



CELEBRATING

Our Partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ



The Newsletter, A Publication of the Farmville United Methodist Church, December 2011

Greetings, and may God's grace and peace be with you this Christmas Season!

Especially at this joyful time of the year, if we received a nicely wrapped present wouldn't we be curious...want to open it and find out what is inside?

Well what if we unwrapped the package, only to find a piece of paper inside with writing on it, that read: "The person who holds this paper is entitled to one wish. However, you cannot wish for more wishes!" What would you wish for?

We might think...to wish for a new vehicle, or money enough to pay all the bills, or maybe even a nice home to live in. Of course, we could also wish for new clothes, to make good grades in school, or something special we have been wanting for a long time.

Perhaps, we could wish for something more lasting...like good health for the rest of our life, or wish to always be happy or wise. Hmm, those wishes do not seem to be too greedy to ask for!

Yet so far, we have only thought about wishes for ourselves...what we want. So what might we wish for our family or friends, our neighbors or our church...even our enemies? We could wish that a lot of people would be content in their life and be kinder to others.

Yet wait, what about something for the 'whole' world. That might be a good idea for a wish...but what? Hmm! By the way, what was that message the angels said to the shepherds in the Gospel of Luke? Oh yea--"...I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord....Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, good will toward men."
(Luke 2:10,11,14 KJV)

Hmm! Oh but wait a minute...that would mean that we would have to give up wishing something for ourselves! Are we really willing to do that?

Some of us may feel that would be a lot to give up...yet let us remember that God is faithful and gives us everything we need! Sharing Jesus, peace and good will must start somewhere... begin with someone—why not you...me?

Let this Christmas season be the beginning of each of us making the commitment to share Jesus, peace on earth, good will toward mankind! And who knows, we might just be pleasantly surprised ourselves...to receive peace and good will, as well.

And may it be...to the glory of God!

May you and yours have a blessed and safe Christmas season!

Pastor Bill





Christmas Services

Pastor Bill.

Our Christmas Eve Family Service will be Sat. Dec. 24 at 6pm. We are in need of greeters, ushers, and acolytes for this service. Please contact Nan or

Christmas Day, we will have a blended service at 11:00am (no 8:30am service).

REMEMBER THE ADVENT OFFERING

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. "Advent Offering Coin Folders" will be on the desk in the hallway. Please return your folder or contribute by personal check on or before Sunday, December 25 by placing it in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary or drop in the offering plate.



We are offering the chance to honor God and the people special to us, while helping others through giving a contribution in honor or memory of

someone to a mission. A "Giving Tree" card will be printed and put on the tree with the name of the person you are honoring or remembering. We will also have a bulletin listing the same. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex and Chapel with a list of missions. Stop by and fill out the form, and leave your contribution in the envelope along with your information. There is a sign-up sheet included in this newsletter also.



Couples Night

The Couple's Night group will have their next meeting at Mike and Beverly Wainwright's home on

January 14th, covered dish at 6:30pm. **RSVP to Beverly Wainwright or Julie Warren.**



Senior Bingo Night

Senior Bingo Night has been confirmed for Thursday,

January 19th at 6:00pm. The Couples group will host the evening, serving soup, sandwiches and dessert. Darlene Gaynor will run the bingo part of the evening. If anyone in the church would like to donate a prize or unwanted gift please let Julie Warren know at 753-8525. I would be happy to come and pick up prizes or can collect them at church.



Open House at The Parsonage

All are invited to come to Pastor Bill and Jean's open house at the parsonage on Sunday, December 18 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. This is an

opportunity to tour our church's decorated parsonage, which is provided for its pastor and family. Light refreshments will be served. 3661 Hillcrest Drive (subdivision on the other side of W. Church Street)



Happy New Year!! The UMM have several events upcoming in

December. First we would like to invite everyone to our second annual Christmas Family Movie Night on Friday, December 9th in the fellowship hall. We will be screening "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" and all are welcome. The show will begin at 7:00pm and we will have an "Everything's A Dollar" concession stand with popcorn, hot dogs, drinks, etc. during the show. Come out and enjoy a movie with us. Our regular UMM dinner meeting will be Monday the 12th at 7:00pm and all men are invited to join us for an evening of men's fellowship. And lastly on our calendar, the men will serve pancakes and sausage for Wednesday night fellowship meal on the 14th. On behalf of the Farmville UMM I would like to wish all a wonderful and meaningful Christmas Season.

Yours In Christ,
Hugh Williams



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The UMMen are hosting a special movie night on December 9 at

7:00pm, featuring the movie **The Grinch Who Stole Christmas**. No charge for the movie. Drink, popcorn, hotdogs will be available for \$1.00 each. Proceeds will go toward UMMen mission projects

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....

I would like to thank all of you who gave their time and backs during these years' storms, you all have my unending gratitude. This year we will continue to need everyone's help to ensure the churches needs are met, I feel very blessed in knowing each and everyone of you. Please let us remember that the true meaning Christmas is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the walk he made for us. May your holidays be a safe and blessed one, and our New Year bring a renewed and stronger faith in Christ.

