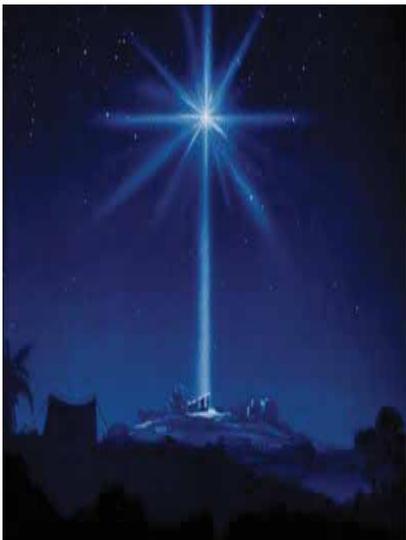


BELIEVE...BELONG...SERVE...

Serving Parkwood for 51 years



The Newsletter of Parkwood United Methodist Church

December, 2013

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, 2013

Adventus

By now most you should have encountered the word ‘*adventus*.’ It appears every year at this time and is the word we get Advent from. It means ‘coming’ or ‘arrival’ and, as it is explained every year, comes to remind us of the imminent return of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Yes, we celebrate his first arrival in the form of a baby in the manger, but the ultimate focus of our anticipation is that day that is here and not yet when God’s kingdom breaks through to our world. That is why the impatience we sometimes feel up until Christmas is an important feeling to linger in. Laura and I had to shake our heads at my sister when she put up her Christmas decorations right after Halloween. She could not wait, she said, but that’s the whole point of the season of Advent. We are waiting for our Savior, impatient and tapping our feet in anxiousness.

As we dwell in this feeling of anticipation, there are some things we can be doing. Whenever my mom calls and says she wants to come over, Laura and I do not just sit around until she arrives. We get busy cleaning our house and whatever disaster Cameron has left behind his wake of destruction. We need that time to prepare. That’s what Advent is all about...preparing. Jesus is coming and we need to be ready. During this Advent I have a challenge for you. Whether you are participating in our study, *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*, or not, I want you to take part in the devotional found within the book. Starting Monday, December 2nd, I’ll email a copy of the devotional for the day. All you need to do is read a passage of scripture, a short meditation on that text, and reflect upon a couple of questions. It is a small sacrifice to make, but a great way to prepare for our Savior’s arrival and our celebration of that day on Christmas. Take the challenge, be prepared, because Christ is coming whether we are ready or not.



Advent Schedule



1st Advent Sunday, Dec. 1st. Hanging of the Greens

2nd Advent Sunday, Dec. 8th. Love Feast during the 11 am service.

3rd Advent Sunday, Dec. 15th. Choir Cantata

4th Advent Sunday, Dec. 22nd. Ceremony of Lessons and Carols



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT PUMC

On The first Sunday in Advent the sanctuary is decorated during the Hanging of the Green ceremony. The lighting of the altar and Advent candles, hanging wreaths and garlands, placing holly and cedar branches and poinsettias, placing the Nativity and the meaning and lighting of the Chrismon tree are explained while members of the congregation perform the activities. The ceremony is followed with a communion service.

On the second Sunday we incorporate a Moravian Love Feast in our morning worship. A Love Feast is a service of song during which a simple meal of buns and coffee are served. The buns and coffee are carried in baskets and trays by “Dieners”, or servers, while the choir, congregation and other musicians sing and perform hymns and carols. This is a simple, devout service that has great significance in the Moravian church and has been adopted by churches of other denominations.

The third Sunday is our Choral Cantata Sunday, during which our choir performs.

On the fourth Sunday we celebrate the Festival of Lessons and Carols. In 1880 the parishioners and townspeople of Truro, England asked their Pastor, the Rev. G.H.S. Walpole, who later became Bishop of Edinburg, and his Bishop Edward White Benson, later to be the Archbishop of Canterbury, to develop a Christmas service in which the congregation and others could participate. Rev. Walpole and Bishop Benson revived a medieval liturgical custom of beginning the lesson 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. This adaptation, however, was designed to feature the Chapel Choir rather than involving participation by 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 the hymns and carols.

Our Advent and Christmas celebration ends with a candlelight communion service on Christmas Eve.

