



919/489-6557

[www.epworth-umc.org](http://www.epworth-umc.org)

December 8, 2016

## **THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

### CHILDREN'S CANTATA

Join us this Third Sunday of Advent as the children share with us their cantata "Tell Me the Story of Christmas " at 8:45 and 11:00. Come and support the children! The congregation will be invited to share in singing some of the Christmas carols throughout the cantata. The services will be in the sanctuary.

### THE LOVE FEAST

Brass music begins at 7:00 p.m.

The Love Feast is at 7:30 in the sanctuary.

This is a beautiful service of Christian love, sharing sweet rolls, coffee, and music by candlelight in the Moravian tradition at 7:30 p.m.



**Sunday, December 11, 2016**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**8:45 and 11:00 Worship**

Children's Cantata: "Tell Me the Story of Christmas"

Scripture Readings: James 5: 7-10, Luke 1: 46b-55, Matthew 11: 2-11

Hymns: "People Look East" "Angels from the Realms"

Altar Guild Joyce Dalglish, Kathy and Harry Dutton, Kenneth Roberts, Judy Daymont

Liturgist 8:45 Maureen Oakes 11:00 Norma Mitchell

Nursery Marcey Harp, Theresa Shebalin, Lisa Vandevander, Melissa Culp

Ushers Alan Payne, Kenneth Roberts, Morgan West, Betty Ketch

Counters Mike Hanson, Greg Bolt Greeters Joe and Barbara Collie

Acolyte Dalton McCurdy Crucifer Jerryl Christopher Youth Reader Erin Engel

Sunday School Coordinators Mike Shiflett, John Lott Bus Driver Tim Dahlgren

### MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

For Trish Robertson: from Thomas and Margaret Keller

For Lanny Lambert, Sr.: from Marvin and Cynthia Barnes

For Marshall and Louise Davis (to the Love Feast Fund) from Charles and Carolyn Davis

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION

*"Merry Christmas to All! We pray that everyone is well and enjoying your sanctuary again! This is such a beautiful time of year at Epworth. This card illustrates one our favorite places in Southport and we feel blessed to live in the area. We are enjoying a part time ministry at a small church – St. Paul, Tabor City. God has blessed us and hopefully blessing you in this Christmas time.*

*Love,*

*Hope and Darrell Vickers*



### **Alternative Giving/Gifts of Grace Cards for Christmas**

Are you having a hard time deciding on just the right gift for a special friend or loved one? Consider the gift that keeps on giving. The Outreach Committee will have a table in the Farthex starting on Sunday, December 4 until Sunday, December 18, 2016 with honor cards for purchase for \$10 each supporting the following ministries:

1. **Bread for the World:** A collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision-makers to end hunger at home and abroad by changing the policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger to continue.
2. **Heifer International:** A non-profit organization dedicated to ending hunger through providing livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture to those with genuine need.
3. **Habitat for Humanity of Durham:** A non-profit organization that creates partnerships to build, restore and repair safe, decent and affordable homes for low income families.
4. **Hurricane Matthew Relief in NC:** This is the ministry focus for the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church this year. Many of our neighbors in the eastern part of our state are still struggling to recover from Matthew's flooding and devastation. 100% of your gifts go to the victims of Hurricane Matthew.
5. **Urban Ministries of Durham:** Provides food, shelter, clothing and supportive services to our neighbors in need.
6. **Families Moving Forward (formerly IHN):** Provides transitional housing and moves families into residential stability and self-sufficiency by mobilizing congregations and people of faith.
7. **Backpack Ministry:** Epworth's own program which provides food for the weekend for 50 children of need who attend Hope Valley Elementary School.
8. **Epworth United Methodist Church Ceiling Repair:** As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child in our newly repaired and repainted Sanctuary, please consider gifts to Epworth above and beyond your pledge this year to help pay for our Sanctuary repairs. We have raised \$41,000 to date and need an additional \$9000 to pay off the entire debt.
9. **Fond Doux Foundation:** A foundation created by Epworth United Methodist Church to assist families of Haiti to enjoy better nutrition and health through enriched foods and training to those with genuine need.

## **Have you Lost a Loved One? Is this Christmas difficult?**

**Community Blue Christmas service:** In the midst of an often overwhelming holiday season, you are invited to a service of silence and contemplation, hope and peace at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on December 18th at 4:00 p.m. We'll join together with St. Paul's Lutheran, and Westminster Presbyterian in holding one another in collective Light.

### DECEMBER EVENTS FOR LC'S (ages 50 and up!)

- Thursday, December 8... We will tour the Executive Mansion in Raleigh, leaving the church at 1:30 p.m. The mansion is beautifully decorated for Christmas and guides will be available to give us some history and details.
- Monday, December 19... We will have our annual Christmas luncheon and (musical program) at Croasdaile Village at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are needed, as well as your preference for an entrée: salmon or chicken. Cost is \$12.

EPWORTH'S OUTREACH AUCTION will be February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> The Congregational Advent Study and Potluck begins at 5:30. The Rev. Dr. Ross Wagner, Assoc. Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School will be with us again to continue the discussion of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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Marcey Harp, Nursery Director [nursery@epworth-umc.org](mailto:nursery@epworth-umc.org)

Marlin Lennon, Sexton

## **STEWARDSHIP 2017**

If you have not yet filled out a pledge card for 2017 and would like to do so, please stop by the office to pick one up or contact the church office at 919-489-6557 and we can mail one to you.