Mike Wainwright, Chairman of the Board Trustees.



**GET READY TO CELEBRATE!
CHURCH-WIDE BIRTHDAY
PARTY COMING IN JANUARY**

(tentative day, Sun, Jan. 22). Be thinking how you would like to decorate your table for your month. We will also need cakes. Call the church office if you would like to decorate a table and /or bake a cake.



UMW NEWS

*I love those who love me,
and those who seek me
find me.*

PROVERBS 8:17

Holiday Helpers was a huge success! The decorations were beautiful – thanks to Polly Galloway, Diane Warren, and Marion Stowe. Thanks to Lindsay Annis, Nancy Jessup, and Delane Fuquay for advertising and getting the word out. Thanks to Kay Crossan and Debra Evans for collecting money. Thanks to Pat Sumrell for providing refreshments. And special thanks to EVERYONE who donated food, Silent Auction items and money, and to those who worked before, during and after the event.

Holiday Helpers raised a total of \$2,992.70. The money will be used for missions.

The church is beautifully decorated with its bows, wreaths, trees, and manger scenes. THANK YOU to all the ladies, gentlemen, boys, and girls who helped to decorate our church!

**December Circle Meetings
Circle III – will have a Christmas Dinner on December 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the Guest House of Strickland Dail. Contact Polly Galloway or Nancy Harris for more information.**

Circle IV – will meet at the home of Harriett Baker on December 5 at 7 p.m.
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**February 10 – 11, 2012 – PURSUE the PASSION Women’s Conference featuring Lysa Terkeurst with special music by Miriam Tyson. Lysa Terkeurst is a New York Times bestselling author and speaker who helps everyday women live an adventure of faith through following Jesus Christ. Miriam Tyson is worship leader, singer/songwriter, and loves the arts. She resides in Atlanta, Ga. @ Covenant, 4000 Corey Rd., Winterville, NC
Fri. 7-9 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.(doors open 30 minutes prior to the event)
Tickets – advance ticket purchase is required. Early Bird Special \$30 thru Jan. 10, after Early Bird \$40. Tickets are non-refundable, but fully transferable. No childcare provided. Register: Internet: connect2covenant.com/women Mail: Print form at connect2covenant.com/women Email: conference@connect2covenant.com**
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Friends in Faith
Connie Mazingo (753-5877)
Debbie Terrell (753-4941)**



Backpack Pals

Dear Church Family,

As you are aware our church has adopted 18 children for the Backpack Pals Ministry. The Backpack Pals Program serves less fortunate Farmville area children with nourishing meals they might not otherwise receive. With the holidays approaching, instead of providing just enough food for a weekend, our church would like to send home enough food with each child for their Christmas break. But we need your help! **Become a Backpack Pal today** by donating food to help feed a child during the holidays. We would greatly appreciate it if individuals, families, or church organizations would be willing to donate family size or packages of non-perishable, easy to fix items (suggestions below). Please put all items in the designated box outside the fellowship hall. Please consider supporting this program by donating food items or through monetary contributions.

As a school SERV (Students Effectively Realizing their Value) project I will be helping Mrs. Irene Pollard collect and organize your donations. Thank you for your help!

Catherin Tugwell

Suggested food items:

Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, Beanie Weenies, Cup of Soup – Oodles of Noodles, Vienna Sausage, Tuna, Easy Mac, Peanut Butter, Peanut Butter Crackers, Fruit Cups and/or Applesauce, Pudding, Juice Boxes, Pop Tarts, Cereal Bars, Cereal – individual boxes as well as “family sized”, Granola Bars, Raisins.



New Member.....

We are pleased to announce at the 8:30 Praise and Worship Service on Sunday, November 27; **Jo An Benfield** transferred her membership from Hoyle Memorial Methodist Church in Shelby, NC. As you have the opportunity, please welcome Jo An into our church fellowship at Farmville UMC. She is the mother of Dwayne Benfield. Her address is 5990 May Blvd.



Merry Christmas to everyone! I hope that during this Christmas season, we each take time to reflect on the importance of Christ's birth. As we give gifts and receive gifts this year, may we offer ourselves back to Christ as our gift to Him. He is our Savior and He deserves our best. Yes, we are human and we will make mistakes, and slip and fall, and sin, but He is merciful and full of grace and knows that we are not perfect. Still, we can offer ourselves to Jesus to be his hands and feet. Be a blessing to someone else and you will be in awe of how God's blessings come back to you "good measure, pressed down, and running over."

The Youth are being a blessing to others this Christmas through ZOE Ministries. Your charitable giving has enabled them to purchase a cow, a goat, and four chickens that will be given to orphans to help them earn a living to provide for themselves and others. THANKS!

Blessings,
Sheldon



Christmas Caroling 12/20/11 – There has been a lot of discussion about when to have this event as our calendars are all pretty full during the Christmas season. Our plan is to now go caroling on Tuesday, December 20, 2011. We'll meet at the church at 5:45 P.M. and plan on leaving around 6:00 P.M. If there is a home you would like us to stop by, please give that person's name to Nan or Sheldon. After caroling, we will come back to the church to enjoy some hot chocolate and treats. If you are planning to participate, please also bring a treat to be shared.