Our Sunday morning schedule begins with Sunday school at 9:45 followed by a coffee fellowship at 10:30 and Worship at 11:00.

Our Christmas Eve communion service begins at 7:00 PM





SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Seekers Class

The Seekers Class will do "A Different Kind Of Christmas" by Mike Slaughter. This book has 6 daily devotionals each week and then class on Sunday with DVD. If you would like to participate, please see Bob Newlin for a book.

the Jacob Class

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

The Jacob class will not meet in December but will be participating in the "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam" advent study presented by Pastor Nathan starting on Dec. 1st

When we return to class on January 5, 2014 we will be meeting in room 1 at 9:30 am.

Attention, all Youth!

The Youth Sunday School class has begun a new study/series called "Great Figures of the New Testament"; we'll learn about the people who were important to the Christian faith during the time of the Bible. Our class starts at 9:45 am and we invite all youth to join us. Our studies for December are:

December 1 John the Baptist

December 8 The Virgin Mary

December 15 Joseph, the Magi, and the Shepherds

December 22 Peter

December 29 We'll play catch-up in case we get behind on our schedule.

Our study is based on a video course and we will consider watching some of the video presentations. There is also a big list of Bible references so bring your Bible; there are copies of the list available in our classroom or contact Margaret Eiland.

See you at Sunday School!

Advent Study

Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion. God breaks into our confusion and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion--weren't they

intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. But, that's what this study is about--how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas--how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. This thematic Advent study for 2013 has five sessions--one for each Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas.

Each chapter includes questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, a focus for the week, and six daily Bible readings for personal devotional time during the week.



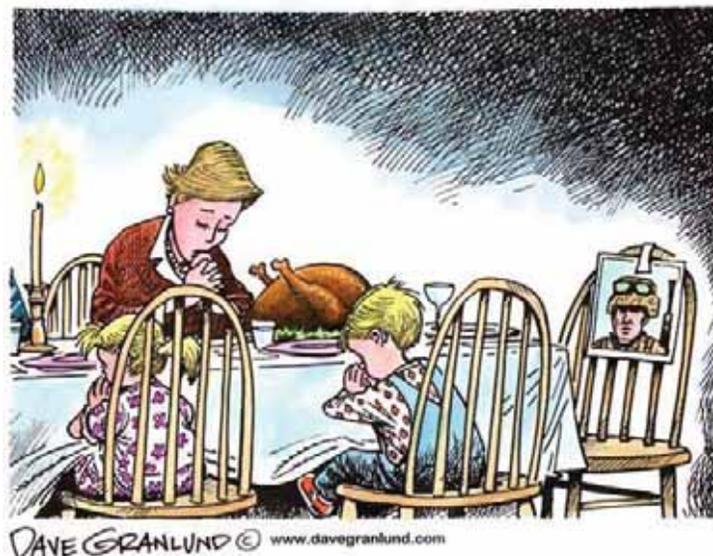
Knit - Purl - Pray

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.

Let's remember our Troops; their Families do; God Bless them all.....



**Friday Nite Movie
Presents:**



Friday, December 6th at 7:30 pm

Previews of Coming Attractions for 2014*

Jan.	Raiders of the Lost Ark	1981	Harrison Ford, Karen Allan
Feb.	The Hiding Place	1975	Julie Harris, Arthur O'Connell
March	Grease	1978	John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John
April	12 O'clock High	1949	Gregory Peck, Hugh Marlowe
May	Arranged	2007	Zoe Lister-Jones, Francis Benhamou
June	Pajama Game	1957	Doris Day, John Raitt
July	Greatest Show on Earth	1953	Charlton Heston, Jimmy Stewart
Aug.	Dolphin Tale	2011	Harry Connick, Jr., Ashley Judd
Sept.	Rear Window	1954	James Stewart, Grace Kelly
Oct.	The Thing from another World	1951	Kenneth Tobey, Margaret Sheridan
Nov.	The Mission	1986	Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons
Dec.	Remember the Night	1940	Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurry

*subject to change

Parkwood UMYF

We would like to thank the congregation of our great church for being so very supportive during the past year. You have supported our fundraisers and without that support we could not have done the things we did in 2013. We are looking forward to 2014.

