

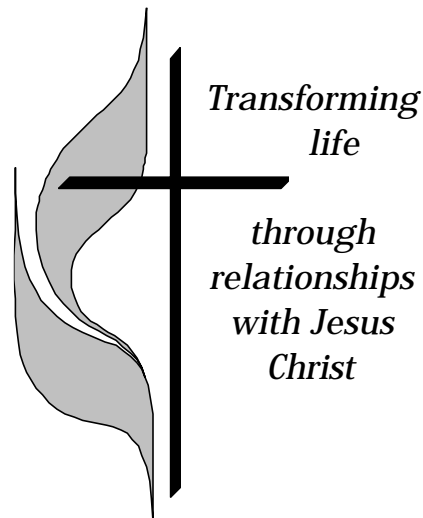
Emmanuel

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Help Us Choose A Name For the Newsletter!

Call or email the office with your Ideas

VOLUME 0, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2001/
JANUARY 2002

A Holy Christmas

Rev. Todd S. Krueger

When John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, came to America the ship on which he was sailing almost sank in a frightening storm. In his terror he noticed that there was one group of people on-board who did not seem afraid. They were a large group of passengers belonging to a denomination called the Moravian Church. Assuming this group of Moravians survived the harsh realities of early America their descendants probably landed eventually in Winston Salem, NC. In them John Wesley saw the faith, peace, hope and joy that he wanted so badly but

which eluded him for several more years. This chance encounter had a tremendous impact on the young Wesley. After his return from America he traveled to what is now Germany where he spent time growing in faith with the Moravians.

As we look to the beginning of Advent, the season of preparation before Christmas, most of us realize that we will again be faced with the struggles between the holy and the secular, between joy and depression, between the time to

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SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

- ? UM Women Christmas Party at the Cutting Board Dec 1st, noon.
- ? Fellowship Class Christmas Party Dec. 8, 6:30pm at Momma Dip's in Chapel Hill. A group will leave from the church at 5:30pm if you want to ride.
- ? Inspiration Class Christmas Party Dec. 15th, 1:00pm at Bill Czagas' office. 3222 Hwy 49 North
- ? **Worship begins at 10:30am on December 16 This will include Cantata, Children's Program and Covered Dish Lunch.**
- ? Christmas Eve Services will be held on December 24th at 3:30pm and 9:00pm.

Volunteers

Next Months volunteers will appear in the bulletin.

Greeters	Nursery continued
12/2Dink & Argie Bivens	12/23(SS)Peggy Rich
12/9 Irma Hinshaw	(WS)Sara Andrews
12/16Betsy Riley & Shirley Yoder	12/30(SS)Peggy Brooks
12/23 Haywood Forrest & Jennifer Joines	(WS)Johnnie Faulkner
12/30Donna Bartlett & Edith Isley	
Readers	Children's Church
12/2 Lora Wright	12/2 Peggy Tew & Denise Tipton
12/9 Peggy Tew	12/9Jo Fields & Martha Krueger
12/16 Hal Yoder	12/16Shanon Turner & Mike Turner
12/23 Open	12/23Jennifer Joines & Shirley Faulkner
12/30J.B. Allen	12/30 Karen Ward & Chuck Loy
Nursery	
12/2 (SS)June Durham	
(WS)Linda Martindale	
12/9 (SS)Donna Bartlett	
(WS)Kathleen Foster	
12/16(SS)Harold Hayes	
(WS)Myrna Hayes	

Prayer List

Celebrations:

- Home from the Hospital**
Kati Allen
- In the Hospital:**
John Michael (surgery 12/10)
- Medical:**
Marie Merritt Johnson
- Other:**
Family of Richard Frye

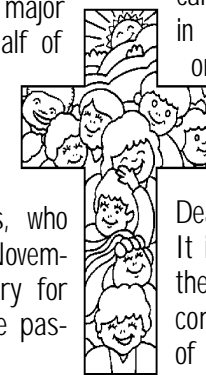
Sunday School News :

Young Adults Class won the attendance banner for October with 70%, as did the Searchers Class with 75%

Daycare News

News from the Board

During the past three months the Daycare Board has been working long evenings to guide this ministry through two major transitions. After a year and a half of hard work Gerry White had helped the daycare strengthen its finances and was ready for the Board to find a new bookkeeper.



The Board hired Annette Owens, who took over responsibilities as of November 1st. The Board thanks Gerry for her hard work and celebrates the passion she has for the kids.

