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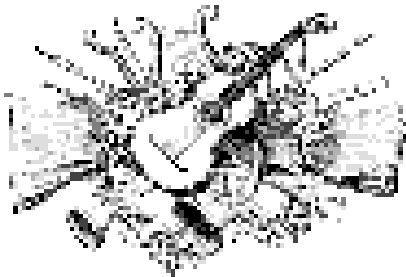


The Newsletter of West Market Street United Methodist Church, Inc.

Volume P, Number 22

November 26, 2008

Greensboro, NC



WMSUMC Chancel Choir and Orchestra present

Christmas Reflections: A Carol Festival

Sunday, December 14

8:30 and 10:55 a.m. Worship Services

*"...Who among us does not have dreams
that this year will be different?*

*Who among us does not intend to go
peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem...?"*

Familiar carols and anthems will be sung by the congregation and Chancel Choir as we revisit the story and message of Advent and Christmas. *Angels We Have Heard on High, Go Tell It on the Mountain, and Silent Night* will reverberate in our Sanctuary as choir, organ, and orchestra present well-known words and melodies.

In addition to music, poems which reflect on angels, shepherds, Bethlehem and the Holy Night will be shared. These thoughtful readings are from a collection entitled *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, by American writer, speaker and liturgist Ann Weems.

This special worship service will be meditative and joyful, encouraging and hopeful.

"And this year

*let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God,
let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams,
let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship,
let's do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God
for all we've seen and heard!*

As for the Advent frantic pace, we don't have time for that.

We'll be too busy singing!

This year will be different!"

From **Kneeling in Bethlehem** by Ann Weems

Advent Candlelight Dessert Celebrates the Beginning of Advent

Make plans to attend the Advent Candlelight Dessert Wednesday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This special celebration of the beginning of Advent, sponsored by the Worship Committee and Wednesday Church Night Team, is a long-standing tradition of WMSUMC.

The 40-minute program includes a light dessert, special music and singing of familiar carols and lighting the Advent candles. It is a meaningful event for people of all ages, and everyone is invited as we prepare for Christmas.

During this special service in which we emphasize the four weeks of Advent, the Fellowship Hall will be arranged with many Advent wreaths furnished by members of the WMSUMC family. Candles will be provided for the service.

The Advent Candlelight Dessert provides a great time for fellowship and the opportunity to meet other members of the WMSUMC family. It is wonderful to know that Christians around the world share in the observance of Advent as we wait to celebrate God's great gift of love, Jesus Christ.

A reservation for the WCN dinner is required by noon Monday, December 3. The Advent Candlelight Dessert, which begins at 6:30 p.m., does not require a reservation.



transformed
living

Commitment Sunday Update

As of November 18, 255 Commitment Cards have been received. Thirty-Six percent of those have increased by an average of fourteen percent over their 2008 amount, 15 percent have decreased by an average of 24 percent below their 2008 amount, and nine percent of the cards represent new commitments for 2009. All together the cards received represent a net increase of \$78,805 or eight percent, over their 2008 amounts. This is a wonderful start, however there are still 221 households that have a 2008 pledge that have not yet responded for 2009. If you are one of those folks, you are asked to turn your card in as soon as possible so that we can complete ministry plans for 2009. Thank you to those of you who have responded so faithfully.

Our Mission: *The mission of WMSUMC is to glorify God as we make, nurture and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ.*

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR . .

There are so many ironies and paradoxes in life. On the one hand there is insecurity – personally and financially. On the other there is beauty and faithfulness among members of the family of Christ.

On the one hand we're moving into the season of blessing and thanksgiving while on the other side of things there are those who are cold, lonely, and in darkness. On the one hand we're looking to give just the right gift to people who already have so much that they have to store it in storage bins and on the other we're all searching for the gift of meaning and fulfillment.

So many people this time of year are asking: "What can I do to experience the true meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas?" The answer that has worked for me and so many, for decades — even centuries— is to reach out and offer yourself to another.

There are many ways we can do that. In our congregation we seek to discern God's heart as to where we are to serve. And God never fails us. This year God has led us to make several opportunities available to you that both you and so many others will experience the presence of Christ.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing: Be the face of Christmas as you greet shoppers at the Harris Teeter on Lawndale and raise needed funds for the Salvation Army. This is an incredible opportunity to share the love of Christ with all whom you meet as you ring the bell in support of an important local ministry. Fun for the whole family, and flexible hours today through December 23!

Glenn Draper Singers (Junaluska Singers) December 21, 7:00 p.m. WMSUMC Sanctuary

A wonderful Christmas Concert will be presented in our sanctuary by the Junaluska Singers on December 21, at 7:00 p. m. The concert is free but an offering will be received to help cover the cost. Plan to come and bring all your friends.

