People of Faith

December 2011

"The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

By the time you read this newsletter, the church will be facing the second Sunday of Advent. Advent began on Sunday, November 27, following on the heels of Thanksgiving Day. Now, Christmas Day is rushing toward us – 21 more days. Are you prepared for Christmas? Have you finished your shopping? Are you checking your list, and checking it twice?

Before Christmas Day arrives, there is much to do. Here at Faith, we have scheduled a Christmas Celebration and Children's Pageant for Wednesday, December 14, at 6:00pm. This year, Christmas Eve is on Saturday, and we will have a Christmas Eve Communion and Candle Lighting Service at 7:00pm. But this means that Christmas Day is on Sunday. How appropriate! We will have a brief worship service on Christmas morning at 10:30am. It has been a long time since Christmas Day fell on Sunday, but this year on Christmas morning we can sing appropriately "O Come, All Ye Faithful," especially the 6th stanza, "Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning." There will be no Sunday School on Christmas morning, but we will have a social time with coffee, doughnuts, etc., beginning about 9:45am.

Christmas Day is a time when every Christian should be in church, including children. Going to church on Christmas morning is an occasion for our children to learn that Christmas Day is about more than Santa Claus and getting presents. The question on Christmas Day is not "How Can I worship on Christmas Day," but "How can I *not* worship on Christmas Day?"

No doubt every individual and every family have plans for Christmas Day, including Santa Claus and preparing Christmas dinner, and visiting family. That is how it should be. But can we Christians carve out some time to worship the birth of Christ? After all, without that birth, there would be no Christmas, no Santa Claus for our children, no family get-together dinner! There would be no "joy to the world" on December 25.

As a preacher, I have noted for many years that we Christians participate in two Christmases. First, there is the culture's Christmas. This is the Christmas of Santa Claus, Rudolph-the-Red-Nose-Reindeer, Bing Crosby's White Christmas, and Jingle Bells, and the picture of that Budweiser wagon being pulled by those beautiful Clydesdale horses, slogging through a winter wonderland. I participate in that Christmas. I revel in that Christmas, and it contributes to the joy of the season.

Then there is that second Christmas, the church's Christmas. This is the Christmas of angels and virgin birth, Bethlehem, shepherds and wise men. This is the Christmas that is a story about the birth of a baby named Jesus, about the "Word becoming flesh," a story that has framed our lives for over 2,000 years, changed how we view the world, how we see each other, and gave us a new image and understanding of God. This is the Christmas that gave us hope of life, gave us light for our darkness, forgiveness of our sins, and eventually conquered death by resurrection. Because of the birth of a baby, our lives are made meaningful.
This is truly the most wonderful time of the year.
My dear Christian friends, how can we not worship on Christmas morning?

Don

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Lectionary Readings – December

December 4, 2011 [Purple or Blue]
Second Sunday of Advent
Deuteronomy 8:7–18; Isaiah 40:1–11
Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 (UMH 806);
2 Peter 3:8–15a; Mark 1:1–8

December 11, 2011 [Purple or Blue]
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126 (UMH 847)
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28

December 18, 2011 [Purple or Blue]
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16; Luke 1:47–55 (UMH 199)
Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38

December 24, 2011 [White or Gold]
Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2–7; Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1–20

December 25, 2011 [White or Gold] Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 98 (UMH 818);
Hebrews 1:1–4 (5–12)

Church News

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Upcoming Events at Faith

- **LICS** is still in need of food for the food pantry and in need of volunteers. Most needed items: Oatmeal, Grits, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Ravioli/ Spaghetti O's, Beef Stew, Sloppy Joes, BBQ, Pork-n-Beans, Spaghetti and Spaghetti sauce, Pinto/Navy Beans and Collards and Turnips. For more info, contact Brad Levi.
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- Sunday, December 11 Christmas Social at the home of Pat White – 6:00 PM
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- Wed., December 14 Christmas Celebration & Children's Pageant (Dinner @ 6pm; Program @ 7pm
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- Sat., December 24 Christmas Eve Worship – 7:00pm
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- Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day Worship – 10:30am (No Sunday School; Coffee & Donuts @ 9:45am)

Epworth Angel Tree sponsored by Faith UMC

The Angel tree in the foyer is decorated with angel tags listing an item from a child's wish list. Please select a tag (or tags), purchase the item, attach the angel tag and place your unwrapped gift under the angel tree by Wednesday, 12/7/11. (Gift bags or wrapping paper would be appreciated.) Epworth wants each child to receive the same number of gifts, so in lieu of purchasing additional items for the child represented by your angel tag, please consider providing gift cards that can be used for emergencies or birthdays throughout the year. Thank you for sharing your blessings to help make Christmas special for these children. If you have any questions, please contact: Cheryl Fraylick at 808-7291 or cfraylick@gmail.com.

