

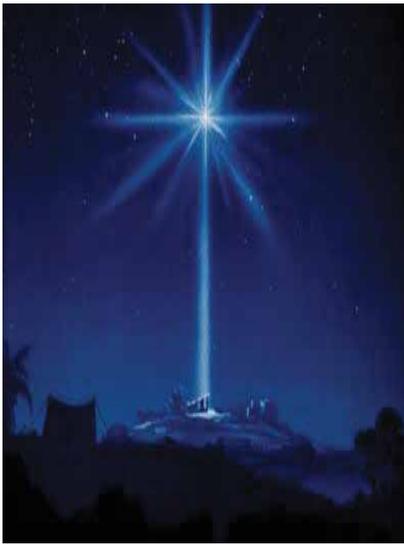
BELIEVE...BELONG...SERVE...

Serving Parkwood for 51 years

The Newsletter of Parkwood United Methodist Church

December, 2012

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



December, 2012



REPENT!

"As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." (Mark 1:2-4)

It's an interesting way to begin a season associated with hot cocoa, warm feelings, and happy tunes like 'Jingle Bells.' There is no Nativity or newborn baby, no Christmas tree or gifts. Instead, there is a rugged man of the wilderness crying "Prepare the way of the Lord," and shouting "Repent!" No cozy message there. If anything, John the Baptist feels like an interruption. Christmas should be about smiles and singing and good girls and boys shaking presents under the tree long before it's time to open them. Stay away, John. Until you get your act together and drop the doomsday messages, you can't come to the Christmas party. But could it be that John sees something we sometimes overlook? Is it possible that we've missed the real party and John is busy shouting out where to find it?

I remember last season driving down the road and seeing a bizarre sight. A house had a beautiful nativity set up in the front yard and next to it...was an inflatable Santa on his sleigh with reindeer just ready to leap over the birthplace of our Lord. It makes an unintended statement: How much of Advent and Christmas' true meaning have been overshadowed by our own traditions? Maybe John the Baptist needs to be a part of that front yard scene, too, because he realized the true purpose of the season is preparation. "Prepare the way of the Lord," he cries. What are the obstacles in our way to receiving God's true message during Advent? Maybe there's an obstacle in the road called busyness. We're overworked, pulled this way and that by family and friends and too busy to settle down to Christ's message. The Christmas rush is causing us too much stress to the

point where we disdain this time of year. John's cry tells us to slow down, prioritize, and put God first. Maybe the obstacle comes in the form of daily struggles. We've run out of money buying gifts and the gas bill is coming due, our self-image is down after eating way too much during Thanksgiving when we should be dieting or maybe we're just afraid of a Christmas spent alone. John's cry tells us that there is one coming, greater than he, who is set on rescuing us from trial and showing us a better way.

John belongs in the picture, because Christmas was never meant to be a Hallmark romantic comedy. It has always been a rescue mission. Jesus Christ did not arrive on the scene because everything was going splendid. He came into the world because everything had gone kaput. We got something for Christmas even though we ain't been nuttin' but bad. And so, in lieu of a "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," John shows up with "Repent!" Not to be a downer and not to be mean, but to ensure we hear the salvific message: Jesus is on his way and we need to get ready.

After sharing some similar thoughts to a former church member, I received a unique card during our exchange at the youth Christmas program. On the cover is a picture of the Nativity beside a Christmas tree. A present under the tree says Myrrh and flying overhead is Santa Clause and his reindeer. When I opened it up I found a simple message in huge letters: Repent! Maybe we all need a card like this on Christmas. Nathan.



"David Thompson Plays Through" on page 9

Advent Schedule

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- 1st Sunday (Dec 2) - Hanging of the greens**
 - 2nd Sunday (Dec 9) - Music by the Bell Choir (and possibly others)**
- 7:00 PM - Moravian Love Feast
 - 3rd Sunday (Dec 16) - Choir Cantata**
 - 4th Sunday (Dec 23) - Ceremony of Lessons and Carols**
 - Christmas Eve Dec 24th 7:00 PM Communion**



The hanging of the greens is a service for the first Sunday in Advent. It is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary – and the church members – for the season. Almost 2000 years ago, the story goes, a clutch of shepherds were watching their sheep on a star-brightened hill in Palestine. It was a still, uneventful night. Suddenly the darkness was filled with a strange light. The stillness was broken by angel voices singing “Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and goodwill to all.”