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas and the best New Year ever!

The Parkwood Youth

Joyeux Noël Parkwood!

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas from Aix-en-Provence, France ☺ The Christmas season is in full swing here already. The main boulevard is decorated with lights, small wooden Christmas shops, and several carnival rides. I keep looking for the PUMC ticket booth to sell me tickets to ride on Santa's train, but I still haven't found it...Some days it feels a bit like I live in Disneyland.

However, there is still opportunity to celebrate the true reason of this season: the birth of our Savior! Tomorrow, my French church family is performing a Christmas Carol service for the Aix community. It doesn't compare to my favorite Chancel Choir, but the event is held in a 12th century cathedral and over 1000 guests typically attend!

I will not be coming home this Christmas, but God's grace continues and I have been invited "home" by one of my new French roommates. I'm excited for the unique opportunity to experience a French Christmas...at the base of the Pyrenees Mountains no less! (I'll be in a town called Pau in southwestern France).

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and Merry Christmas! I hope that it will be a meaningful season for both you and your family. I think of my Parkwood family often and miss you all! I have not been good about the e-mail updates, but feel free to check out my blog for more regular information on my experiences in France:

<http://prancingthroughfrance.blogspot.com>

Lots of love and blessings!

Danielle





UM MEN: We will meet for breakfast at 8am on Saturday, December 21st. 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.



Before the start of business each month, we UMM always partake of some sustenance according to Biblical Guidelines. We feel that it is not good to do God's work on an empty stomach. "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. Exodus 23:25. Pancakes courtesy of Jimmy Layman.

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!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Birthdays

Arlene McCloskey 12-7

Mike Dube' 12-13

Edna Walker 12-14

Xavier Kavanaugh 12-20

Margaret Eiland 12-23

Debbie Kavanaugh 12-25

Anniversaries

Bob & Beverly Jones 12-15

Bill & Jeanne Schwarze 12-21

Send birthdays and anniversaries to crabbyron@yahoo.com

Cub Scout Pack 495



TEMPERATURES DROP AS SCOUTING HEATS UP!

Autumn has been a very busy time for Cub Scout Pack 495. We've been involved in a lot of great activities, and as the weather grows colder, even more fun is on the horizon.

In October, we held our Fall Family Camping event at Falls Lake. Many Scouts and their families participated in this two-night event. Several Scouts learned pocketknife safety and use, earning the coveted Whittling Chip.

October also saw our annual Halloween Hoot, a fun evening of costumes, candy, and carnival games. This year we were joined by PUMC's "Trunk-or-Treat." We saw many folks from the community come out and enjoy all the fun.



During November our Scouts participated in the nationwide Scouting for Food campaign, as well as the NC Big Sweep conservation event.

During the busy holiday season, December holds two wonderful Scout events. Camping onboard the USS Yorktown is a great time of fun and learning. And our year wouldn't be complete without marching in the Parkwood Community Christmas Parade.

Cub Scout Pack 495 wishes you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season and we look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2014!

If you have a boy interested in Scouting or for further information, please visit our website (www.durhampack495.org) or contact Pack 495 Cubmaster David L. Bailey at [919-656-5089](tel:919-656-5089).



UMW for UMD Socks and Underwear for men, women, and children



Collection boxes in the hall in front of the cross and flame





United Methodist Women

Our November meeting was held on Thursday, November 21, at 7:00 pm. At this meeting we had the joy of disbursing funds from individual pledges and fundraisers held this year. We selected to give donations to Operation Smile, Abundant Joy, Parkwood Youth, Mike Billau (for the mission trip to Honduras), and a community neighbor. Nearly all funds of UMW go to local, state, and global missions. We have minimal operating costs and the occasional PUMC need or project.

The PUMW officers for 2014 attended LOTS (Local Officers Training Session) on Saturday, November 16, 2013. Members of Trinity UMC served as hostesses and provided coffee, juice and early morning snacks. Susan Rayle, Corridor District UMW President, brought greetings. After a few announcements and a devotion, we broke into small groups according to office. These sessions were led by the corresponding district officers. All of us were given information to fulfill the duties of our office and ideas to carry forward into 2014.