We are responsible for housing the singers overnight on the 21st. We need 20 rooms (double occupancy) in order to have a place for everyone to sleep. You will need to provide a light breakfast (cereal and fruit) the next morning and have them back here at the Church by 8:00 a.m. to catch their bus to go to Charlotte for their final performance before Christmas. Please call Bill Ellison at 275-4587, vm17 or e-mail bellison@wmsumc.org if you can help. We need to get these rooms lined up before we get into the Thanksgiving holidays. Thank you for your help.



UMC Christmas Store: Support the 2nd Annual Greensboro District-Wide Christmas Store with your time and your "presents" on Saturday, December 13. Our church is joining 17 other United Methodist Churches to provide 200 families in need with an opportunity to "shop" for Christmas presents for their children.

Give Alternative Gifts to your Friends and Loved Ones: This year, give the gift that will last and keep on giving. A catalogue of alternative gifts (items and funds that benefit local and global ministries) has been assembled to assist you in selecting ministries to support in lieu of giving a traditional Christmas present. You will receive a gift card to present to the recipient of your alternative gift, as well as an insert card that explains the ministry your gift is supporting. Alternative gift donations accepted through December 24. Visit the Web site online to view the catalogue, or pick one up at the Outreach Table in the Gathering Space or Fellowship Hall, beginning Sunday, December 7.

I love win/win situations – opportunities to grow in relationship to Christ as we share Christ with others who are in need. That is my prayer for you this season: that you may receive God's blessing as you reach out to bless others. Happy Thanksgiving!

Dave Melton

WORSHIP

Sundays,
November 30 &
December 7

8:30 and 10:55 a.m.
Sanctuary
9:40 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Sermon: Dave Melton
The 11:00 A.M. Sunday
Worship Service is broadcast
over WPET 950 AM

Tuesday Music

12:30 p.m. Sanctuary

December 2

Season's Best
(Kathy & Ray Stewart,
Kim & Ash Harrison)

December 9

Susan Bates and
Alice Ann Johnson,
organ and piano
Music for meditation begins
at 12:25 p.m.
A light lunch will be served
each Tuesday from
11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and

WCN Menu

December 3
Advent Candlelight

Dessert

Lasagna
Salad

December 10

Soup and Salad Bar

Thank You for Turkey & Fixin's Donations

A big Thank You to all who donated food, turkey bucks, and time to the 5th Annual Turkey & Fixin's Food Drive and Day of Sharing.

Art News

The Art Committee is very excited about the most recent gift of art given to our church by Trudy Atkins and her daughter, Trudi. It is called *Arctic Madonna* and is on display in the Gathering Space. The artist is Pitaloosie Saila, a Canadian woman born in 1942, who lives in Cape Dorset, Nunavut.

The Woman and Child are Inuit, a race recognized internationally for their stone sculptures, fine art prints and fabric arts. Over 27% of the population is involved in the production of Inuit art. Every community has amazing artists producing original works in stone, bone, cloth, skins and prints.

This Arctic Madonna print is color stonecut and stencil on laid paper. The framing was done by Nonnie at Penland and really enhances the piece. The print was purchased in Anchorage about 20 years ago by Trudy and we are so appreciative to her and Trudi for their generosity in sharing this art piece with us. It will be a beautiful addition to our collection of Madonna prints which will soon be featured in the gallery.

Visit the Gathering Space and take a minute to look at this print – it is absolutely beautiful!

Notice: Demand for Shelter has Exploded!

Greensboro Urban Ministry Needs our Help! WMSUMC has offered to be an overflow shelter site for those cold nights when Greensboro Urban Ministry and Salvation Army are full.

Your help is needed to stay with these overnight guests and ensure they are transported to and from Greensboro Urban Ministry. Sign-up sheets are available in the Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall.

Please prayerfully consider helping with this vital ministry! Questions? Call the Outreach Ministry office at 275-4587, vm 16

Hearing Screening December 5

The UNCG Master's of Speech and Hearing program will hold a hearing screening for WMSUMC on Friday, December 5, from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. in rooms 302A, 302B and 302D. Please call Jeanne Shepherd at 275-4587, vm 10, to sign up for an appointment. Appointments will take approximately 10 minutes each. There is no charge. For questions contact Sandra Howell at 275-4587, vm 15.

