

MarketPlace



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

Volume P, Number 23

December 10, 2008

Greensboro, NC

Three Worship Services Scheduled for Christmas Eve

At 5:00 p.m., a family-oriented Christmas Eve Service will be held in the Sanctuary. Children of all ages are invited to share in the Nativity drama by participating as shepherds, sheep, wise people and angels to welcome the Holy Family. No rehearsal is planned for the drama; however, children wishing to participate are asked to come to the Chapel at **4:30 p.m.** on Christmas Eve to select their costume and receive brief instructions.

Modern Worship Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Instead of 'Rockin' around the Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve, come and 'Rock' a little bit with



us. Our band will be leading the singing of many of our traditional Christmas Carols, with a little 'modern' flavor. We will experience the Christmas story once again with fresh eyes and open hearts. Join us and bring your friends as we gather to usher the birth of the Christ Child into our lives.

Then, much later in the evening, our final Christmas Eve worship service will be held in the Sanctuary at 11:00 p.m. This service, which concludes Christmas Eve and takes us into Christmas Day, will be a service of traditional carols, anthems by the Chancel Choir, Holy Communion and candlelighting.

Church Finances Feel the Squeeze

While pledge income remains on target we are seeing the results of the market downturn in the loss of projected investment income that helps cover some of our budgeted expenses. Without a dramatic turnaround in the next two weeks, we are looking at a loss of \$30,000 in expected income that must be offset by gifts above and beyond our pledges if we are to honor the commitments we have made to other ministries and service agencies.

Please consider what you might be able to do to help us help those who are counting on us.

Also remember that all gifts for 2008 must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2008.

Weekday Parking

Due to an ever increasing need for adequate parking for weekday events at the church, **all members are asked to display a church parking permit** on their cars or to **sign in at the ECC's Receptionist's desk to avoid towing.** Permits are available at the church office.

New Members

Welcome to the following who joined WMSUMC on Sunday, November 23, 2008:

Diane Abshier, 1811 Millhouse Court 27407 (854-2141), joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Bo & Gema Hall, 1119 W. Northwood Street 27408. Bo joined by transfer from Oak Ridge UMC, Oak Ridge, and Gema joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

George & Jody Kerr, 3605 Camden Falls Circle 27410 (George: 457-9319 Jody: 255-3817), joined by transfer from Everglades Community Church, Pembroke Pines, FL.

Welcome to the following who joined WMSUMC on Sunday, November 30, 2008:

Nina Blazheva, c/o Amy Kreimer, 204 Willoughby Boulevard 27408 (288-4913), joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. Nina is a student at Greensboro College and is from Kosovo.

Brad & Kelli Davis, 3 Gleneagle Court 27408-3705 (617-7063) joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. They have two children, Sophia age 6 and Jack age 4.



**Christmas Reflections:
A Carol Festival**
Presented by Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Sunday, December 14
8:30 and 10:55 a.m. services

Christmas Music
by the Praise Band
Sunday, December 14
9:40 a.m. service

Kensington Consort Concert
Saturday, December 20
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Glenn Draper Singers
Sunday, December 21
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

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 . .



I'm writing to you from Israel, the land of Jesus' birth and earthly life. I've traveled here with 25 religious leaders from Greensboro, who covenanted to experience the wonder of the Holy Land together.

The make-up of the group is fascinating. There are three Jewish rabbis and 22 Christian pastors, from every denomination imaginable. There are Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, non-denominational pastors and Methodists. Our experience together has been challenging and rich.

We began in Caesarea, where Peter dreamed that God wanted to include Gentiles (including you and me) in the Christian faith. Then we moved on to Nazareth, where Mary received the announcement from the Angel of God that she was to conceive and bear a child that would be the Savior of the world (and also the place Jesus was raised as a child). We spent two days in the area of Galilee where Jesus spent 80 per cent of his ministry and where Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to be His disciples. While there I had the opportunity to wade in the beautiful Sea of Galilee. Then we made our way to Jerusalem, the beautiful city that is the cradle of both Judaism and Christianity.

While in Jerusalem, I had the honor of walking in the footsteps of Jesus as He made His way to the Cross (on the Via Dolorosa). I shared with our Pam Strader on the phone this past Sunday morning before she preached, that the experience of the Via Dolorosa was at the same time both powerful and emotional.

