor at 5pm through December 8th. Even though you may have not been able to attend all of the study sessions, please consider joining us as we wrap-up our study. On December 1st, we'll complete Chapter 11. On December 8th, we will finish the Conclusion and reflect on what grace means to us as followers of Jesus Christ, as members of the FUMC family and as a part of the Farmville community. Any questions, please contact Suzanne Edwards [moyeedwards@coastalnet.com](mailto:moyeedwards@coastalnet.com) or Nancy Wilson [njwlsn716@yahoo.com](mailto:njwlsn716@yahoo.com).



Christmas time is here! I absolutely love this time of year. There is so much to celebrate and be thankful for, most of all the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. I encourage each and every one of you to truly enjoy every day that this season brings. The youth will be doing an advent study throughout the month in hopes that it will help keep us a little more focused on what this time of year is really about. We will also be celebrating with a Christmas themed lock-in on December 6th. This year has been a great blessing for myself and the youth. I look forward to another great year here at Farmville United Methodist Church. Peace!

Jonathan Lemmon



UMW News

December is such a special time of the year to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Holiday Helper event was a success and I want to thank each and every one who took part. We could not have done it without your help. I want to also thank our vendors, Food Lion and Ricky Strickland of The Little Rocket. The church is decorated for Christmas and it is such a special time of the year.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Dec. 2 Circle IV at Nellie Lang's
- Dec. 3 Peanut Pickup
- Dec. 3 Circle III - Plank Road at 6:30
- Dec. 21 Nursing Home Party by Circle IV
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Jan. 13-17, 2014 Circle IV Meals on Wheels

Be sure to take all Christmas Decorations down and put away by end of December. I will not be your FUMW leader next year and hope someone will please step up. Hope you and your family will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Remember it takes everyone.

In Christian Love,  
Darlene M. Gaynor



**Mission Giving**

**#GIVING TUESDAY – DEC. 3**

#Giving Tuesday is Dec. 3.

This day is sponsored by the

**General Board of Global Ministries** and gifts made online through the Advance will be matched. # Giving Tuesday can become a day of high volume, fruitful giving in our denomination, a day to rival Black Friday and Cyber Monday. "General Advance" ministries, such as missionaries and church and community workers commissioned by GBGM, and projects within and beyond the US, such as ZOE, CROP, Stop Hunger Now, Disaster Response (to UMCOR), and the like, qualify for the matching funds. A complete list can be found online at [www.umcmision.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects](http://www.umcmision.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects).

**EMMANUEL'S CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST/COMMUNION SERVICE**

We would like to pass on an invitation to Emmanuel's Christmas Eve Eucharist / Communion service. the service will be **Dec. 24th at 11:00 PM**. It is a great way to bring in Christmas Day. All are welcome for the service and all baptized believers are welcome to take communion.



**BackPack Pals**

It seems like just yesterday I was writing about beginning the new school year with Backpack Pals Ministry. It is

a month away from Christmas, thus time to begin the process of planning for Christmas with the ministry. We try to do some larger sizes which make transportation easier. Also we include some other type articles for the holidays. Below is a list of items needed by December 15 (16 of each). **If you can provide any of these, please let me know as soon as possible so that we will not have duplication.** You may email me at [Irene.randy.pollard@gmail.com](mailto:Irene.randy.pollard@gmail.com) or phone 315-6555. Thank you for being the "hands and feet of Christ" in this hurting world of children. Small toothpaste, small shampoo for children, small lotion, Christmas candy (need type that won't melt or be mashed in transit, Bath cloth, regular size cereal that kids eat without milk, Small jar peanut butter, small box of crackers to go with peanut butter

**REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 1 FOR SUMMER CAMPS**

2014 Summer Camp registration for conference camps opens Dec. 1. Go to the website of the camp of choice or call the camps to get registered. Camp Chestnut Ridge [www.campchestnutridge.org](http://www.campchestnutridge.org) 919-304-2178; Camp Don Lee [www.donleecenter.org](http://www.donleecenter.org) 252-249-1106 ext. 27; Camp Rockfish [www.camprockfish.org](http://www.camprockfish.org) 910-425-3529 ext. 2





**NEW MEMBERS...**

**Bob and Joan Ginn** joined our congregation Sunday, November 17 during the Traditional Service. They come by transfer of membership from Ayden United Methodist Church.

Their address is P. O. Box 405, Maury, NC 28554

**Brad and Tracie Durrett** joined our congregation on Sunday, November 17 during the Traditional Service. Brad comes by transfer from the Covenant United Methodist Church in Greenville and Tracie from the Pine Forest United Methodist Church in Goldsboro.

Their address is 4315 W. Church St.

If you see Bob & Joan and Brad & Tracie, please warmly welcome them into our congregation.



- Dec. 3: Jamie Cleveland
- Dec. 4: Garland Mazingo
- Dec. 8: Delane Fuwuay
- Dec. 13: Ann Rogers

- Dec. 14: Bert Warren, Sr.
- Ded. 15: Walter Jessup
- Dec. 16: Cindy Parks
- Dec. 17: Cody Fuquay
- Dec. 21: Mary Allen
- Dec. 24: Edna Hobgood
- Dec, 25: Player Eason
- Dec. 28: Tanner Craig



**CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
Thursday, December 12 at 6:00pm. More information to follow.

Farmville United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 153, Farmville, NC 27828-0153  
Phone 252-753-4803  
E-Mail – church@farmvilleumc.com  
Webpage: [www.FarmvilleUMC.com](http://www.FarmvilleUMC.com)

Pastor: Rev. Bill Price – pastor@farmvilleumc.com  
Admin. Assist.: Nan Walston – chuch@farmvilleumc.com  
Organist/Music Director: Drucilla Lamm  
Youth Director: Jonathan Lemmon – youth@farmvilleumc.com  
Praise Team Leader: Aubrey Digh – praiseteam@farmvilleumc.com



**PLEASE BE IN PRAYER**

**FOR...**Rufus & Evangeline Cochran (health), Tracey Smith

(health), Minnie Lee Winborn (health), Kirsten Baker (healing), Alex, Jr. (healing), Billy Baker (healing), Kailey Eaton (healing), Jeff Albritton (healing), Michele Wells & family (in Algeria, cousin of Ann Rodgers), Jo Ann Lang (recovery), Graceleigh Harper Hood & Family (healing), Lynnette Williams (healing), Else (recovery), Cindy Parks (recovery), John Sherman (recovery), Jaxson McLawhorn (healing), Victims of Disasters, Carroll Oakes (recovery), Jesse Braxton (recover), Gladys Dail (healing), Connie Smith (recovery), Frank Hemmingway (healing). Frank Powell (recovery) Diane Speight Rhue (recovery). **To keep our prayer list up to date, please let the church office know, if a person may be removed. Thank you. Reminder – Prayer Journal is at the back of the church.)**



**From the Staff....**

**Christmas Blessings!**  
**From Your FUMC Staff**  
**A Sincere Thank You**  
**To The Congregation of FUMC**  
**For your Love and Support in 2013**

**Return Service Requested**