Mission Possible Kids

On November 16, the Mission Possible Kids celebrated touching over 1000 lives since September 10. The variety of projects they have done include making Busy Bags for hospitalized children, planting flowers at Washington Elementary School, making garlands for soldiers overseas, doing reverse trick-or-treating at Brighton Gardens and Vera Springs, and Operation Christmas Child. They also collected pennies all over downtown for Pennies for Peace. The kids collected over \$750 to go to The Central Asia institute, which builds schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Thanks to Ginger Shields, the leadership team and all the MPKids agents for making a difference in the world!

Mission Possible Kids meets every Wednesday from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Room 304E, and is open to children in grades K - 5.

To the Staff and Members of WMSUMC

Friends, I just want to give thanks for the phone calls and cards I have received following my knee replacements. I appreciate them all. May God bless everyone.

Eddie Tatum

Our Church Family

As of November 20, 2008

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Betty Cone** on the death of her father, Marvin Martin Ward, of Winston-Salem, on November 10, 2008; and to **Susan Kennerly** and **Jeanette Billings** on the death of their father and grandfather, Fred William Dennis, of Concord, NC, on November 13, 2008.

New Babies

Welcome to the following:

Vivienne Betts Hodge, daughter of Michael and **Laura Hodge**, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, born November 13, 2008. Maternal grandparents are **Carol and Earl Betts**.

Lucas William Simons, son of Reid and Michael Simons, of Charlotte, NC, born November 10, 2008. Great grandmother is **Nell Abels**.

Baptism

Stella Jane Lanier, daughter of Margaret and Taylor Lanier, was baptized Sunday, November 23, 2008. Paternal grandparents are **Patsy and Elton Smith** and maternal great grandmother is Nancy Neese.

Wedding

Congratulations to **Leslie Rettig** and Bradley Pcolinsky who were married on November 1, 2008, in Sycouse, NY.

**Opportunities for
November 30—December 13**
Leak Chapel open daily 11a.m.-2 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

8:00 am Laity in Prayer, 319
8:30 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:40 am Worship Service, FH
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
4:00 pm WMS Instrumentalists, 317

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

11:00 am UMW Executive Committee, FH2
12:00 noon UMW General Meeting, FH
7:00 pm Partners in Prayer, Library

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

11:45 am Tuesday Lunch, FH
12:30 pm Tuesday, Music, FH
1:00 pm First Aid Training, FH2
1:00 pm Older Adults, FH3
5:30 pm MarketBell Ringers, 316

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:00 am Sewing Group, 109
10:00 am Staff Meeting, CR
4:00 pm Mission Possible Kids, 304D
4:30 pm Consolation Ministry Team, 302B
5:15 pm WCN Dinner, FH
5:30 pm Cherub Choir, 316
5:30 pm Joyful Noise Choir, 317
6:30 pm Advent Candlelight Dessert, FH
7:30 pm Chancel Choir, 317

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:30 pm 9:40 Worship Rehearsal, FH
7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery, 405
7:00 pm *Jazz Nativity* Rehearsal, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

4:00 pm Handbell Concert, Sanctuary
5:00 pm *Jazz Nativity*, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 am Laity in Prayer, 319
8:30 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:40 am Worship Service, FH
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
5:30 pm UMYF, Coffee House

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

11:45 am Tuesday Lunch, FH
12:30 pm Tuesday Music, Sanctuary
1:30 pm Older Adult Team, CR
5:30 pm Finance Committee, CR
5:30 pm MarketBell Ringers, 316
6:45 pm Chancel Choir, 317

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 am Sewing Group, 109
10:00 am Staff Meeting, CR
4:00 pm Mission Possible Kids, 304D
5:15 pm WCN Dinner, FH
5:30 pm Cherub Choir, 316
5:30 pm Joyful Noise Choir, 317
6:30 pm Northwest Chorus, Sanctuary
7:30 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:00 am Christmas Store, FH

Check out WMSUMC's Web page for information on Winter 2009 Small Group Offerings.
New offerings — DBS II, The Grand Sweep, Invitation to Psalms,
Christian Believer, and Alpha

**West Market Street
United Methodist Church**

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Saturday, December 6
5:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Preceded by
**A Holiday Concert
presented by
MarketBell Ringers**
4:00 p.m.

BE AN



**Support the 2nd Annual WMS
District-wide UMC
Christmas Store!**

Help us provide 200 families in need with the opportunity to "shop" for Christmas presents for their children! We are serving over 500 children, so we need 100% congregational participation!!! Plan to purchase one or more items from the angel tree for each member of your family!

WSUMC will be collecting the following items: T-shirts, sweaters, books, coats, toys, sweatshirts, and stocking stuffers.

Select one or more ornaments from one of the trees located in the Gathering Space, Fellowship Hall, Narthex, or 3rd floor.