So begins Christmas, the most beautiful and meaningful celebration of the Christian calendar.

On the first Sunday in Advent our church building will begin to wear its Christmas apparel. For the first time our Chrismon tree will stand in our sanctuary. This day for the first time its lights will shine for us. As we make ready for the birth of the child by preparing the sanctuary, we make ready ourselves and the sanctuary of our own hearts. We are mindful that, although it is not Christmas yet, it will be very, very soon.

As we decorate the church, not only will we explain the history of the symbols of this special season, but we will rededicate these symbols – and ourselves – to the service of God.



Love Feasts are celebrated to affirm the unity of Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ. The traditional Moravian Lovefeast celebrates the birth of Christ through scripture reading and prayer, the singing of hymns, the lighting of candles, and the serving of Moravian bread and coffee. During the service, each person is given a candle by acolytes. It is to remind us that Christ said "I am the light of the world" and "you are the light of the world-let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

We will celebrate the holiday season with a Lovefeast at Parkwood United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 7p.m. It is a wonderful service filled with candlelight and music that will bind the church community with spiritual unity. You and your family and friends will not want to miss this beautiful and inspiring service of agape, Christian love.



On Sunday, December 23rd. PUMC will celebrate the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." This service was first performed on December 24, 1880, in Truro, Cornwall, England.

Prior to 1880 the church choir had a practice of caroling throughout the community on Christmas Eve. The parishioners and other townspeople asked the Pastor, the Rev. G.H.S. Walpole, for a Christmas Eve service in which the congregation and others could participate.

Rev. Walpole, who later became the Bishop of Edinburgh, and his Bishop Edward White Benson, later to be the Archbishop of Canterbury, developed what they called "an ordinary little carol service."

For the service Rev. Walpole and Bishop Benson revived a medieval liturgical custom of beginning the lessons with the fall of man, and chose the rest of the readings to illustrate the story of redemption from the Old and the New Testaments.

The ceremony was adapted for use in the Chapel of Kings College in Cambridge, England in 1918, and has been performed there and broadcast world-wide on BBC radio every Christmas Eve since then – even during the war years. This adaptation, however, was designed to feature the Chapel Choir, rather than involve the participation of the congregation.

For our service we have chosen to use the original concept of congregational participation in the reading of the lessons and the singing of hymns. The service begins with the ringing of the bell, at which time the congregation stands, followed by the Bidding Prayer. This is followed by the congregation singing the traditional opening hymn "Once in Royal David's City", during which time the acolytes process and light the candles.

There are many variations of this ceremony. Although the hymns and carols may vary, the lessons and prayers of the original have not changed.



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Seekers Class

The Seekers found Adam Hamilton's Lenten study to be so interesting that we have decided to use his new book for our Advent Study The Journey Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Whereas this is a five lesson study, it is for five two hour sessions. Since Sunday school is only an hour, we will be doing the book through November and December. The first session on each chapter will include a video by Hamilton and then discussion through the following session.

Please join us for this exciting journey. See Bob Newlin for a book.

the Jacob Class

the Jacob class is doing a verse by verse study of the book of Luke. You only need to bring your Bible to class.

We meet in room 1 at 9:30 am.

