

A Beacon of God to all People

Growing in Christ.....Sharing God's Love.....Reaching Out to the World



Believe.....Belong.....Serve

The Newsletter of the Parkwood United Methodist Church  
Proudly serving the Parkwood Community for 55 years

Mark 1: 14--15

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December, 2016

### Pastor's Corner

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ! The Advent season is here, giving us the space and time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

By observing Advent, the church begins the Christian Year by focusing on the promises for the culmination of all things in Jesus Christ. We anticipate the Christ's **second** coming to fulfill all things as a means to prepare ourselves for the celebration of his first coming during Christmas season. During Christmas season (through the Feast of Epiphany), we join the shepherds in their adoration of the newborn Messiah and Mary and the magi in their contemplation and visceral experience of the implications of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

Advent and Christmas seasons, while distinct in both purpose and tone, function well as one coherent series with a turning point at Christmas Eve.

Each Sunday in our Advent-Christmas season series pursues a key theme identified in the gospel reading for each week. The themes, in order, are *Watch, Turn, See, Dream, Peace, Word* and *Reveal*.

**Advent 1: *Watch*:** The series begins where Advent begins, with the call of Jesus to his disciples to stay on watch for the fulfillment of all things.

**Advent 2: *Turn*:** Becoming aware of the end of the universe as we know it that Christ will bring about, we are invited to repent, to turn from our attachments to the powers of death and destruction in this age, and live out of the Spirit-led mission of the coming reign of God.

**Advent 3: *See*:** Once we have turned toward the fulfillment God intends, we begin to be able to see the world and treat others in it in a new way.

**Advent 4: *Dream*:** Even as we begin to see God’s way of compassion and mercy, we also—like Joseph – come to acknowledge our reliance on God communicating with us and transforming us, not just in our waking, conscious lives, but in our sleeping, unconscious lives as well.

**Christmas Eve: *Peace*:** Whether in dreams or visions of angels, we see and hear and join the chorus of the heavenly host announcing the birth of Jesus as a sign of peace to all people of good will.

**Christmas Day: *Word*:** In a Service of the Word today, we contemplate the mystery of the Word made flesh and dwelling among us.

**Epiphany Sunday: *Reveal*:** The constellations reveal the birth of Messiah, and the powers of this world are revealed for their self-preservation and violent resistance to the saving work of God.

The promise of this series is to reorient the church to our hope in Jesus Christ for the culmination of all things in the age to come, and now in this age to celebrate, contemplate, and join the heavens themselves in declaring Jesus Christ as the hope of the world. I look forward to the many opportunities for meaningful worship and for faithful outreach throughout the month of December. I pray that you will be a part of Parkwood UMC as often as you are able in the upcoming weeks.

Giving thanks for all of you,

Pastor Anita

**Special opportunity for the Men of the Church, see page 7**



## The Seekers Class

. Starting October 2, the Seekers class will be studying “Broken and Blessed” by Jessica LaGrone. “How God Used One Imperfect Family to Change the World” This

is a study of Genesis. Everyone is welcome. Please let Bob Newlin know if you want to join so that he can get a book for you.

## the Jacob Class

the Jacob class is continuing its study of Women of the Bible with the women who had an impact in the Life of Christ. Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary.

the Jacob class meets in Room 1 at 9:30 and Ron Byrd is the facilitator.



You are invited

to make a significant contribution to the life of faith at PUMC. We need volunteers to help keep our church clean through "Adopt-A-Room." The church will provide the cleaning supplies if you can provide the willing hands. Please contact Lisa Greene if you'd like to volunteer, or if you'd just like a little more information about how we could work together.

Keeping the church clean through volunteer efforts does save PUMC several thousand dollars each year. Most importantly, those dollars saved can support our ministry in other ways to grow together in Christ, share God's love, and reach out to the world around us with intentional invitation and welcome. When I think back to my own first few Sundays at PUMC, I think what I remember most is radical hospitality. There were friendly faces and warm welcomes...invitations to grab a cup of coffee and make myself at home. Creating an inviting church home is part of that radical hospitality to welcome every person as an honored guest. Adopt-A-Room volunteers truly make a difference in the lives of others. We couldn't do it without you!