The congregation is invited to **Faith's annual Christmas Social** on Sunday, 12/11/11, at 6:00 PM at the home of Pat White, 260 Bent Ridge Court, Lexington, SC 29072, 356-8005. Please bring a hors d'oeuvre or dessert and a wrapped gift (approximately $10) for the gift auction. Proceeds from the auction will go to missions.
Please sign up in the church narthex so we will know how many are coming and what finger food you will provide. We hope you can join us for this special time of fellowship. Thank you!

Faiths Special Mission

The United Methodist Women selected the 82nd Airborne team of John Chandler as their mission. As many of you know, Johnny Chandler's son was deployed to Afghanistan in late May. John's team consists of 12 members and was deployed with another team. The UMW continues to ship care packages to John's group quarterly. Listed below are some of the most requested items by our troops in Afghanistan. Everyone is invited to help provide these items by placing them in the box located in the large Sunday school room.

Baby Wipes	Tooth Brushes	Mouthwash	Crackers
Pringles	Deck of Cards	Beef Jerky	Hard Candy
Cookies	Suntan Lotion	Crossword Puzzles	Envelopes
Soduku	Notebooks	Blue/Black Pens	Comic Books
Febreeze	Word Searches	Hand/Foot Warmers	Travel Size Games

Powdered Drinks, [*especially Gatorade*] Travel Size Laundry Detergent

You can also help, by cutting out coupons for any of these items and placing them in my folder at church.
If you have any other questions, please contact me. Kathy Williams
God bless all those in service to our country, who have sacrificed a part of their life so that we may live ours.

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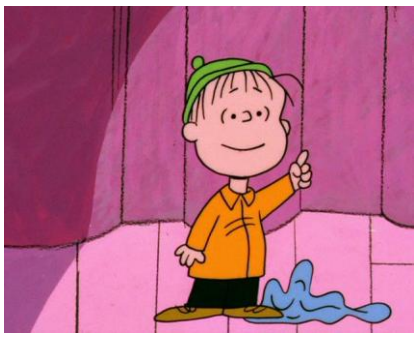
Monthly Thought

What Christmas is about!

As a boy I remember Christmas as a time for presents, snow, giving to others and watching great stories about Christmas on TV. Today, they are the Classics of Christmas; Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer, Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol, How the Grinch Stole Christmas with Boris Karloff, and the original Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" with Alastair Sim as Scrooge. But my favorite is "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Charlie Brown asks the question, "Doesn't anyone know what Christmas is about?" The kid with the blue blanket, the philosopher of logic, Linus van Pelt replies, "I can tell you Charlie Brown." But, Charles Shultz and his producer Bill Melendez were very concerned about reading a passage from the Bible on National TV. But Shultz responded, "If we don't, who will?"
So, Linus tells the story of the birth of our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Luke 2: 8-14.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

If you would like to include your monthly thoughts you may contact me at bhazzard@sc.rr.com.
Or on my Facebook page. http://facebook.com/bard.hazzard.
You may also place your reflection in my mailbox, Bard Hazzard at Faith Church.

Volunteers at Faith – December

Acolyte – Gable Funchess **Church Sign for the Month** – Bard Hazzard

Altar Flowers **12.04** Linda Morgan/Marjorie Michael **12.11** Sandy & Donna Hazzard **12.18** Poinsettias **12.25** Poinsettias	**Lay Readers** **12.04** Bard Hazzard **12.11** Andrea Stark **12.18** Cliff Whisnant **12.25** Kathy Williams	**Offering Tellers** **12.04** Bob Hamilton & Robie Robertson **12.11** Don Rozier & Wayne Richardson **12.18** Joy Strange & Kathy Williams **12.25** Nancy Taylor & Diane Hamilton
Teachers - Sunday School **12.04** Sandra Hazzard **12.11** Pat White **12.18** Sandra Hazzard **12.25** Pat White	**Nursery during Worship** **12.04** Abby Strange **12.11** Faye Weimer **12.18** Joy Strange **12.25** Brooke Michael	**Ushers** **12.04** Marty Funchess & Sandy Hazzard **12.11** Ray Burgess & Alex Funchess **12.18** Don Beatty & Johnny Chandler **12.25** Wanda Himerlick & Trevor Michael
Greeters - Worship **12.04** Bard & Sandy Hazzard **12.11** EZ & Shelly Langston **12.18** Richard & Faye Weimer **12.25** Robie & Judy Richardson	**Wednesday Night Chefs** **12.07** Joy Strange **12.14** P White/C Fraylick **12.21** No Meal **12.28** No Meal	**Wednesday Bible Study Leader** **12.07** Don Britt **12.14** Christmas Pageant **12.21** Christmas Break – No Bible Study **12.28** Christmas Break – No Bible Study