Knit – Purl – Pray

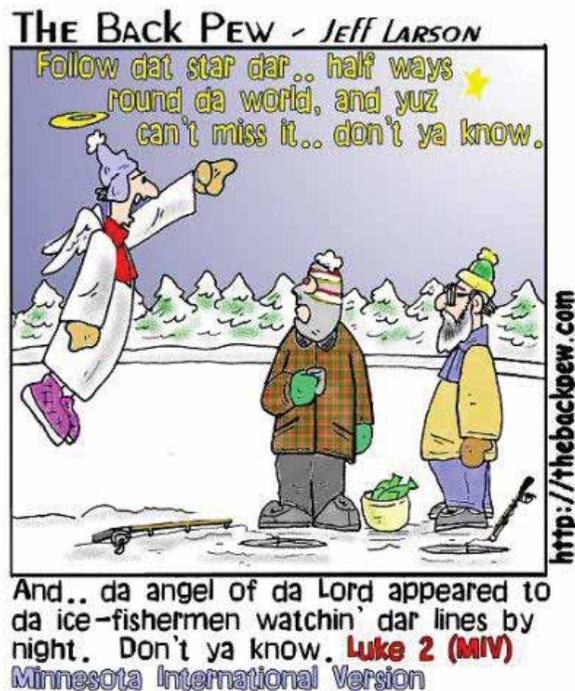
Parkwood United Methodist Church

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2nd. and 4th. Saturday

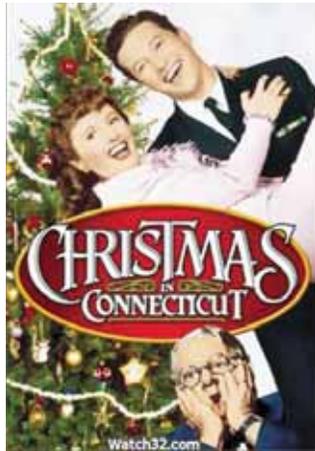


If you are an experienced knitter/crochet, beginner or a novice; you are welcome. We all have our own level of expertise and love to share.



Did you know? The most popular Christmas gift in 1957 was the Hula Hoop? Everybody wanted one.

**Friday Nite Movie
Presents:
Christmas in Connecticut**



Friday, December 7th at 7:30 pm

Previews of Coming Attractions for 2013*

Jan. 4	Breakfast at Tiffany's	1961
Feb. 1	Star Wars	1977
March 1	Courageous	2011
April 5	A Night to Remember	1958
May 3	Bonhoffer, Agent of Grace	2000
June 7	Billy: The Early Years	2008
July 5	True Grit	1969
Aug. 2	To Sir With Love	1967
Sept. 6	The Preachers Wife	1996
Oct. 4	Damn Yankees	1958
Nov. 1	Captains Courageous	1937
Dec. 6	Polar Express	2004

*subject to change



Did you know? In his Christmas favorite, A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens has included a young boy singing this wonderful old carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman". Dickens' story is credited with reviving the widespread celebration of Christmas.



UM MEN: We will meet for breakfast at 8am on Saturday, December 15th at 8:00 am. We will meet at Beneties.

We wish to thank the congregation for its support this past year. Through you, we have been able to help a multitude of others.

Chancel Choir

You are cordially invited to join the Chancel Choir at Parkwood United Methodist Church. The choir meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM!

From Emily's Kitchen...

Recently, we lost a very good friend and member of our church family, Emily Gillis. Presented here, and for the next several months, are recipes from Emily's kitchen...

LASAGNA

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 3 c. Ricotta Cheese |
| 1 clove garlic, mined | ½ c. grated Parmesan cheese |
| 1 Tbsp. whole basil | 2 Tbsp. parsley flakes |
| 1 ½ tsp. salt | 2 beaten eggs |
| 1 (1lb.) can (2 c.) tomatoes | 1 tsp. salt |
| 2 (6 oz) cans (1 1/3 tomato paste | ½ tsp. pepper |
| 1 lb. Mozzarella cheese, sliced very thin or grated | 10 oz. lasagna noodles |

Brown meat slowly; spoon off excess fat. Add garlic, basil, salt, tomatoes and tomato paste to ground beef. Simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cook noodles in large amount boiling salted water until tender; drain and rinse. Combine remaining ingredients, except Mozzarella cheese. Place half of the noodles in a 13x9x2" baking dish. Spread with half the cheese filling; add half the Mozzarella cheese and half the meat sauce. Repeat layers. Bake at 375 degrees about 30 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting in squares; filling will set slightly. Makes 12 servings. Can be assembled early; refrigerate. Be sure to allow 15 minutes or so longer in the oven.





