



ECCLESIA

*The mission of First United Methodist Church is to make and nurture Christian disciples
through the presence and power of the Spirit of God.*

December 2009

Volume 32, Issue 12

Advent & Christmas at First Church 2009

December 4, 2009 (Noon)

Fridays@First: Matthew Michael Brown, *organist*

December 5, 2009 (9am)

Breakfast with Santa (Fellowship Hall)

December 11, 2009 (Noon)

Fridays@First: Parkland Magnet High School Chorus

December 18, 2009 (Noon)

Fridays@First: Scott Macleod, *baritone* & Matthew Michael Brown, *pianist*

December 20, 2009 (5pm)

Second Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

Chancel Choir and Choristers accompanied by organ, flute, harp, and oboe

December 24, 2009 (5pm)

A Paper Bag Pageant!

A pageant for children and young families to experience the story of Christmas

December 24, 2009 (7pm)

A Service of Holy Communion

December 24, 2009 (11pm; Festive Voluntary begins at 10:30pm)

A Service of Candlelight Communion

with Chancel Choir singing music by Goss, Adam, and Rutter

January 3, 2009 (7pm)

Epiphany Lovefeast

A Lovefeast in the Moravian Tradition

News You Can Use

Offering Envelopes

Please let Becky know if you choose not to receive a set of offering envelopes for 2010. The envelope sets have already been ordered, but the numbers haven't been assigned to specific members. Letting Becky know in advance will help reduce the number of unused envelopes. Last year, many of the assigned sets were not used, while additional sets had to be ordered for new members.

From the Finance Committee

Please remember to complete and return your pledge cards for 2010. Your pledge is very important to the 2010 budget process. If you have any questions about your 2010 pledges, please call Becky in the church office for assistance. The three-year Building Fund pledges made in 2006 are due this year. All donations for 2009 must be in the church office by noon on December 31st or postmarked December 30th. The church office will be closed Monday, December 28th.

It is time to order your red poinsettias! You will find an order form in the bulletin. The cost of the poinsettias is \$8.00 each, and the deadline for placing an order is December 14th. The poinsettias will be coming from Weddington's Green House in China Grove. We have 130 poinsettias available, so place your order soon. **When placing an order, please be sure to include your order form with your payment.** If you will not be here for our Christmas Eve services, please pick up your poinsettias after the 11:00 worship service on December 20th. If you are planning on being at the church on December 24th, please wait and pick up your poinsettias after the last service you attend on that day.

During this season of giving, the SPRC would like to ask for your participation (if you feel so moved) in providing a **love offering to the First United Methodist Church staff.** We truly appreciate their hard work and dedication, and if you wish to participate this year, you may do so by making your check payable to First United Methodist Church and note Staff Christmas Love Offering on the memo line of your check or church envelope. If you wish to give a gift, please do so by Sunday, December 13th. Thank you.

Attention all women! Mark your calendars and get ready! **The 2010 Women's Beach Retreat** will be held from March 18-21, 2010, at Ocean Isle Beach, NC. The cost for the retreat is \$150; a \$75 non-refundable deposit is due when you sign up. Sign-up has already begun, and this is different from years past. Policies have changed with our rental company, and we need to pay for part of the rental of the house in January, and then the final payment in February. So, we are trying to get our money in earlier. It is a learning game! The sign-up sheet is on Samantha's door, and the deposit is due when you sign up. If you have questions, please contact Samantha or Mary Jane Thompson. We look forward to another great time at the beach for good food, fun and spiritual enlightenment.

Old Fashioned Hanging of the Greens will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 2nd. Come back in time with us and enjoy the fun. Help us decorate the tree with stringed popcorn, paper chain links and much more. This is truly a great time of fellowship. Supper will be from 5:30-6:30 pm (reservations needed by Monday, November 30th). The festivities will begin at 6:30 pm. Bring your families, neighbors and friends for a fabulous time of food, fellowship and fun! Also, please bring a bag of candy, so that bags may be made for children in need. We have pencils and Bible story books to put in the bags. Please note that we will ask the children to decorate the bags with stickers and stamps.

First Family Celebration on Wednesdays will not meet on December 16th, 23rd or 30th. **See you January 6th** for great food, great fellowship and fabulous studies.

Save this Date! "Bricks and Mortar" Silent Auction, a fundraiser for the new building, will be held Saturday, January 30th, 6:00-8:00 pm.

The Church Office will be closed Friday, December 25th and Monday, December 28th for Christmas!