## *Vintage Christmas Post Card*





## December, 2016

Arlene McClosky Dec. 7

Edna Walker Dec. 14

Margaret Eiland Dec. 23

Debbie Kavanaugh Dec. 25 



Bob & Beverly Jones Dec. 15 49 years

Bill & Jeanne chwarze Dec. 21 26 years

Send birthdays and anniversaries to:  
[crabbyron@yahoo.com](mailto:crabbyron@yahoo.com)



### Hospitality Greeters:

Dec. 4 Debra Haynes

Dec. 11 Betty Byrd

Dec. 18 Dena Roberts

Dec. 25 Brenda Stephens



### Refreshments:

Dec. 4 Debbie Carroll

Dec. 11 Marie Porter

Dec. 18 Florine Layman

Dec. 25 Janie/Pricilla



Jan Schwarze

## The next Egg Sunday is in... January 22



### **EGG SUNDAY IN JANUARY**

On Sunday, January 22, we will be collecting eggs for Urban Ministries' food pantry clients. Our record so far is 75 dozen. You can bring eggs that morning or place them in the refrigerators during the week. It is very special for these people to have fresh eggs and I want to thank you for your continued support of this effort.

### **VOLUNTEERS MAKE SANDWICHES FOR URBAN MINISTRIES CAFÉ**

In January, there is a fifth Tuesday on Jan. 29. PUMC is scheduled to make sandwiches for the bag lunches given out in the Café, every 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. If you would like to help let Jan Schwarze know. We will carpool down at 9:00 am and finish no later than 11 am.



**Chancel Choir practice  
Wednesdays @ 7:30**

*Wanna voice in Church? Join the choir*



*Music opportunities abound at Parkwood UMC.  
From the Chancel Choir and the annual Christmas  
Cantata  
to the piano of Betty Romani  
and a congregation full of musical talent,  
We make a joyful sound unto our Lord.*

L to R ...Debbie Carroll, Becky Walker and daughter Lily

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## *Knit-Pray-Pray*

Parkwood United Methodist Church

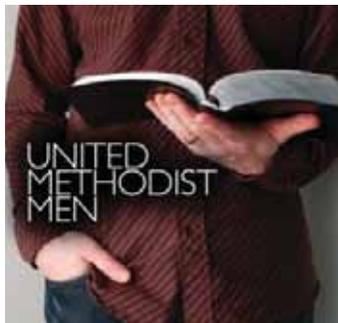
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2<sup>nd</sup>.and 4<sup>th</sup>. 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

## *Vintage Christmas Post Card*



## Parkwood United Methodist Men

The Parkwood UMM meet on Saturday morning December 17th at 8 am for breakfast at Benetis restaurant in the Greenwood Commons shopping center off Sedwick road at 8:00 a.m.

On Saturday December 3rd there at 10 am will be a PUMC Men's Outing to North Carolina Museum of Art's Exhibition - Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930's & 1940's. I have been to this exhibition and it is AWESOME! This would be a great Parkwood UMM outing and an opportunity to invite a friend to go along with us. Please check out the exhibition webpage: <http://ncartmuseum.org/exhibitions/archive/rollingsculptre>. If we get 10 or more people to go, our tickets will be \$16 each instead of the regular \$19 each. I am sure we will get 10 or more people to go.



Henderson KJ Streamline 1930



Talbot-Lago T-15css 1938

## **DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY**

Once again PUMC is planning to provide Christmas food baskets to needy families in the Parkwood community. So far, fourteen turkeys have been donated and now we need to collect the sides and dessert. Look for a sign up sheet at the church and sign up to let us know what you are planning to donate. We are hoping to have these completed by the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your donations to this mission project.

There will be a box under the UMM Bulletin Board for the fixings. If we get a few duplicates, we may put two cans of vegetables or stuffing in the boxes. I have also been notified that there may be a couple of folks in the church that could use a hand. We may be doing 16 baskets if we get enough. If we still have extra, it will go to Urban Ministries Pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

## **FREEZER NEEDS STOCKING**

Recently our church was given a used upright freezer. The plan is to use this freezer to store meals for church members who are in need of some TLC from their church family. On Tuesday evening, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm some of the women of the church will be gathering in our kitchen to prepare soup for the freezer. You can help too, by preparing a casserole or other meal component, freezing it at home and then putting it in the freezer at church. Each item should be labeled with a list of ingredients, how to heat instructions and the date it was prepared. Then when someone in our church has a need we will be ready to show our Christian love by providing a hot meal.

## **BOOK CLUB TO MEET IN JANUARY**

Our newly established book club will meet on Tuesday evening, Jan. 3 at 7:00 pm in the family room at church. We will be discussing "An Invisible Thread" by Laura Schroff. This is a true story about a woman who befriends a boy panhandler on the streets of New York and how they developed a relationship that lasts to today. This book is available at the Durham Public Library. All are welcome and we hope you will want to join us.



### UMW Notes and Notations

The Book club is now reading **An Invisible Thread** by Laura Schroff. This is a true story of a young NY business woman and how she befriends a 10-year-old pan handler and their friendship lasting over 20 years. Our next get together is Tuesday, Jan. 3rd at 7:00-8:00 in the family room. Please join us even if you haven't read the book. Great fellowship!