“Peace on Earth, good will toward men?
There’s an app for that!”



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Birthdays

Arlene McCloskey 12-7

Mike Dube' 12-13

Xavier Kavanaugh 12-20

Margaret Eiland 12-23

Debbie Kavanaugh 12-25



Send birthdays and anniversaries to crabbyron@yahoo.com

PUMC YOUTH

The youth would like to THANK everyone for all the support with their last few fundraisers. The youth have been trying to raise funds for one of the Pilgrimage retreats next summer. Also the youth want to help with other missions. Such as the youth donated \$70.00 to the Andy Parrish funds. Also the youth held a Trunk or Treat for the community. They are also planning on adopting a child for Christmas and they are participating in the Parkwood Annual Christmas Parade.

The youth have many other surprises up their stockings for the holiday season. Lots of projects and missions going on! Thanks again to all for the support you have shown the Youth.

Did you know? In the early tradition of Christmas, people made and exchanged handmade gifts. This custom has all but been forgotten, however, since the affluent 1950's. Many feel it might be time to reinstate this more personal approach. Benefits include: less stress, less expense, less waste, and more time to reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season.



United Methodist Women

The Parkwood UMW met at the home of Margaret Eiland on Thursday, November 15. Susan Oglesby served as co hostess. We began with the sharing of joys and concerns. Then we moved into the business session. We accepted

the minutes from the October meeting with one addition, and then received the treasurer's report. The main item of business was the disbursement of funds for yearend mission projects. We decided to support the following with financial contributions: Urban Ministries of Durham, The Salvation Army, PUMC Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and PUMC Youth fund for the mission trip they are planning. We are also sponsoring a drive for new socks and underwear for men, women and children to be distributed through UMD. There will be a box in the hallway to collect donations. On December 1, UMW will decorate the Chrismon Tree and the Angel Tree. This year we will place the Angel Tree in the hall so that it can be enjoyed by everyone. The angel ornaments on this tree were donated by church members in memory or in honor of someone dear. When the decorating is completed we will go to Benetis for brunch.

Following the business session we enjoyed refreshments provided by Margaret, Hollis, and Susan. Then Margaret presented a program she prepared, "One Orbit in Song." Using slides and her memories she shared her "trip of a lifetime." She circled the earth with the Mount Union Choir performing and sightseeing all along the way.

The new officers will have a planning session for 2013 after the worship service on Sunday, January 6th.

***Please support UMM and UMW
As we collect***

***Food
And
Underwear and Socks
For
Men, Women and Children***

To be distributed through UMD





“David Thompson Plays Through”

We all know David Thompson. We see him walking around in the neighborhood with that ubiquitous Coke can in his hand; a friend to everyone he meets. He helps out in church by ushering and is at almost every United Methodist Men’s breakfast and works at the Flea Market.

But did you know that David is also a Special Olympian? And that he has the medals to prove it?

David participates in basketball and golf. While he enjoys all sports (he’s a huge UNC fan) his first love is golf. His favorite course is Hillandale in Durham.

The 48 year old golfer has been playing golf for 28 years and his mother, Charlotte, is very proud of her son. Several years ago David was featured in the Durham Herald Sun with a picture of him blasting his golf ball out of the ruff. His mom has a copy of that photo hanging on the family room wall.

The hardest course he ever played was The Crossing next to Falls Village in Raleigh.

David, a level 4 player, recently played in the Fall Special Olympics games held at Oak Hollow Country Club in High Point, NC.

On Saturday he shot 56 for nine holes and on Sunday he shot 51 for nine holes. His combined total was 107 and was good enough for a Second Place finish for the tournament. He lost out of First to a golfer from Alamance County.

Pictured above is David holding 5 of the medals he has won over the years.

“Special Olympics was started in 1968 by Anne McGlone Burke. Burke then approached Eunice Kennedy Shriver to fund the event. The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation provided a grant of \$25,000.