Pastor's Note Pad

From time to time, I will hear people say that Christmas, and the surrounding holiday season, is all about the giving. Since before Halloween, our media outlets have done their best to remind us that it is “All about the giving.” We search and we look for the perfect gift for everyone on our shopping list. Sometimes we do pretty well with our gift giving and other times we strike out. I thought it was interesting that it has been estimated that there will be a billion dollars spent on unwanted gifts in Australia. I can't imagine what that figure will be here in the United States. For me, one of the worst feelings in the world is to have spent untold hours looking for the ideal gift, then to anxiously watch the recipient unwrap it, only to have them in an unexpressive voice say, “Oh, it's ah, nice.”

The reality is that those who say that Christmas is “All about the giving,” are correct, but they rarely acknowledge the real gift that is to be celebrated. The giving has nothing to do with Belk's, Amazon.com, Macy's, Wal-Mart or any other retail outlet. It has nothing to do with exchanged baked goods, or “Dirty Santa” games. The gift that is the center piece of Christmas is the gift of Jesus Christ, God's only son, to the people of the world. God chose the perfect gift to bring salvation to his people, to free them from the bonds of sin and death. Through Jesus Christ, the people of the world have been blessed with the eternal life. God's gift has come to us at great sacrifice. It took thousands of years to pick the perfect present, and it was paid for with the pain, suffering and death of Calvary. Sadly, there are many who treat it as just another unwanted gift, because the recipient would have rather had something different. So they say, “Oh, that's nice,” and they go on looking for other gifts that they think will make them happier. They turn their backs on the one thing that can truly make them happy.

My prayer is that this year you will truly experience the glory that is God's perfect gift of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Steve

Youth News
www.1styouth.org

December Birthdays

Alex Hudson-9	Anna Maphis-23
Kathryn Haines-15	Brianna Brinkley-26
Josh Smith-22	Wes Fazia-31



Youth Activities & Honors

Kate Zimmerman – Middle School All County Band-percussion
 Quinn Scarvey – accepted at Western Carolina
 Luke Lundy- accepted at Gardner-Webb
 Callie Slife – Jr. National Honor Society and Cheerleader at Southeast Middle
 Katelyn Storey, Sallie Kate Meyerhoffer and Lauren Gray - Salisbury High School girls tennis 2A State Dual Team Championship
 Matthew Langford – 2nd Chair Tuba All County Middle School Honor Band
 Thomas Langford – accepted at High Point University



**Exciting Opportunities to Grow
 with Jesus in December**

Saturday, December 5th - *Breakfast with Santa* - Come and share God's love with the children by helping them make Christmas crafts & gingerbread houses. 8:30 am until 11:00 or 11:30 am.

Sunday, December 6th - *Christmas Shopping for Foster Youth* - after 11:00 am worship service, headed to Hanes Mall

Sunday, December 13th - *Christmas Caroling & Bonfire* - Leaving from the church at 4:30 pm

Upcoming Attractions

January 8-9- Ski Trip
 February 5-7- Summit (ALL Youth)
 February 26-27 – 30 Hour Famine

Cool Kids!

December Birthdays

1	Jenna Robinson
2	Josie Goodnight
2	Maggie Goodnight
2	Harrison Banish
3	Will Bivens
4	Isabella Banish
5	William Austin
6	Steven Anderson
7	Ivey Wilson
9	Meg Bivens
12	Jacob Mills
17	William Preddy
18	Regan Roakes
19	Henry Austin
20	Samantha Hensley
20	Davis West
21	Rachel Fisher
28	Ethan Mastro
29	Noah Powell
29	Joe Steinman

Birthday Party for Jesus will be held Sunday, December 20th during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. All ages welcome. We will hear the Biblical Christmas Story and have birthday cake. Please come and enjoy this meaningful reflection of what the reason for the season of Christmas is all about.

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00-11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per person, maximum is \$15.00 per family. Crafts, gingerbread houses, pictures with Santa and much, much more! Please RSVP by November 30th by signing up on the bulletin board in the education hallway or e-mailing Samantha (samantha@fumcsalisbury.org) with the name and number of people attending. This will help the Children's Ministry Team plan for breakfast and crafts.

P.A.W.S. for Kids in grades 1st-5th meets in the chapel after they are dismissed from the 11:00 am worship service for their own interactive worship service. This is not only a time of worship but a great chance to learn why we worship.

First Family Kids will not meet on December 16th, 23rd and 30th. See you on January 6th!

PAWS Hint: What does the word Epiphany mean, what month is it in, and on what day? (20 points) Please write your answer on a piece of paper, along with your name, and turn in to Samantha.

HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS

Construction Progress

Even with a significant amount of rain over the last two weeks, we have made quite a bit of progress on the building site. With the fences up, the soil compacted, and grading finished, we are ready to start laying the foundation footings. With a week of good weather, we will start seeing foundation walls and concrete slabs being poured.

The alternate portion of the plans, which adds rooms and restrooms in the existing office area, will start seeing some activity in the next couple of weeks, as well. We are trying to save the large crape myrtle by moving it to a location in the back corner of the play yard in front. The existing cherry trees are broken and diseased and will be moved to accommodate the crape myrtle.

You may have already noticed that a handicap ramp was poured to assist access to the sanctuary on the south side. Every effort will be made to continue to make access to all church offices and facilities safe and easy.

Since we have broken ground, we have seen a lot of activity on fund raising and pledging. We have received one pledge for \$125,000 in support of the porte cochere (drive thru) and have had requests for participation in other portions of the project. Church policy prohibits naming or installing plaques on or in the church, but we hope to produce a book of donations, memorials and honorariums to acknowledge individual interest in various portions of the project.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

United Methodist Women: A Reminder

UMW General Meeting, December 7, 2009. This will be a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by installation of officers and a program. Child care will be provided.

2010 Church Leadership Retreat

All 2010 Church Council leaders, save Saturday, January 16th. The Leadership Retreat will be 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in the Stanback Room of the Rowan Public Library. This is an important time to look at where we are as a church and where we want to lead the church in 2010 and beyond.

Looking for a unique Christmas gift for a female friend or loved one? Give her the gift of a ticket to **"The Rooms of Your Life" Women's Retreat** this February. The UMW is sponsoring the women's retreat here at FUMC on Feb. 5-6. Jean Padgett will be back to present five in-depth sessions of her program "The Rooms of Your Life." Tickets go on sale Sunday, December 6th after both services. Cost is \$25. This will cover Jean's presentation, a program workbook, and three meals. Give someone a gift that they will never forget!

foundations@first

You are invited to learn more about the United Methodist Church. Join us for foundations@first on the 1st Sunday of the month, 9:45-10:45 am in the chapel. The December 6th session will explore how we are organized here at First United Methodist: What is the Church Council? What does it do? What are the responsibilities of the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations committee? Responsibilities of other church leadership teams? What are the ministries of First Church? What questions do you have about our church? The January 3rd session will explore the United Methodist Church at large—structure and ministries. Come ask, come learn.

Adopt a School

Thank you again to our church family for all the school supplies. We were able to help 100 students with your gifts.

Currently, we are serving 6 students with backpacks. They are most appreciative to have the meals on the weekend.

Once again our UMW Circles have outdone themselves. We donated 7 laundry baskets filled and overflowing with groceries. Gift cards were also presented to each family. Your support is awesome.

We are now in the process of selecting families to be adopted for Christmas. Please let Jan Dyrholm know if you are interested in adopting an Isenberg Family for the holiday (704-636-7367).

All First Methodist Mentors/Volunteers, please save the date, January 29th, for our annual luncheon meeting.

As we enter this joyous season, may we all be blessed with peace, joy, love and happiness.

Service Opportunities and Recognition

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the cards, prayers, etc. after my short stay in the hospital. Everything was very much appreciated. *Carol Hylton*

Dear FUMC Family,
God has granted me a new day—a precious day of Thanksgiving. To be thankful for life, love of family, church family, friends and neighbors—all who have supported me during this uncertain time and surgery. I'm especially thankful for the special gift of your prayers. I truly believe that we are to pray without ceasing for one another. For your cards, phone calls, flowers, visits and food, and your love—I am truly grateful. Martha and Steve, you are such a blessing to us all. Thank you. *Sara Hill*

Thanks to everyone who participated in the **November Missions Festival!** It was wonderful to see over thirty ways we support missions at First Church. In the Fellowship Hall we were able to see how we support ministries abroad in Guatemala, Africa, India and around the world through Samaritan's Purse. We were able to view how our church supports the church at large through apportionments and benevolences. Through the festival, we were able to examine our church in action in our local community. A special thanks to the entire missions team, including Jeff Thompson for his inspirational slide show, and George Hines and Bob Roakes for leading the kitchen crew.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

A great big thank you to all who supported our Operation Christmas Child boxes this year, whether you joined the festivities of packing boxes, donated items for boxes or contributed money. We thank you, because with your generosity, we packed 117 boxes for this wonderful outreach mission.