Saturday, November 30, was the day UMW decorated the Chrismon tree and the Angel tree. When our decorating was done we had lunch together at a nearby restaurant.

UMW will not have a general meeting in December, but the 2014 officers will meet in December to begin planning for next year. We want to thank Susan Oglesby for serving as our president. She will be serving as a Corridor District Leader. Thanks also to Florine Layman for serving as secretary.

We hope you will support our drive for underwear for men, women and children to be distributed through the clothing closet at Urban Ministries. UMW sends a Merry Christmas to all!



Dr. Mickey Efrid to Teach from the Book of Romans

Retired Duke Divinity professor, Dr. Mickey Efrid, is set to begin a Bible study class on Paul's book of Romans. The classes will be on Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27, at 7:30 - 9:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Hillsborough, NC.

Several members of PUMC attended Dr. Efrid's study on the book of Acts and gave it a 5 ★★★★★ rating. Dr. Efrid has quite the following; he is a very talented teacher who brings the Bible alive. Carpooling will be available



Former Parkwood Pastor Dies

Rev. Julian W. Scott Sr.

Obituary

Reverend Julian W. Scott, Sr. of Pinebluff died Sunday, November 10, 2013 in First Health Hospice and [Palliative Care](#).

Reverend Scott, a United Methodist Minister for 37 years, began his ministry after graduating from Southwestern Bible Institute in Waxahachie, Texas in 1957. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Brite [College of the Bible](#), Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas in 1960.

In 1961 his first appointment was Pinebluff United Methodist Church, Community Methodist Church, Hoffman Methodist, and Beaver Dam Methodist. Ordained a deacon in 1961 and ordained Elder in 1963. Reverend Scott was born and raised in eastern NC as a share cropper's son. Having served churches in Pinebluff, N.C., Faith UMC in Burlington, Arran Lake UMC in Fayetteville, NC, Evansdale-Black Creek UMC in Wilson, NC, Plymouth UMC in Plymouth, NC, Westminister UMC in Kinston, NC, Mt. Olivet UMC in Manteo, Parkwood UMC in Durham, NC, and his last nine years at Page UMC in Aberdeen, NC.

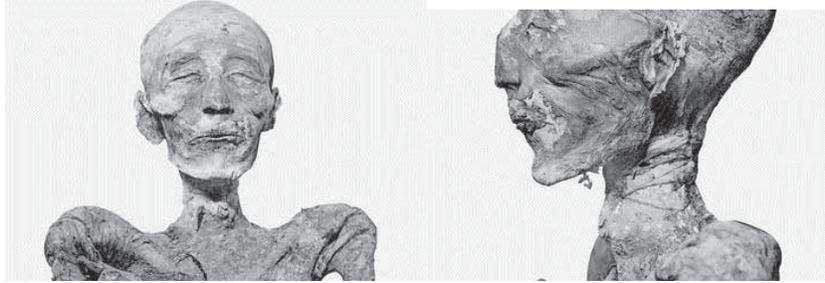
He is survived by one son, Julian Warren Scott, Jr. of Pinebluff, one daughter, Melody Luther of Wilson, NC, three grandchildren, Julian Warren Scott, III, Alexander Scott of Charlotte, NC, Heather Luther of Wilson; a brother, Jimmy Scott and his wife Marlene of Hubert, NC; a sister, Audrey Peper of Rocky Mount, NC.

Visitation was on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at Crumpler Funeral Home-Aberdeen.

Funeral Service were held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at Page United Methodist Church in Aberdeen with Reverend Jane Leechford, Reverend Linwood Jones, and Reverend Dennis Shepherd officiating. Burial was in the Pinebluff Cemetery.