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with disabilities, providing year-round training and competitions to more than 4 million athletes in 170 countries. Special Olympics competitions are held every day, all around the world—including local, national and regional competitions, adding up to more than 53,000 events a year”

“Courtesy Wikipedia”

Did you know? “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” is one of the few poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that has been put to music. The tune was written by an English organist and composer, John Baptiste Calkin. The bass notes were written to sound like the ringing of a bell.

Living Christmas
December 24th

"Yes Lord, let your constant love surround us, for our hopes are in you alone.

Psalms 33:22

CHRISTMAS EVE: A JOYFUL NOISE

On Christmas Eve in medieval England, Scotland and Ireland. The village church bells tolled mournfully and slowly for an hour before midnight. It was the annual celebration of the devil's funeral. Then, just at the stroke of midnight, the bells rang out loudly, jubilantly, because it was believed that the devil died when Jesus was born.

Tonight, before the joyous bells ring, let's pray for the lonely, sad, frightened people who aren't giving as grand a Christmas as we are. Let's resolve to find a joy and peace in the coming year. Perhaps we can find a way to help them bury their struggles, just as the devil was buried in medieval times.

Tonight as church bells and carillons call us to church to rejoice that the Savior is born, let's shout more than just "Merry Christmas!" Tonight and every day this next year, let's shout joyfully,

"God bless you!"

"May I help?"

"Thank you!"

"How are you?"

"Welcome home!"

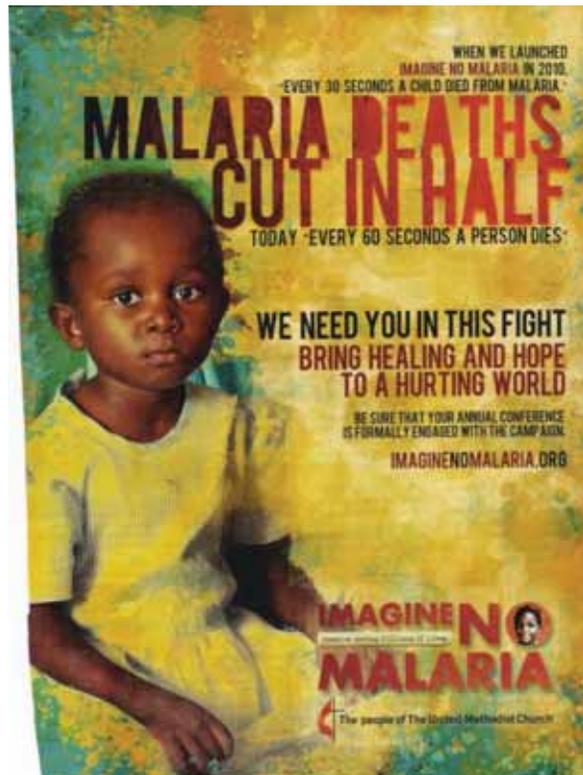
"I need you."

"I forgive you."

"I love you."

Father, help me sing out these beautiful words of Christmas every day in many ways to everyone meet.

Patricia Lorenz



LORD'S DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
						1 8:30 Jazzercise 7 RTP Fellowship
2 8:30 Trustees 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 4 Jazzercise 5-7 UMYF	3 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	4 5:30-6:30 GS R5 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	5 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	6 5:30 Jazzercise 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 6:35 Jazzercise 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	7 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Movie Night	8 8:30 Jazzercise 9-11 Knit,Purl,Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
9 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12 Finance 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 4 Jazzercise 5-7 UMYF	10 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	11 5:30-6:30 GS R5 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	12 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	13 5:30 Jazzercise 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 6:35 Jazzercise 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	14 9:30 Senior Exercise	15 8:30 Jazzercise 6:00 Trunk or Treat 7 RTP Fellowship
16 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12 Leadership 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 4 Jazzercise 5-7 UMYF	17 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	18 5:30-6:30 GS R5 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	19 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	20 5:30 Jazzercise 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 6:35 Jazzercise 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	21 9:30 Senior Exercise	22 8:30 Jazzercise 9-11 Knit,Purl,Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
23 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 4 Jazzercise 5-7 UMYF	24 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	25 5:30-6:30 GS R5 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise 7	26 9:30 Senior Exercise 5:30 Jazzercise 6:35 Jazzercise	27 5:30 Jazzercise 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 6:35 Jazzercise 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	28 9:30 Senior Exercise	29 8:30 Jazzercise 9-11 Knit,Purl,Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
30 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 4 Jazzercise 5-7 UMYF				Parkwood United Methodist Church	December	2012