This holiday season, First Methodist will again sponsor children in foster care by participating in **One Child One Church's annual Star Tree**. This Star Tree with golden angels will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall as a reminder to our congregation the spirit of giving to those less fortunate. This year, our youth group requested to adopt many of these children along with several members in Sunday School classes. Barbara Langford and I would like to thank the congregation

for your continued support of this outreach community program. We personally have witnessed the joy you are bringing to these children in meeting their daily needs. Sincerely, *Laura Collins and Barbara Langford*, Coordinators of One Child One Church

Men's Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, January 16th, Steve Haines will lead a Men's Bible Study called "Dare to Be Uncommon." The study has been developed by the outstanding NFL coach and Christian gentleman, Tony Dungy. It will be offered twice on Tuesdays, once at 10:00 am, and then again at 7:00 pm. The course will run for seven consecutive weeks, and it will give insight as to how men can serve God and be a vital, positive, influence on their families and community. If you are interested, please contact Reverend Haines.

journey@first

journey@first continues to grow in attendance and in service to others by the receiving of non-perishable goods for distribution by Rowan Helping Ministries. November's service was a celebration of the beginning of a second year of extending a new worship opportunity to our church and our community. Many were touched by the viewing of cardboard testimonies and the personal cardboard testimony of Pastor Steve Haines.

We invite you to join us in worship on December 20th at 9:00 am in the Chapel when Pastor Haines will deliver the message "Pick Me! I Want the Gift! You Picked Me?" The message is based on the scripture found in the Gospel of Luke 1:46b-55—God's call to Mary and Her Song of Celebration. We are all called to give birth to Christ.

Jason Walser will deliver the pre-message, and Tracy Walser will ask the children to come forward to hear "The Legend of the Poinsettia" (adults, if you do not know the story of this legend, you will also enjoy listening to Tracy). Do not forget to bring non-perishable goods so they may be taken to the altar and receive a blessing before distribution by Rowan Helping Ministries.

Will Ballard will join us as pianist. Beth Yelvington and Robin Daye will provide special music and lead us in song. Invite a friend or neighbor to join in journey@first worship as we celebrate and rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior. Rejoice in His Coming!

THOSE SERVING ON SUNDAYS

December 6

Acolytes

8:30: Cleesie Whittington
11:00: Callie Slife, Josh Smith, Alex Warren

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
Rob and Suzanne Roakes

December 13

Acolytes

8:30: Wes Fazia
11:00: Elle Wimmer, Parker Williams, Michael Anderson

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

December 20

Acolytes

8:30: TBD
11:00: TBD

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

December 27

Acolytes

8:30: Jake Goodnight
11:00: Kate Zimmerman, Heather Carmichael, Jacob Daye

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

Dear Minister and Friends of First United Methodist Church,
What you have done for us is truly appreciated, and words could never express the gratitude that is in our heart especially for you all. We are grateful to you all for being part of our school and for taking a great interest in the lives of our children at Christ Asha. *Mono and all of Christ Asha,* Jabalpur

ON CALL SCHEDULE

December 4-December 6

Steve Haines

December 11-December 13

Steve Haines

December 18-December 20

Martha Ballard

December 25-December 27

Steve Haines

January 1-January 3

Steve Haines

If a member of your family is hospitalized, please inform the church office. In the case of hospitalizations or pastoral care needs when the office is closed, the cell phone number of the pastor on call can be found by calling the church number 704-636-3121 and listening to the message.

DOORSTEP VISITORS

December 6 Tommy & Sue Lewis

December 13 Henry & Libby Buck

December 20 Karla Swanson

December 27 Hilda Pyatt

ALTAR GUILD

8:30

Suzanne Roakes

11:00

Camille Reische

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN

December 6 Linne' Wallace

December 13 Samantha Wesley

December 20 Bobbie Melton

December 28 No Moments for Children

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Friday Hospital Visits

December 4 Betty Smyth

December 11 Mary Jane Thompson

December 18 Ken Hollar

December 25 Darrell Lewis

THE SUNDAY PULPIT

December 6 Steve Haines

December 13 Steve Haines

December 20 Steve Haines

December 27 Steve Haines

DECEMBER USHERS

8:30 Worship Jim Molitor, Co-Chief; Don Hylton, Co-Chief; Susan Fraley, Joyce Miner, Steve Schoch

11:00 Worship Roland Fowler, Capt.; Ken Hollar, Co-Capt.; Scott Maphis, Wayne Saleeby, Rob Watts, Don Champion, Bob Slife, Mike Hughes, Doug Leonard, Jim Poteat

FIRST FAMILY CELEBRATION

Volunteer schedule to collect money: (Two people needed per class. Please be in the fellowship hall by 5:15 to get ready for dinner service at 5:30.)