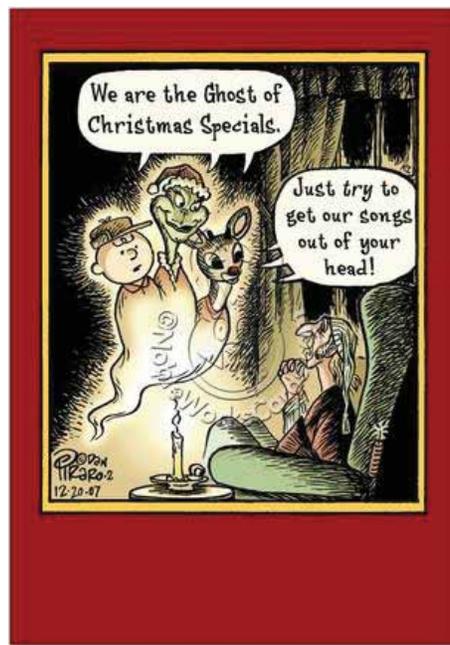


From the Ancient World in Biblical Times



The mummy of Merneptah was encased in a series of four sarcophagi, set one within the other. After his tomb was robbed, more than 3,000 years ago, he was reburied elsewhere and his two outer sarcophagi boxes were broken up.

The mummy's head, left, shown in profile. In life Merneptah was something of a warrior king. He defeated the Libyans and a group known as the "Sea Peoples" (the Philistines?) in a great battle. He also campaigned in the Levant attacking, among others, a group he called "Israel," the first mention of this people.



LORD'S DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
1 8:30 Trustees 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Hanging of the Greens 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	2 9:30 Senior Exercise	3 5:30-6:30 GS R5 7:00 Finding Bethlehem	4 9:30 Senior Exercise	5 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	6 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Movie Nite Presents: "Meet Me in St. Louis"	7 7 RTP Fellowship
8 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Love Feast 12 Finance 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	9 9:30 Senior Exercise	10 5:30-6:30 GS R5 7:00 Finding Bethlehem	11 9:30 Senior Exercise	12 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	13 9:30 Senior Exercise	14 9-11 Knit, Purf, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
15 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Cantata 12 Leadership 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 5	16 9:30 Senior Exercise	17 5:30-6:30 GS R5 7:00 Finding Bethlehem	18 9:30 Senior Exercise	19 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	20 9:30 Senior Exercise	21 7 RTP Fellowship
22 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Lessons & Carols 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	23 9:30 Senior Exercise	24 5:30-6:30 GS R5 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 9:30 Senior Exercise	26 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	27 9:30 Senior Exercise	28 9-11 Knit, Purf, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
29 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	30 9:30 Senior Exercise	31 5:30-6:30 GS R5				
				Parkwood United Methodist Church	December	2013

TASK	DECEMBER 1	DECEMBER 8	DECEMBER 15	DECEMBER 22	DECEMBER 29
9:15 Greeters	Ron & Betty Byrd	Marie Porter	Herb & Jan Schwarze	Jimmy & Florine Layman	Margaret Eiland & David Thompson
10:45 Greeters	Charlotte Thompson & Marie Porter	David Thompson	Lauren & Andrew Key	Ron & Betty Byrd	Ron & Susan Clark
Infant Nursery	Betty Byrd	Ron Clark	Dianne Mitchell	Dena Roberts	Betty Byrd
Ushers	Clint & Natalie Robson	Ron & Susan Clark	Ron & Betty Byrd	Andrew Key and David Thompson	Clint & Natalie Robson
Altar Guild	Margaret Eiland	Jan Schwarze	Charlotte Thompson	Pat Nestler	Priscilla Thompson
Communion Set-Up	Bev Whitmore and Betty Whitaker				
Altar Flowers				Jane Henderson	
Member Care Cards	Margaret Eiland	Betty Byrd	Pat Nestler	Jan Schwarze	Margaret Eiland
Counters	Dianne Mitchell and Eddie Hanson	Eddie Hanson and Bob Newlin	Bob Newlin and Ron Byrd	Ron Byrd and Roger Jarrell	Roger Jarrell and Ann Farmer
FT & Lection Reader	Marie Porter	Lauren Key	Jan Schwarze	Herb Schwarze	Margaret Eiland
Fellowship Refreshments	Ann Farmer	Lauren & Andrew Key	Brenda Stephans	Betty Byrd	Betsy Newlin
Office Help	Peggy Moore	Andrew Key	Margaret Eiland	Ron Byrd	Marietta Abbott
Lead Armor Bearer	Hope Roberts	Beth Bradshaw	Tiffany Jackson	Caroline Mitchell	Hope Roberts

FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: Greeters: Betsy Newlin & Priscilla Thompson Communion: Pam Skidmore and Betsy Newlin

Scripture Reader: Pat Nestler

MINISTRY TEAM FOR DECEMBER 2013 *If you can't serve on your day, please arrange for a substitute. Thanks!