### **End of Year Finance Office News**

I will need all gifts that you wish to credit toward 2016, including those for your operating budget pledge, your Close the Gap pledge and/or your capital campaign (Horizon) pledge, by **Thursday, December 29th at 1:00 PM.**

**After Christmas, the church office will only be open from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.**

If you would like to drop off any gifts rather than mail them, please do so during these hours. Thank you all for your abundant generosity in 2016 and let us **"Finish 2016 Strong"!**

Meg Bass, Financial Manager

Epworth United Methodist Church declares itself a Reconciling Congregation, seeking to welcome all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnicities, disabilities, gender or sexual orientation, into the discipleship of Christian living and proclaim our commitment to seek the reconciliation of all persons to God and to each other through Jesus Christ.



## YOUTH NEWS & NOTES

### U.M.Y.F.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program Topic</u>	<u>Parent "Chef(s)"</u>
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Love Feast (set our luminaries before...Dessert Feast afterwards!) <b>Meet at the church at 6 p.m. to set out the luminaries.</b>	N/A
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	U.M.Y.F. Christmas Party (need someone to volunteer to host!)	

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**REMINDER:** don't forget your Sunday School offering!! Our offerings for the next several weeks will go to UMCOR for disaster relief. Please give careful and prayerful consideration to your offering that goes to support those recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew.

**Lesson topic this week:** We continue our discussion of "Love Does"! This week's discussion will be on Chapter 8 Love just keeps on doing! Questions to think about:

1. Have you experienced God convincing you to love Him back? How does He do this?
2. What makes you stop and stare in amazement? How might that be God pursuing you?
3. What is the difference from "believing the right stuff" and "doing the right stuff"?
4. What are some examples, past or present, of God using the least likely people to achieve something great?

### SAINTS FOR THE WEEK:

Ian Kim, Peter Walker and Elise Benware for serving as crucifer/acolyte/reader during the 11:00 worship service! The following youth who played in the Instrumental Ensemble on November 20<sup>th</sup>: Morgan West and Brennan Mange for leading the U.M.Y.F. Lock-in!!

### ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER/READER SCHEDULE for the month of November:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Reader</u>
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Dalton McCurdy	Jerryl Christopher	Erin Engel
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Kim	Jerush Christopher	Katherine Lantzy
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. service. ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER NEEDED! Please let Joyce know if you can serve for this special</b>		

**IMPORTANT:** If you are not able to acolyte/crucifer/read on an assigned week, please find a substitute and contact Joyce and the church office so we will know of the change.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We hope that you are enjoying the special Advent Reflections from our youth. These special offerings will be sent to you weekly. Peace, Love, Joy and Hope to each of you this Advent season!

**December 24<sup>th</sup>:** Family Christmas Eve Service-Calling all youth!!! Youth are invited to participate in this wonderful opportunity. The following roles are available for youth: lead angel, lead shepherd, shepherd helper, lead wise man, star carrier, and 4 youth to assist with communion and glow sticks. Let's help make this a memorable service for our families!

Poinsettias ...We will need help moving them into the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Please let me know if you are able to help!

Peace and blessings to all! **May the Lord bless each of you...and give you peace!**

**DECEMBER 2016**

<p><b>11 3rd Sunday in Advent</b>                  7:30 PraiseTeam  <b>8:45 and 11:00</b>  <b>Worship -</b>                  9:50 Sunday School/                  Children's Music                  7:30 Love Feast</p>	<p>12                  1:00 Book Group                  3:45 Tutoring                  6:00 SPPRC                  7:30 Instrumentals</p>	<p>13                  10:30 Staff Meeting                  1:30 Care Group                  6:00 Yoga                  6:00 Visioning                  7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14                  12:00 Advent Devotions                  3:30 Tutoring                  4:00 Prayer Group                  6:00 Handbells                  6:30 UMMen                  7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>15                  10:00 Preschool Program                  5:15 Voices Together                  7:00 AA</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p><b>18 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>                  7:30 PraiseTeam  <b>8:30, 9:00 and 11:00</b>  <b>Worship -</b>                  9:50 Sunday School                  2:00 Boy Scout Court of Honor                  4:00 Blue Christmas Service at St. Paul's                  5:30 Potluck Dinner and Advent Study</p>	<p>19                  11:30 LC's At Croasdaile Village</p>	<p>20                  10:30 Staff Meeting                  1:30 Care Group                  6:00 Yoga.                  7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21                  12:00 Advent Devotions                  3:30 Tutoring                  4:00 Prayer Group                  7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>22                  7:00 AA</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24  <u><b>Christmas Eve</b></u>                  5:00 Family Service                  7:00 Communion and Cantata</p>
<p><b>25</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS</b>                   11:00  <b>Service of Lessons and Carols</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27                   Church Office open                  10 - 1:00</p>	<p>28                   Church Office open                  10 - 1:00</p>	<p>29                   Church Office open                  10 - 1:00</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