The second major transition is the hiring of a new Director. Faced with two excellent candidates, the board spent 6 days in prayer seeking God's choice. Meeting after church, each board member present expressed their belief that Sybil Dial-DeSimone was God's choice.

Sybil will be starting on December 3rd. We celebrate the vision and leadership she

will bring. We also thank Shirley for her leadership and hard work during the time we were without a director. Join the daycare in welcoming Sybil by lifting her up in prayer, taking the time to meet her or sending a note of support.

From the New Director

Dear Church Members:

It is a pleasure to join the staff at Emmanuel Daycare. I commend the center for the immaculate reputation it has established in the community for so many years. I have a great passion for the welfare of children. In addition to raising three sons, I have operated one of the best summer day camps in Alamance County as well as a licensed home daycare. I am the Children's Council director and a Children's Sunday School teacher for my church. I encourage all members at Emmanuel get involved with this most important ministry we are providing the community. Many of you are blessed with talents such as: story telling, singing, playing an instrument, puppetry etc. If you wish to share these gifts with the children, I would be most grateful. Thank-you for your continue support of the Daycare.

In Christian Love, Sybil Dial-DeSimone

Christmas Love Offering for Church Staff

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee would like to once again give our church membership the opportunity to make donations towards a Christmas Love Offering for the church staff. This offering will be distributed among our 5 staff members: pastor, secretary, choir director, organist and custodian.

You may place your donation in an envelope and mark it "Christmas Love Offering" and place it in the offering plates on the Sunday mornings of December 2nd, 9th and 16th. If you prefer,

you may mail your donation or bring it by the church office. Your gifts will be distributed to the staff at the Church Christmas Party December 16th.

Our church is blessed with a fine staff that serves our church well. Please consider the Christmas Love Offering as one of the ways to express our love and gratitude to the staff for all that they do for our church.

Bob Durham – Chairman
Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Elon University's "Cookie Walk"

For five years The Methodist Fellowship has had a "Cookie Walk." at Elon University. This is a study break where students come in and get snack foods to sustain them through the night before exams. The first year, 50 students came, last year, around 450 attended. We need help!

In the past Emmanuel has helped. This year the United Methodist Women have made a commitment to be part of this ministry. But with enrollment over 4,000 this year, the Methodist Fellowship expects large numbers again and that is where YOUR HELP is needed. If you can supply cookies,



We need help!

packaged popcorn and potato chips, crackers, fresh fruit, or anything of that nature **leave it in the church library by 4:00pm on December 7th**. Any snack food would be appreciated to help feed the hungry students who are often in the library pulling "all-nighters." If you feel called to assist us in this leave your food in the library by 4:00pm on the 7th. If you need more information or need help getting your food to church contact Linda Martindale at 278-5620 or Peggy Tew at 227-5450.

Thanks for your help

Memorials & Honorariums

Sandy Hodges from Jim & Becky Brown, Jack & Dot Lindley, Harold & Sara Andrews, Don & Gerry White, Pat & Polly Martin, Bill & Peggy Rich, Bivens Sunday School Class, Sue Page, Hugh & Jo Fields and Dink & Argie Bivens for the general fund.

Pete Hargrove from Winston & Frances May, Gurney Stanfield for the general fund.

Emmett Riggs from Frances Riggs for the general fund.

Kaye Collins from David & Valerie Mitcheson, Don & Gerry White, John & Grace Michael, Keith & Ruth Crabtree, Lucille Pace, Bob & June Durham, Harold & Sara Andrews, James & Catherine Pruitt, Jim & Becky Brown, Rena Killas, Sue Page, Will & Linda Hartley, Stavros Grill, Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Pate, Jack & Dot Lindley, Hugh & Jo Fields, Kermit & Jean Pike, Dink & Argie Bivens, Donna Burch, Raye & Margaret Porterfield, Pete & Ruth Rascoe, Morris & Nellie Bowman, Nannie Somers, Aphrodite & Constantine Galitsis and Anthony & Thalia Bundros for the general fund and from Dot Johnston and Mae Tomlinson for the flower fund.

Judy Riggs from Frances Riggs for the general fund.