At the end of the walk, we were fortunate to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulcher at the time Orthodox priests were celebrating a candle-light worship service to close the day. After that

service, all twenty-two of us Christian pastors had the opportunity to enter the place the Orthodox Christians believe to be the tomb in which Jesus was buried. In all my days, I will never forget that compelling moment.

There will be more to share with you when I see you after I return. While I've been away I've been aware of conflicting emotions: the joy I'm experiencing in the land of Jesus and the discomfort I'm feeling from missing 10 days with you during the Advent season.

The beauty of it all is the fact that God is with us all, Jerusalem and Greensboro, at all times. The Scriptures remind us that Jesus came to us through His birth in Bethlehem, is with us now in and through this precious season and will come again in power glory at a time God has appointed.

Though I have certainly missed experiencing the first few days of the Advent season with you, I don't know if I've ever been as expectantly awaiting the celebration of His arrival at Christmas.

We have beautiful plans to communicate God's love during this season at our church. Don't miss one single opportunity to celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation (God becoming one of us) with us at West Market.

God bless you. And Merry Christmas – from the land of Jesus' birth!

Dave Melton

Congratulations to . . .

Mary Jo Elmore

Mary Jo received a special award from Hospice for 20 years of volunteer service. She was presented with a William Mangum print in appreciation for her years of compassion to those in Hospice care..

Sarah Hester

Congratulations to Sarah Hester, who was honored at the December 1 United Methodist Women General Meeting with the 2008 Gayle Hicks Fripp Award. Sarah was presented with a sapphire Special Mission Recognition pin, representing a gift to mission given in her honor

WORSHIP

8:30 and 10:55 a.m.

Sanctuary

9:40 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 14

Music Sunday

The Chancel Choir and Orchestra present

Christmas Reflections:

A Carol Festival

8:30 & 10:55 a.m.

Christmas Music by the Praise Band

Sermon: Rob Hutchinson
9:40 a.m.

Sunday, December 21

Sermon: Dave Melton

Sunday, December 28

Sermon: Bill Ellison

Sunday, January 4

Wesley Covenant Service and Holy Communion

The 11:00 A.M. Sunday

Worship Service is broadcast over WPET 950 AM

Tuesday Music

12:30 p.m. Sanctuary

January 6

Epiphany Service

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

1:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

for \$5.00.

WCN Menu

January 7

Chef's Choice

Children: Chicken Tenders

Circles

Tuesday, January 6

Circle #4, 7:30 p.m.,

44 Kinglet Circle, Laura Dixon, host.

Wednesday, January 7

Circle #7, 12:00 noon, Gathering Space.

Circle #8, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room.

Plan to Purchase an "Alternative Gift", and *Give the Gift that keeps on Giving!*



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.

Pick up an Alternative Gift Catalogue at the Outreach table located in either the Gathering Space or Fellowship Hall (or order online); fill out the order form in the back of the catalogue and place it in the order form collection box. An Outreach Team member will assist you with payment for your order. 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

You may place your order anytime prior to Christmas! Call the Outreach Ministry Office at 275-4587, vm 16 for more information.

Plan to Volunteer for the Meals for Learning Event Saturday, January 10

Remember when WMSUMC came together to raise funds to provide nutritious meals for young children living in 3rd world countries? Remember that those meals would ensure that more children would attend school?

Come Saturday, January 10 to prepare 12,500 meals for impoverished children living in Kenya; to learn more about our upcoming ministry in Kenya; and to understand and combat the 3rd world crisis of hunger.

Curious? Check out the information and sign-up sheets at the Outreach tables in the Gathering Space and the Fellowship Hall beginning December 14!

Caring for Creation WCN January 7,14,21,28

It comes at you like a flood of bad news: overpopulation, shrinking forests, expanding deserts, falling water tables, eroding soils, loss of farms, collapsing fisheries, rising temperatures, melting ice, rising seas, extinction of entire species, pollution. What is a Christian to think? Most importantly what is a Christian to do?

Tom and Carol Sineath will share their experiences and offer ideas to help you connect your faith with your environmental concerns as individuals and as a congregation. Tom and Carol are members of Front Street United Methodist Church in Burlington, NC.