A December Happy Birthday to

12.02 Rylie Michael
12.06 EZ Langston
12.09 Nathan Hamilton
12.09 James Stone
12.10 Bryan Smith
12.12 Andrea Stark
12.16 Don Beatty
12.19 Trevor Michael
12.22 Carol Goad
12.28 Chris Truett

Christmas Poinsettias - If you wish to order a poinsettia "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one for Christmas, the cost is $12.75 each. Or, in lieu of purchasing a poinsettia, you may choose to make a memorial or honorarium and have the cost of the poinsettia contributed to this year's designated Christmas Charity, LICS. Please pick up a form from the narthex and return it by 12/11/11. Please make checks payable to Faith UMC designated "Poinsettia" or "LICS" or both. The flowers will be in the sanctuary 12/18/11 and 12/25/11 and may be picked up following our Christmas Day worship service.

Bears to Share - Each year Faith collects new stuffed animals to give to the Lexington Sheriff's Department. These soft, cuddly animals are given to frightened children to provide comfort during difficult situations. Please share your love with a child by bringing a stuffed bear or animal to church before the end of December, and placing it under the Christmas Tree.

Date	Weekday	Event	Time
12.04	Sunday	**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Food Offering for LICS** Sunday School Worship Service: [Purple or Blue] **Second Sunday of Advent** Children's Christmas Pageant Costume Fitting	 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM
12.07	Wednesday	Supper & Bible Study (Chef – Joy Strange) Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM & 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
12.11	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service: [Green] **Third Sunday of Advent** Children's Christmas Pageant Costume Fitting Faith's Annual Christmas Social @ the home of Pat White Poinsettia/Christmas Charity Order Deadline	9:15 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM
12.14	Wednesday	Supper (Chefs – Pat White & Cheryl Fraylick) Children's Christmas Pageant	6:00 PM 7:00 PM
12.18	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service: [Purple or Blue] **Forth Sunday of Advent** Rudy Burgess' 90th Birthday Party – Large SS Room	9:15 AM 10:30 AM 2:00-5:00 PM
12.21	Wednesday	Christmas Break - No Supper & Bible Study	
12.24	Saturday	Christmas Eve Worship	7:00 PM
12.25	Sunday	NO Sunday School: Coffee & Doughnuts Christmas Day Worship: [Purple or Blue]	9:45 AM 10:30 AM
12.28	Wednesday	Christmas Break - No Supper & Bible Study	

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Rev. Don Britt, Pastor

Christmas Traditions; Word Search

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the ***mystery answer***. This will be reveled in January's Newsletter.

Angels, Bells, Blessings, Bows, Canc
Decorations, Friends, Fruitc
Gingerbread, Greetings, Holiday, Ivy,
Lights, Magi, Malls, Mistletoe, Nati
Nutcracker, Ornaments, Peace, Poinset
Presents, Reindeer, Rejoicing, Rudo
Santa, Shepherds, Shopping, Sle
Stockings, Tannenbaum, Tree, W
Wreaths, Yule

S	S	E	P	M	S	T	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R
H	H	C	S	U	N	U	T	C	R	A	C	K	E	R
O	E	A	T	A	O	S	H	T	A	E	R	W	P	M
P	P	E	N	B	I	Y	O	H	N	R	S	S	A	I
P	H	P	E	N	T	T	S	G	G	B	L	B	R	S
I	E	G	M	E	A	I	T	I	E	R	L	J	W	T
N	R	R	A	N	R	V	O	E	L	E	E	O	S	L
G	D	E	N	N	O	I	C	L	S	G	B	Y	L	E
Y	S	E	R	A	C	T	K	S	S	N	V	R	L	T
A	E	T	O	T	E	A	I	D	L	I	I	U	A	O
D	L	I	M	N	D	N	N	I	H	G	Y	O	M	E
I	D	N	A	A	G	E	G	R	U	D	O	L	P	H
L	N	G	G	S	I	H	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P
O	A	S	I	R	T	E	K	A	C	T	I	U	R	F
H	C	I	F	S	G	N	I	C	I	O	J	E	R	W

The Mystery answer for November:

FERVENT PRAYERS