There are knitted blankets located around the sanctuary that have been donated by Knit Purl Pray. If you are chilled during the service, you are welcome to use one of these blankets.

Freezer meals mission program. The ladies are meeting on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 to make their famous Vegetable Soup to freeze for meals. If you wish to help with this huge mission, please do. Anyone is welcome to make a small casserole or soup and bring it for the freezer. There are recipes available for dishes to be made. Please see Jan, Pam or Brenda. Please remember to label the item with the date, description, reheating directions and ingredients. This is very important for those with food allergies. Thank you!

At the last meeting in November the ladies went on a "spending spree" and allocated the bulk of their treasury to several local missions. It is one of our favorite activities during the end of the year to see where our mission money goes! And it shows how busy we have been! Way to go ladies! Great job!

Meet our 2017 UMW Officers! Pam Skidmore (President), Brenda Stephans (Vice President), Beth Clute (Secretary), Mary Powell (Treasurer), Marietta Abbott (Nominations), Maureen Mitchell (Nominations), Susan Oglesby (Nominations), Jan Schwarze (Program Resources), Marietta Abbott (Communications), Susan Oglesby (Education & Interpretation), Jane Henderson (Member, Nurture & Outreach), Genevieve Joseph (Social Action), and Marie Porter (Spiritual Growth). We do not currently have a 39 & under member.

The officers will meet on Thursday, January 5 at 7:00 pm (weather permitting) in the Family Room to plan 2017. Officers please plan to attend!

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting is Thursday, **January 26, 2017** at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to join us!!

Have a Blessed Advent Season and even more blessed New Year!

Pam Skidmore,  
Parkwood UMW President

To our Jewish friends with whom we share a common G-d, we wish you a  
Happy Hanukkah



**2016 Advent Season at Parkwood UMC**

WORSHIP SERVICES and TIMES

5123 Revere Road, Durham, NC 27713

(919) 544-1078

**Sunday, Nov. 27** – First Sunday of Advent (11:00 AM)

\*\* Hanging of the Greens & Communion

**Sunday, Dec. 4** – Second Sunday of Advent (11:00 AM)

\*\* Moravian Love Feast

**Sunday, Dec. 11** – Third Sunday of Advent (11:00 AM)

\*\* The Choir will present their Christmas Cantata

*“The Silence and the Sound”* by Heather Sorenson

**Sunday, Dec. 18** – Fourth Sunday of Advent (11:00 AM)

\*\* Lessons and Carols

**Wednesday, Dec. 21** – Longest Night Service (7:00PM)

Attentive to the needs of those who may feel blue at Christmas, you are invited into a sacred space with others who may be living through dark times. This service will be reflective, accepting of where we really are, while holding out healing and hope.

**Saturday, Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve Service (7:00PM)

\*\* Join us for our candlelight and communion worship service at 7:00 pm. We will have two (2) Special Offerings for this service. Please see the other text boxes about our special offerings.

**Sunday, Dec. 25** – Christmas Day Service (10:00 AM)

\*\* No Sunday school or coffee gathering. Just come as you are as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

## Christmas Eve Special Offerings

*On Christmas Eve, please plan to make two special offerings.*

- 1) A monetary donation to assist with Hurricane Matthew Relief. Please see the other side for more information.*
- 2) A Food Item to restock Urban Ministries Food Pantry wrapped in tissue paper.*

### **Non-perishable items (non-glass containers preferred)**

- Peanut butter and jelly
- Powdered milk
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, stews, Spam or Treet)
- Canned soups
- Dried beans, rice, and pasta
- Canned tomatoes, tomato paste, pasta sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Pork 'n beans and other canned beans
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.
- Canned fruit and applesauce
- Cereal, oatmeal, grits
- Juice boxes (especially during summer months)
- Baby food (no glass jars, please), formula, and cereal
- Disposable baby diapers, sizes 3-6
- Baby wipes
- Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues
- Hygiene items, travel or personal size preferred
- Individual size pop-top cans such as Vienna sausage, cheese crackers, granola bars, etc., for homeless clients living on the street

2016 Corridor District Christmas Offering for Hurricane Matthew Relief



Let us give generously to help our neighbors who have suffered from Hurricane Matthew.

Please make your check payable to **NCCUMC.**

On the memo line of the check write the following:

**# S00176 - NC Storm Emergency Response.**

100% of your donation goes to recovery efforts in the North Carolina Conference.

Thank you for your generosity.

Together our gifts honor the Christ Child.



**North Carolina Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

**January Deadline is December 25<sup>th</sup>  
New “Believe...Belong...Serve...” policy,  
Only one deadline reminder to be sent.**