Sessions will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 105. No registration is required.

Created By God

Fourth, fifth and sixth graders and their parents are invited to participate in a special upcoming event called "Created by God", a study of human sexuality with a Christian foundation. The event is Friday afternoon, January 30, and Saturday, January 31. Call Jane Brannock (275-4587, vm 13) for more details.

Worship Readiness

Worship Readiness is a six-week experiential learning time during the 10:55 service designed for four, five and six-year olds. During these sessions the children will learn the parts of the service: praise, confession, proclamation and dedication. There will also be two sessions on baptism and Holy Communion. The purpose is to help the children articulate and understand worship and better prepare them for full participation in worship. Worship Readiness will be offered January 11-February 15, with Rebecca Parker serving as the coordinator. The children will be with their parents in worship until after the children's message.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer as a helper, call Jane Brannock (275-4587, vm 13).

Registration is not required, but would greatly help in planning for this special time for the children. Please call Nancy Hamilton (275-4587, vm 12) to register your child.

Our Church Family

As of December 8, 2008

In Memoriam

Marjorie Corby Dimmett

December 1, 2008

Sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

In Memoriam

Nell Davis Abels

December 7, 2008

Sympathy is extended to her brother, **John Davis, Jr.**, family, and friends.

In Memoriam

Bertha M. Houlk

December 7, 2008

Sympathy is extended to daughter, **Libby Haynes**, family and friends.

In Memoriam

Ann Fisher Fouts

December 8, 2008

Sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Gayle Steele and Nancy Potts**, on the death of their mother, Betty Rives, on November 18, 2008; **Mary Anne Bolick** on the death of her father, Jack Bollick, of Conover, NC, on November 21, 2008; Jean Jolly on the death of her father, Rev. Frank Turner, of Murphy, NC, on December 1, 2008, and to **Betty Lee**, on the death of her father, William Delbert Perkins, of St. Albans, West VA on December 5, 2008..

Baptism

Leah Grace Aust, daughter of **Heather and Brad Aust**, was baptized Sunday, December 7, 2008.

Opportunities for December 14—January 10

Leak Chapel open daily 11a.m.-2 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 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
- 12:00 pm Missioners School Board, FH2
- 4:00 pm WM Instrumentalist, 317
- 5:30 pm UMYF Party, 210 Irving Place

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 11:00 am Friendship Club, FH2
- 7:00 pm Partners in Prayer, Library

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry, 302D
- 5:45 pm 9:40 Service Steering Committee, CR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 4:00 pm WCN Kids, 304E
- 4:30 pm Trustees, CR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 6:30 pm 9:40 Worship Rehearsal, FH
- 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery, 405

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 7:30 pm Kensington Consort Concert, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 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 Caroling
- 7:00 pm Glenn Draper Singers Concert, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Church Offices Closed

- 5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm Contemporary Service, FH
- 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas

Church Offices Closed

- 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery, 405

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Offices Closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1—Happy New Year

Church Offices Closed

- 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery, 405

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- 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, JANUARY 6

- 11:45 am Tuesday Lunch, FH
- 12:30 pm Epiphany Service, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

- 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 WCN Program
- 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 317

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

- 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery, 405

CROP Update — Thanks to our CROP walkers and sponsors we exceeded our goal of \$10,000. Our total now is \$10,117.

West Market Street United Methodist Church

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Software Innovation to be Launched

The ministerial staff and leadership are excited to share with you a new benefit of membership at West Market Street UMC. After the first of the year, the church will launch a new software innovation that will give the members of our congregation the ability to access their membership information online. You will be able to easily request changes to your address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and other items related to your membership records. Your membership profile will **only be seen by you**. You will not be able to view any other member's profile and others will not be able to view your profile. It uses the same technology that banks use to keep your financial information safe when you use online banking.

In order for members to receive this benefit, our first step is to update our current database with the e-mail addresses of all our members. Having your email address stored here in the church database is the only way you will be able to use this system. The new online software uses the combination of your first name, last name, and e-mail address as a secure method of assigning you a password. Once the online software is in place, you can access the site and request your own password. Your password will be returned to you by e-mail. Once you receive the password, you will be able to securely access your basic membership information.