December 2 Hanging of the Greens
Men's Prayer Breakfast
Group

December 9 UMW

SENIORS... You're invited to join the **Methodist Connection** on Tuesday, December 8th, 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall for a Festive Holiday Meal featuring ham and turkey. The meal is catered and cost per person is \$7.50. A Christmas Program of Musical Bells will be directed by Mrs. Ann Morris. Also, please bring an unwrapped long held-on-to treasure to contribute for a "Naughty Santa" game. **Reservations required by Monday, December 7th at noon.** Register in the church office or call the office at 704-636-3121.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SALISBURY
• 217 SOUTH CHURCH STREET • SALISBURY, NC 28144 •
WWW.FUMCSALISBURY.ORG

Phone: 704-636-3121

Fax: 704-637-2933

Email: staff member first name@fumcsalisbury.org
(Adam Sproles is adams@fumcsalisbury.org)

*Staff with an asterisk have e-mail

Web Page: www.fumcsalisbury.org

On-line calendar on the News and Events page

Child Development Center: 704-633-7209

www.salisburychildcare.com

Email: cdc@fumcsalisbury.org

After-School Care: 704-433-6679

Preschool: 704-636-3121

www.firstmethodistpreschool.org

Remember Those in Military Service

During the holidays you are asked to remember those on active duty in our armed services who are connected to our congregation. Please take time to send a card or email expressing your gratitude for their service, and wish them a safe holiday. Several are away from home and family members during this time. You can send a regular card with just a 44 cent stamp to any US or overseas (APO AE) military address. (If you choose to send something like a magazine or package overseas, you will have to complete a Customs form at the Post Office.) Overseas mail takes 10-14 days to arrive at its destination.

Army Major Chris Bachl

Son of Fred Bachl & Carol Elkins; wife, Cathy; daughter, Lily; son, Andrew. He has served deployments to Kosovo and Iraq. Currently assigned to US Naval Post Graduate School in California

Mailing Address:

Major Chris Bachl

1240 Remagen Road

Seaside, CA 93955

Army Specialist 3 Brandon Crawford

Son of Tammy Livengood, grandson of Sara Hill, brother of Joshua Smith. He has served one deployment in Iraq. Currently stationed at Fort Stewart in Georgia.

Mailing Address:

Specialist 3 Brandon Crawford

122 Oliver Avenue

Savannah, GA 31409

Army Captain Stephen Eldridge

Son of Rick & Susan Eldridge, brother of Thomas. He is serving a second deployment in Iraq with Third Infantry Division out of Fort Benning, GA. Located at FOB Delta near Kut, Iraq

Mailing Address:

CPT Stephen Eldridge

HHB 1-10FA

FOB Delta

APO AE 09317

Email: stephen.eldridge8306@gmail.com

FUMC MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor:	Steve Haines*
Associate Pastor:	Martha Ballard*
Director of Music Ministries:	Matthew Brown*
Director of Christian Ed and Children and Family Ministries:	Samantha Wesley*
Director of Youth Ministries:	Adam Sproles*
Church Business Administrator:	Becky Lippard*
Director of Lay Ministry:	Elaine Hewitt*
Administrative Assistant:	April Elrod*
Building Superintendent:	Murl Leazer
CDC Director:	Vickie Wood
Preschool Director:	Patsy Langlais
ASC Director:	Salem Dietz

Army Major Mark Hayden

Father of Kathryn & Victoria. He served two tours in Iraq; currently on Active Reserve status

Mailing Address:

Major Mark Hayden

225 N. Main Street, Suite 308

Salisbury, NC 28144

Email: mhayden@ft.newyorklife.com

Army Colonel Skip Lewis

Son of Tommy Lewis & Sue; wife, Susan; daughter, Aaron Russell; son, Daniel Lewis. 24 years of service; recently returned from deployment in Iraq; currently stationed at Fort Monroe, VA

Mailing Address:

Colonel Skip Lewis

4570 Antioch Road

Oxford, NC 27565

Email: suelew94@hotmail.com

Marine Private First Class Will Martin

Son of Steve & Cindy Martin, brother of Meredith Briley. Enlisted in April 2009; currently stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC

Mailing Address:

PFC William Martin

2-D AABN Charlie 3rd

PSC Box 20070

Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Air Force Captain Wesley Maxwell

Son of Walter & Susan Maxwell; brother to Suzanna; wife, Monica; daughter, Scarlett. Recently returned from second deployment in Afghanistan; currently stationed at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia as Logistics Officer

Mailing Address:

CPT Wesley Maxwell

159 McClain Circle

Macon, GA 31216

Email: wmaxwell@bellsouth.net