



DECEMBER, 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

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The Pathfinder

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Advent, Christmas and the New Year

As hard as it is for me to imagine, here we are again in the season of Advent. The tree is up, the church has been decorated and we've already lit our first Advent Candle. The season of preparing our hearts for the birth of the Christ Child has begun.



During the season of Advent there are several special opportunities for us to gather together to celebrate our God. On December 4, the children will be sharing their Christmas Program during the 10:45 am service; on December 11, we will rejoice with Appalachian Christmas and on December 18, the Choir will present their Cantata, "Noel."

On Christmas Eve we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with two Communion and Candlelight Services at 5 pm and at 8 pm. We will be reminded that our baby Jesus came to be the light of the world. Note: there will be no nursery available during these services, they are kid-friendly.

On Christmas morning we will welcome our newborn King with one worship service (no Sunday school and no nursery) at 10:45 am by singing Christmas carols and hearing some of their stories.

On New Year's Day we will be back to our normal morning schedule as we celebrate Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service together in worship. The heart of this service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God and what better "New Year's Resolution" could we make than committing ourselves to God?

Isaiah, Chapter 9, Verse 7

*"For a child has been born -- for us! The gift of a son -- for us!
He'll take over the running of the world. His name will be: Almighty Counselor,
Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness.
His ruling authority will grow, and there will be no limits to the wholeness he
brings."*

-- The Message

Save the Date

Dec 3 Parsonage Open House 2-5 pm

Dec 4 Children's Program at 10:45 service

Dec 11 Appalachian Christmas 7 pm; dinner at 5:30 pm

Dec 17 Jonesborough Christmas Church Stroll

Dec 18 Christmas Cantata at 10:45 service

Dec 24 Christmas Eve services 5 pm and 8 pm; no nursery

Dec 25 Christmas Day service 10:45 (only); no Sunday School; no nursery

Dec 28 & 29 Choir singing at Biltmore

Looking Ahead

Jan 1 Wesley Covenant Service at both services

Jan 14-15 RezKids (children's event)

Jan 20-22 Resurrection (youth event)

Jan 29 Church Council Meeting

YOU ARE INVITED . . .



. . . to the Third Annual Parsonage Open House on Saturday, December 3rd from 1 pm - 4 pm at 1016 Allison Drive. Pastor Karen, Joe, JJ and Makayla invite you to come and enjoy some holiday treats while we fellowship together.

This is a great way to start the Christmas Season. We hope to see you there.

Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas program will be Sunday, December 4, during the second service. It will feature members of the congregation, youth and children, presenting a play titled: "Toooooo-busy!!!" It will show how we all get into a big rush during the Christmas season and forget the real meaning of Christmas.

The girls' dance team will perform a beautifully choreographed dance to "Thy Will Be Done" — they are led by Kim Jamerson. There will also be songs by the toddlers, boys and others. It will be a special time. Hope everybody can join us on that Sunday!



Appalachian Christmas

On Sunday, December 11, at 7:00 pm, the Jonesborough Novelty Band will be a part of the 23rd annual "Appalachian Christmas" along with the McChoir Sisters. It's a community Christmas sing-along with lots of singing, laughing, and fellowship.

The youth sponsor a soup and sandwich dinner starting at 5:30pm. A special offering will be collected for Habitat For Humanity. Join us as we celebrate this special time of the year.



Recent Youth Activities

Our youth love to cook and take food to our "special friends". It is a great way for them to get to know each other. They were blessed to know Dr. Buddy, Mr. Bill, and Miss Dot. Thank you, families, for sharing with us!



Coming events for our youth include:

- Dec. 4 Shop for Angels
- Dec. 7 Help with parade float
- Dec. 11 Appalachian Christmas
- Dec. 18 Christmas Party
- Dec. 21 Shop With a Cop

Church Family News

Sympathy to Mary Nelle Roberson and family on the death of her husband, Bill Roberson

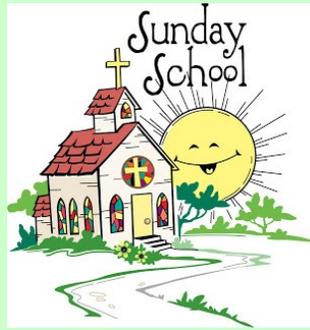
Sympathy to Bill and Gracie Garland on the death of his mother and her grandmother, Dorothy Garland Cullop

Sympathy to Lynn and Tracey Behrer on the death of their son, Justin

Dean Miller has moved:
Dean Miller, Room 204,
Brookdale of West Augusta,
105 North Hills Drive, West
Augusta, SC 29841; phone:
803-426-8212. Son Todd
(706-504-4050) says you're
welcome to call any time to
check on Dean

Sympathy to the family of
Reva Gouge, who passed
away Nov. 10 in Nashville.
She was a faithful member
of our church until moving in
2010 to be closer to family.

Spotlight on Adult Sunday School



The Upper Room Sunday School Class meets each Sunday in the fellowship hall. The group consists of men and women ranging from young parents to single adults to seasoned couples. Each Sunday, Joel Conger leads the group through different book studies. Currently, they are focusing on key events and people from Christian history from the book, "Christian History Made Easy."

The class helps support local families in the community with financial support/supplies and individuals attending global mission trips. A local commitment the class has started is providing a meal each month for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their children are in the hospital.

Members of the class support each other with prayer and fellowship. All are welcome!

New Acolytes begin

We would like to welcome our new acolytes who were recently trained, received pins and are currently doing a great job lighting the candles.

Thank you to Sadie Hyatt, Makayla Lane, Olivia Lawrence, Perry Roberts, Reagan Toth-Bowden, Andrew Ward, and Danica Williams for your service to the church by helping to lead in worship.