TASK	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30
9:15 Greeters	Natalie Robson & Betsy Newlin	Ron & Betty Byrd	Jimmy & Florine Layman	Larry & Susan Oglesby	Margaret Eiland & David Thompson
10:45 Greeters	Ron & Susan Clark	Betsy Newlin & Priscilla Thompson	Natalie Robson & Dianne Mitchell	Ron & Betty Byrd	Charlotte & David Thompson
Infant Nursery	Betty Byrd	Dena Roberts	Dianne Mitchell	Ron Clark	Marietta Abbott
Ushers	Dianne Mitchell & Marietta Abbott	Ron & Betty Byrd	Priscilla Thompson and Natalie Robson	Cameron Clark & Nathan Moore	Debbie Kavanaugh & David Thompson
Altar Guild	Margaret Eiland	Jan Schwarze	Priscilla Thompson	Pat Nestler	Charlotte Thompson
Communion Set-Up	Beverly Whitmore and Betty Lou Whitaker			Dec 24 th : Marietta Abbott	
Altar Flowers					
Member Care Cards	Judy Roseberry	Pat Nestler	Betty Byrd	Jan Schwarze	Susan Oglesby
Counters	Herb Schwarze & Isaiah Lincoln	Norris Porter & Eddie Hanson	Beverly Whitmore & Dianne Mitchell	Ron Byrd & Pam Skidmore	Mike Dube & Janice Jarrell
FT & Lection Reader	Margaret Eiland	Herb Schwarze	Jan Schwarze	Bob Newlin	Ron Byrd
Fellowship Refreshments	Pam Skidmore	Florine Layman	Marietta Abbott	Betsy Newlin	Sara Gunter
Office Help	Janice Jarrell	Margaret Eiland	Marietta Abbott	Jan Schwarze	Peggy Moore
Lead Armor Bearer	Hope Roberts	Beth Bradshaw	Tiffany Jackson	Caroline Mitchell	Hope Roberts

MINISTRY TEAM FOR DECEMBER 2012 *if you can't serve on your day, please arrange for a substitute. Thanks

Our 2013 Covenant

Name: _____

In the coming year, I make covenant to: **(Circle all that apply)**

Pray regularly for our church.

Participate in a Bible Study.

Operating the sound equipment

SERVE IN WORSHIP:

...with my musical gifts.

...by reading scripture.

...by serving on the Altar Guild

...by helping in the office.

...by serving as a Communion Steward.

SERVE IN MISSION:

...by volunteering at Urban Ministries of Durham.

...by volunteering when local missions arise.

SERVE OUR CHILDREN:

...by helping in the nursery.

...by helping with Vacation Bible School.

...by helping with Kidzone.

SERVE OUR YOUTH:

...by teaching the youth Sunday School class.

...by chaperoning or driving for UMYF outings.

...by helping with the Bible Quiz Team.

...by serving as a mentor to our youth.

SERVE IN MEMBER CARE:

...by visiting, writing or calling the sick, injured, and bereaved.

...by providing meals for the sick, injured, and bereaved.

SERVE IN THE FACILITIES:

...through “Adopt-A-Room”

...by helping with church repair and improvements.

...by helping with upkeep of the church grounds.

SERVE IN EVANGELISM:

...by being a 9:15 greeter.

...by being a 10:45 greeter.

...by providing refreshments Sunday Morning.

...by following up with visitors.

...by taking visitors “under my wing.”

...by becoming a friend with someone who is un-churched.

From the staff of “Believe...Belong...Serve... 🎵 we wish you a Merry Christmas 🎵