Cards have been mailed to you. You will also notice on the card that there is an option to view your church newsletter online (at the WMSUMC web site) each time it is published. Participating in this endeavor would be a great way to improve your stewardship. It will enable the church to be a little "Greener" as we use less paper as well as potentially saving the church literally thousands of dollars each year. Please check the box if you would like to participate in this opportunity. As we continue to expand this new online software, it is our hope that we can send the *MarketPlace* directly to your in-box at some point in the future.

Study Groups 2009

For complete descriptions, go online to www.wmsumc.org or pick up a brochure at the church.

To register for all studies, you may register online at www.wmsumc.org or contact Nancy Hamilton (nhamilton@wmsumc.org)

Disciple II, Sunday night 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. beginning with orientation January 4, in the Gathering Space. Break for summer, resume in fall. Participant book \$33. Facilitator: Elizabeth Montgomery.

The Grand Sweep, a “365 day walk from Genesis through Revelation--read through the Bible in one year.” Will meet every other Sunday from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. beginning January 4, Participant books \$24. Facilitator: Tom Gross.

Invitation to Psalms, “a short-term Disciple study, is an in-depth study that is related to the practice of prayer.” This 10-week study meets Tuesday, January 6 through March 16, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Participant book \$9. Facilitator Gloria Covington.

Christian Believer is a “thirty-week study of

the classical doctrines of the Christian faith. Monday night 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning January 12. Break for summer, resume in fall. Participant books \$30 and \$15. Facilitator: Jane Brannock.

The Alpha Course “enables the seeker, novice, or even the seasoned Christian to explore the validity and relevance of Christianity in an informal, friendly environment that allows for plenty of discussion.” Thursday night 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. beginning February 26 through May 21. Participant book \$4.

Book Study—Sisters in the Spirit, a women's book study group that meets in the Gathering Space of the Church on Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.. Participants may join at any time.

Daniel—Beth Moore Study, the “second half of the Daniel study (Daniel 7-12)

Thursday morning group resumes Thursday, January 15 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and ends February 19. Childcare is available with request. Participant book \$15. Facilitator Beth Loseke.

or

Sunday evening group resumes Sunday, January 18 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., and ends February 22. Kathryn Van Roekel (508-9546) or kvanroekel@baf.com for additional information.

Older Adult Home Bible Study (Spring 2009). Meets Wednesday afternoons 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. February 25 to April 1, in a home.



Life Group Offering January 2009

What's a L.I.F.E. Group? The hope of each LIFE group is to grow small communities of faith within the church made up of people both within and outside of WMSUMC. These are people who are seeking their faith everyday - and wanting to do it together with a group of folks they love and trust. (“Discover L.I.F.E.” Groups - open, easy to join, and a great place to ‘get into’ the LIFE group experience.)

Several brand new groups will be starting in January for people who want to discover what the LIFE group system is all about. These groups will gather weekly, or every other week – and watch a video or work through a faith topic together. The goal is simply to discover community and begin to see how that directly influences our lives of faith in incredible ways. The leaders and times the groups will be meeting will be determined soon.

Discover L.I.F.E.: After the 9:40 Worship Sundays at 10:50 a.m., started November 2 led by Teri Smith and Chris Shield

Discover L.I.F.E.: ‘Beyond Pathways: a new Care Team whose primary goal is helping homeless families with rapid transition into permanent housing. Facilitator: Kay Harmon.

L.I.F.E. for Youth: Two times on Sunday, 9:45 and 10:50 a.m. (6th -12th grade). There are great leaders for our amazing teenagers.

Discover L.I.F.E. Sunday, late afternoons, two times a months; the group will look at some books/video that will spark conversation around ways to strengthen our own faith. Facilitated by Kim and Rob Ball and Erin Deal.

Giving L.I.F.E to College Guys: Currently meeting every two weeks on Sunday after the 10:55 a.m. service-various places.

Living L.I.F.E.: Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

WILD L.I.F.E.: A LIFE Group study of the **Wild Goose Chase**, by Mark Batterson, and facilitated by Beth Tracey. Mondays, beginning January 5, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

WMS Instrumentalists — Anyone 8th grader and over who has ever enjoyed playing a musical instrument is invited. Chuck Spicer will direct this group of musicians. Rehearsals will be held Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.