December Birthdays

12/2..... Noelle Qualls
12/3..... Charles Loy
12/4..... Elizabeth Bailey
12/4..... Jason Shingleton
12/5..... Esther Martin
12/7..... Betty Melvin
12/7..... Matthew Czagas
12/7..... Keith Crabtree
12/7..... Ronald Stuber
12/10..... Hal Yoder
12/12..... Ella Gibson
12/15..... Margie Mason
12/17..... Esther Nichols
12/18..... Robert Miller
12/20..... Allen Ray, III
12/21..... Kirstie Brintle
12/22..... Mozel Foster
12/24..... Carol Kellenberger
12/26..... Harold Andrews
12/26..... Sebastian Thornton
12/27..... Becky Brown
12/27..... Alan Johnson
12/31..... David Webster

Thank You From Paula

My Dear Emmanuel Family,
Thank you so much for your many beautiful cards & notes I have received from you during my recent illness. How fortunate I am to have such a loving Christian family. God has truly blessed me. I am on the road to recovery and hopefully will be starting in-home therapy soon. Your prayers and thoughts and kind acts toward my mother have been greatly appreciated. May God bless you all. I hope to be back soon.



Love, Paula

Worship Begins at 10:30AM on Sunday the 16th

Let's not get too serious

Q: What do you call the fear of getting stuck in a chimney?

A: Santa Claus-trophobia.

Q: What do they call Santa's helpers?

A: Subordinate Clauses

Q: Who sings "Love Me Tender," and makes Christmas toys?

A: Santa's little Elvis

Q: Which of Santa's reindeers needs to mind his manners most?

A: "Rude"olph

CATS' TOP 8 CHRISTMAS SONGS

8. Have Yourself a Furry Little Christmas
7. Joy to the Curled
6. I Saw Mommy Hiss at Santa Claus
5. The First Meow
4. Oh, Come All Ye Fishful
3. Silent Mice
2. Jingle Balls
1. Wreck the Halls!



(Continued from page 1)

A Holy Christmas

reflect on God's mighty acts of salvation and the time to get every thing done. In some respects we are like John Wesley on a boat that is in danger of sinking. We are rocked by heavy schedules, strong emotions, and a tug of war between the arrival of both Christ and Santa. All too

often we feel like we are sinking.

In the midst of this, where do we turn for guidance, hope, peace and joy?

Wesley knew in his head and saw in the Moravians that he must turn to his faith in Christ for all that he was looking, eventually he did. As you face the challenges of this season let me suggest a few things that will help you turn to Christ:

1. During the season of Advent (Sunday December 2nd through Christmas Eve) make a commitment to read & meditate on an Advent Devotional (we will have them available in the vestibule during advent.) If you already participate in daily devotions (I hope you do,) do your advent devotions at a different time than your regular devotions. If you have young children get for them an advent calendar and family devotion (both also available in the vestibule) and share with them in the experience.

**Get your age appropriate
Advent devotion material
in church on the
First Sunday of Advent
(December 3rd)**

2. Attend a Christmas Eve Service with everyone who is there to celebrate Christmas (including guests). This can be done even if you are out of town visiting.
3. **BEFORE opening the presents** read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) and have each person present tell what Christ's birth has meant for them. By doing this

before the presents, it puts the important thing (Christ's Birth) first and everything else in perspective. Do this for two years in a row and your kids won't let you miss it for the rest of their lives.

4. Bring Christ to the Christmas dinner table. You might include and or all of the following:

- a. Find someone outside your family who will be alone for the holidays (call a retirement home if you can't think of anyone) and make them a part of your celebrations (remember Mary & Joseph couldn't find anyone to take them in.)
- b. Serve a Birthday Cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.
- c. Assign meaning to different parts of the meal. (Mash potatoes remind us of the Angeles singing hallelujah in the clouds; Yellow corn reminds us of the gift of gold; Pigs-in-a-blanket snacks remind us of the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. It is "corny" but when used consistently from year to year can be quite effective.

d. If nothing else set a place for Jesus at the table.

5. End Christmas day (or on Christmas eve) by reading the story of Christ's death and resurrection and remind each other why the Christ baby came to earth.

6. **For the really brave:** Spend Christmas day worshipping, talking, reading scripture, meditating on Christ's coming etc. give up the football and put off present exchanging until January 6th which is Epiphany or "Old Christmas" when the Magi were to have given Christ their gifts. You will have no trouble knowing what the day is about.

I hope you move beyond surviving the storm of the holidays and make a commitment to put your faith in God's grace. I pray that this Christmas season you not only make it through the stormy seas of the holidays but that your faith grows in the mighty ways for which God has provided.