Sunday, November 30

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. UMYF, Youth Suite

Monday, December 1

- 12:00 noon UMW Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 2

- 12:30 p.m. Tuesday Music, Fellowship Hall
Season's Best
(Cathy & Ray Stewart, Kim & Ash Harrison)

Wednesday, December 3

- 5:15 p.m. WCN Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Candlelight Dessert, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 6

- 4:00 p.m. MarketBell Ringers Concert, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. *Bending Towards the Light: A Jazz Nativity*, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 7

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Sort for Christmas Store, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 9

- 12:30 p.m. Tuesday Music, Sanctuary
Susan Bates and Alice Ann Johnson,
Keyboard Duets for the Season

Wednesday, December 10

- 5:15 p.m. WCN Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Northwest High School Choral Concert,
Beverly Alt, director, Sanctuary

Saturday, December 13

- 9:00 a.m. Districtwide-sponsored UMC Christmas Store

Sunday, December 14

- 8:30 a.m. *Christmas Reflections: A Carol Festival*,
Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:55 a.m. *Christmas Reflections: A Carol Festival*, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, 210 Irving Place

Monday, December 15

- 11:00 a.m. Friendship Club, FH3

Wednesday, December 17

- 5:00 p.m. Mission Possible Kids Project

Thursday, December 18

- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Bag Stuffing for Potter's House,
Believers Missionary Baptist Church

Saturday, December 20

- 7:30 p.m. The Kingston Consort, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 21

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 24

- 5:00 p.m. Family Service, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Modern Christmas Eve Service, FH
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion,
Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25



Circles

Tuesday, December 2

Circle #4, 6:30 p.m., 107 Checkerberry Lane, Tina Delaporte & Trudi Atkins, hosts. Covered Dish Dinner and Meeting

Wednesday, December 3

Circle #7, 12:00 noon, Gathering Space at Church

Monday, December 8

Circle #1, 11:00 a.m., 3009 Madison Avenue, Patricia Troxler, host. Luncheon with special program

Circle #2, 10:30 a.m., Wellspring, Martha Weikel, host (lunch)

Circle #5, 6:00 p.m., Gathering Space at Church

Tuesday, December 9

Circle #6, 11:00 a.m., 2810 Asbury Terrace, Maxine Johnson, Violet Landreth & Lena Baynes, host

Thursday, December 11

Circle #8, 6:30 p.m., 214 Country Club Drive, Karen Hartley, host

Faith, Hope, & a Red Kettle Salvation Army Bell Ringing



WMSUMC is ringing the Salvation Army Bell during the Christmas season. Please join in this beautiful time of fellowship and sharing. Monies raised through the red kettles, the most visible icon of the Salvation Army, provide funding for Christmas programs and year-round social services. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness the true generosity of our community!

December 3—December 23 (No Sunday Ringing),
10:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m., Harris-Teeter on Lawndale Drive

Volunteer to be a Bell Ringer!

L.I.F.E Groups, Circles, Youth, Families, Sunday School Classes, Individuals, COM Teams. **Everyone is invited!**

Register in the Gathering Space, Fellowship Hall, the 9:40 Worship Service, and at Wednesday Church Night. **SIGN UP TODAY!** Look for the Red Kettle in the Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall....you CAN make a difference!



Plan to Purchase an “Alternative Gift”, and Give the Gift that keeps on Giving

- ◆ Are you tired of buying the same old gifts for your friends and family that none of them really need?
- ◆ Would you like to do something meaningful with your limited gift giving resources this Christmas?
- ◆ Do you want to make an impact with your money during these difficult economic times?

This year WMSUMC has put together an Alternative Gift catalogue, featuring a selection of giving opportunities that will support the Outreach Ministries of the church for both local and global missions. Options are as varied as an Onil Stove for Mayan Indian families living in the remote and impoverished jungles of Guatemala to scholarships for prospective middle and high school students in a Mexican border settlement outside of Juarez, Mexico, or sponsorship of a Washington Montessori School student attending the WMSUMC summer enrichment camp.

How do I purchase Alternative Gifts for my friends and family?

1. Pick up an Alternative Gift Catalogue at the Outreach table located in either the Gathering Space or Fellowship Hall.
2. Fill out the order form in the back of the catalogue and place it in the order form collection box.
3. One of our Outreach Team members will assist you with payment for your order.
4. You will receive a gift card to give to the person receiving the alternative gift, as well as an insert card explaining the ministry you are supporting.
5. You may also order online by visiting the Outreach section of our Web site at www.wmsumc.org.
6. You may place your order anytime prior to Christmas!