Do not take the Saint Nicholas out of Santa Claus

By Edward Hanson

At this time of year, people are working hard decorating their place, buying gifts, preparing food, and watching Christmas shows. Moreover, people are getting pressured to prepare for the holiday season. However, the same thing is asked over and over year after year: “what is the real spirit of Christmas?” Unfortunately, today’s society has taken the Saint Nicholas out of Santa Claus by telling everyone the real object of Christmas is buying that special present to the people they love. But what is the difference between Santa and Saint Nicholas?

Santa Claus is a man (or elf) who separated himself from humanity by living at the North Pole making gifts for all of the children of the world. The nice children gets presents while naughty children get switches and coal. As a result, Santa Claus is usually associated with good children. Finally, he visits the children once a year delivering gifts. These are gifts of want that has limited time of impact. Moreover, these gifts can result in many types of disappointments. For one thing, does Santa love rich children more than poor children? Moreover, there are many times individuals do not get what they want. Finally, there are a lot of pressures to find that perfect gift during a time when everyone ought to be enjoying the season because they are surrounded by the people they love.

Saint Nicholas lived among humanity and was a bishop in the early days of Christianity. He was persecuted by Rome and later was given liberty to practice his faith under the Roman Emperor Constantine. Saint Nicholas came from a wealthy family who became famous by giving away all of his wealth to the needy. These are gifts of need and can last a lifetime. That way, everyone, both rich and poor, can have their needs met. His giving was not done once a year but constantly since the needs of the poor are always present. There is one special story about his generosity. He provided money for a dowry so a father’s three daughters can get married properly. Without this dowry, the three daughters might have been sold as slaves or gone into prostitution. Therefore, Saint Nicholas helps the poor and the destitute when they need it. Moreover, Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, thieves, murders, and other groups. Sailors, thieves, and murders are very naughty people yet he reached out and helped them rather than to punish them! In essence, he helped everyone, old and young, rich and poor, naughty and nice.

In later years, Saint Nicholas became Santa Claus. In other words, without Saint Nicholas, there will be no Santa Claus. Nevertheless, other than the gift giving, they are opposite figures. Tragically, today’s society will focus mostly on the gift giving and trying to keep up with the Jones while forgetting the real purpose of Christmas: the gift of love taught by a baby born in a manger. So, if you are given switches and coal for Christmas, build a snowman. Another thing to do is to use the switches to cook hotdogs and to toast marshmallows for s’mores over the burning coals. In other words, Christmas is what you make it. Do not allow anyone take the Saint Nicholas out of Santa for you. Enjoy the season and be grateful for the people you love and for the rest of humanity as Saint Nicholas once did.

Source: [http://www.stNicholas center.org/pages/who-is-st-Nicholas /](http://www.stNicholas center.org/pages/who-is-st-Nicholas/)

You're invited!

Besides the Christmas Eve Candlelight celebration during the Advent season, the Moravian Love Feast is one of the most touching and beautiful services the Methodist church celebrates. This traditional gathering which has its roots in the Moravian Church celebrates special occasions by sharing a simple meal with friends and brings to life the true meaning of participate. Year after year we look forward to the moment when the lights are unveiled. Made of pure beeswax – symbolizing purity – for illumination of these candles washes over wave. It's a tradition with beginnings rooted in the



Moravian Church and appropriately named

for the essence it embodies – Love Feast literally translates to “agape,” the purest love, spiritual and selfless. The first Love Feast took place in Germany in 1727 following the renewal of the Moravian Church. November 17, 1753 marks the arrival of the first Moravian colonists to Wachovia, North Carolina – the area known today as Winston-Salem. It was on this evening in the settlement of Bethabara that the Love Feast tradition was celebrated anew in America.

This service will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at the 11:00 am service – not in the evening. Please plan now to celebrate the birth of Christ through this powerful and simple service.

Christmas Humor.....



More Christmas Humor.....



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