Christmas Lights Outing 12/22/11 – This event has been a work in progress, but we have settled on the date of Thursday, December 22, 2011. In an effort to provide a different venue this year, we will tour Meadow Lights near Benson. This location is just south of Smithfield near Interstate -95. It is about an hour and 15 minutes from the church. Meadow Lights is a free drive thru event that begins at 5:00 P.M. The lights cover an area of 30 acres. There are also 3 trains that can be ridden through 4 loops and the cost is \$2 per person. They offer soft drinks, hot dogs, pizza, hot chocolate and coffee for purchase. The Old Country Store is located within the lights and is impossible to miss. It is one of the largest candy stores in the area and carries over 300 varieties of candy, preserves, drinks, hot apple cider, old fashioned signs, and more. Santa can also be visited as he has a shop adjacent to the store. The Meadow Restaurant is also nearby and they offer a buffet. On Thursday's they feature a seafood buffet. I have attempted to contact them to possibly make a reservation, but as of yet I have not been successful. I will keep you up-to-date on how that progresses. If you plan on attending this event, please let Sheldon know.



Confirmation Class to Begin in January 2012

Confirmation class, for those around 6th grade and higher, will begin in early January. This is an important commitment for all attending. Confirmation class helps our youth grow in their faith as they discover the joys and responsibilities of what it means to be a Christian, gain a basic understanding of United Methodist beliefs, learn to live their life as a vital part of the church, and grow in their relationship with the Lord. **Please let Pastor Bill know by Thursday, December 22, if you are interested in attending.** Once registration is complete, we will hold a brief Youth-Parents meeting to discuss best days and times. Baptism is not a prerequisite to attending.



December's Birthdays

- Dec. 3: Jamie Cleveland
- Dec. 4: Garland Mazingo
- Dec. 7: Jacob Ashorn
- Dec. 8: Delane Fuquay
- Dec. 13: Ann Rogers
- Dec. 14: Bert Warren, Sr.
- Dec. 15: Walter Jessup
- Dec. 16: Cindy Parks
- Dec. 21: Mary Allen
- Dec. 24: Edna Hobgood
- Dec. 25: Player Eason
- Dec. 28: Tanner Craig



Prayer Request
FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

Tracey Smith, Horace Allen, Billy Baker, Richard Crossan (health); Rufus and Evangeline Cochran (healing), Bill and Agnes Monk (healing), Pat Rouse-Jones (healing), Bobby Carraway (healing), Virginia Wooten (healing), Marilyn Ellis (healing, cancer), Susan Hunt (healing) Kristen Parker and baby (niece of Janet Clontz), Ed Tickel (healing, brother of Diane Warren), Cindy Langley (healing, friend of Darlene Gaynor). Jim Parker (healing, cousin of Darlene Gaynor), Leona Kilpatrick (healing), Leonard "Flash" Arndt (healing, stepfather of Kirsti Benfield), Larry Woods (healing, cancer), Pat Jackson (healing, friend of Mike Wainwright), Tammy Frizzelle, (healing) Howard Whitfield (healing, friend of Vickie Herring, and unspoken request.



From the Staff....

May the love, joy and hope of Jesus Christ radiate in your love this Christmas. May each of you have a prosperous and healthy New Year.

The Giving Tree

We are very excited to offer the chance to honor God and the people special to us, while giving thanks for Jesus and impacting those who Jesus calls us to reach, all at the same time this Christmas season. Instead of the Poinsettia Tree of previous years, we are planning to have a "Giving Tree." It will work on the same basis as the poinsettia tree, but this time we will be helping others by giving a contribution in honor or memory of someone to one of the missions listed below. A tag, (see below) will be printed and put on the tree with the name of the person your or honoring or remembering. There will also be a bulletin listing the same.



A CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO

Mission _____

In Memory/Honor of _____

By _____

There is a table set up in the narthex with a list of the missions and tags for you to fill out. There will be envelopes for your contributions also. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Some of the Missions are: Lent Offering, Advent Offering, Radio Ministry, Pastor Discretionary Fund, UM Home for Children UM Retirement Home, Flood Buckets, I K for 1 K, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Pregnancy Center, Wesley Foundation, Haiti Relief/Health Kits, One Great Hour of Sharing, Disaster Response (flood/tornado/hurricane), Human Relations, Native American Ministries, World Communion, UM Students, Youth Service Fund, Bethlehem Bible College, Roberson County Center, Missionary Salary Support, Greenville District Advance, ZOE Ministry, Carolina Pregnancy Center, and The Refuge.

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Return Service Requested

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pastor@farmvilleumc.com
Admin. Assist.: Nan Walston –
nan.farmumc@embarqmail.com
Organist/Music Director: Drucilla Lamm
Youth Director: Sheldon Letchworth –
youth@farmvilleumc.com