NEWS FROM YOUR CHOIR

December is a busy month for our church and for our choir. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, we want to invite you to join us for some special choir events.

You are invited to the Town of Jonesborough Christmas Stroll on Saturday, December 17th:

11:00 Noel Night of Everlasting Love Christmas Cantata

12:00 Various Choral Anthems

1:00 Harp Strings Studio Harp Ensemble – thank you Martha Painter, teacher and director, for coming and sharing with us for this special occasion.

JUMC's sanctuary will be filled with beautiful harp music during the Downtown Jonesborough Community Christmas Stroll event. Please join us.

You are invited to our Christmas Cantata Dec. 18th, at the 10:45 service. The choir will share Noel-Night of Everlasting Love, a compelling collection of timeless Christmas classics simply telling the story of Jesus' birth with a beautiful blend of tenderness, majesty, and energy capturing the wonder in the coming of Jesus and the redemption He brought to earth.

How many people does it take to fill the JUMC sanctuary? As you know, God works miracles and at one time we prayed that we had enough choir members to sing the Sunday's anthem. At one Wednesday night choir practice, we prayed that we would outgrow the choir loft. God has and always will provide. So, Dear Lord, help us to fill and outgrow our sanctuary on December 18th and every Sunday, that we may live in Your Everlasting Love. In Your Holy Presence, Amen.

You are invited to join us at Biltmore as we tell the story of Jesus' birth through song to thousands of people on December 28th and 29th from 5:30 – 9:00 pm. All of our musical offerings we lift to God in praise and adoration, asking God to bless others through them so that they, too, may come to know Jesus.

We made 90 Operation Christmas Child Boxes!

Pastor Karen blesses the Operation Christmas Child boxes before they are sent from our church, as all the children pray with her for those who will receive them.



December Mission Project: A Christmas gift for Jubilee Project in Hancock County-- Advance #781350

Hancock County is a beautiful place, in many ways a place that time forgot. Tucked in between Clinch and Powell Mountains, the landscape is lovely, but often unseen is persistent and pervasive poverty rivaling any third world country. This county is the second poorest in Tennessee and was recently ranked as the 27th poorest in the nation. One in three people live in poverty. For children, the rate rises to an alarming 42.2%. This situation did not happen overnight, and it will not disappear immediately, but the United Methodist Church established Jubilee Project in 1991 to reduce this burden on our neighbors across the mountain. While the needs of poverty are many, the needs addressed by Jubilee Project include lack of safe drinking water, substandard housing, food insecurity, and a lack of opportunities for development of youth and children.

In answer to a letter requesting information on current needs, the director, Linda Stansky, responded with the following touching letter:

Thank you so much for your support and advocacy for Jubilee Project... and thank you for asking what our special needs are. If you would like to stay in the vein of the "Children in Poverty" focus, I would like to lift a couple of ideas. One is that we've sent five youth each summer to have their first camp experience at Wesley Woods. We would like to continue and hopefully expand that program, so camp scholarships are needed.

This year our youth group is comprised mostly of girls and they really love to do crafts and cook. Heidi and I have been trying to teach them something about healthy cooking on a budget, but buying the food is an expense that's not currently in our budget. We send home a small sack of snack-type foods with them for the weekend, but we would love to have them take home something healthy they made for their families. Food is an issue for almost every family associated with the youth group. It would be wonderful to have some help with that. And kind of in the same vein is that we need a second stove for our kitchen. Just this last week we had the natural gas fittings put on only to find out that the gas stove we had in storage doesn't work anymore (it did when it was put into storage). It's not in any shape to be repaired, so we'll be looking for another one. Part of the funds could be designated for that, too, since feeding folks is a big part of our ministry.

I hope this gives you some ideas, but know that we are grateful for anything that works well for you. For future reference, another idea is our water project which is a separate fund and there are always needs there.

Blessings,

Linda Stransky, Director Jubilee Project

It is not an easy trip to Sneedville where Jubilee Project is located, but our love can easily reach the people they serve through our gift offerings marked for this ministry in December.



HOLIDAY PARTYING WITH HEALTH IN MIND

Enjoy the season's social gatherings without sabotaging your nutritious eating efforts.

- Fuel up before the festivities. Eat a healthful meal before heading out to the party. That way, you won't be too hungry when you arrive, and you may be less likely to overdo it on the appetizers.
- Focus on fiber. Consider eating fruit, veggies, whole grains and beans to keep you full.
- Skip the dip. You can consume more calories than you think eating dips made with sour cream, cream cheese or butter.
- Obey the 3-bite rule. If you want to enjoy a high-fat, high-calorie dessert, do so in moderation. Tell yourself that you'll take only 3 bites: the first one to taste, the second and third to savor.
- Always eat sitting down. If you fill your plate and sit down to eat, you may eat less than if you nibble while you're standing.

Stay healthy & wash your hands!

*Renee McNeese, RN
Parish Nurse*

From HOPEHealth December 2013 33(12)

Library News

Peggy Rice has given the following books: Frozen in Time, a book about a bronze statue that contains a time capsule that disappears from its base, and A Fitting Conclusion, about a stray cat showing up with a diamond engagement ring attached to its collar.

Two children's books have been donated: one is Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type, a Caldecott Honor Book, and The Not So Itsy-Bitsy Spider, a pop-up book.

Also, a Smoky Mountain novel, Tell Me About Orchard Hollow, by Lin Stepp, has been added to our collection.





JAMA Item for DECEMBER

Cereal



Please give generously
to
Jonesborough Area
Ministerial Association.

Jonesborough United Methodist Church
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