

Opportunities to Worship, Fellowship and Serve

THE JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM — Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; ends this week. This is another opportunity to make your Advent journey more meaningful! Everyone is welcome! Studies are in The Gathering Room.

WEDNESDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE — *No rehearsals until January.*

THE ENERGETICS — Thursday, 10 a.m. in the Conference Room.

BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY — The Children's Center is accepting donations for the Bread of Life Food Pantry. A box is located in their area. Help brighten the holidays for someone!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP — Saturday, December 24, 6 p.m. Bring family and friends with you for an inspiring time of worship.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP — Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day, and our worship will begin one-half hour earlier. Special music and a message by our pastor will add great meaning to your Christmas.

ALTAR FLOWERS — The 2012 flower calendar has been posted in the Church Office. Open dates include **January 22**, **February 26**. All open dates are posted on the church website (updated every Friday). Call or email the church office to reserve a Sunday.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE — is accepting new, unwrapped toys for children in Chesterfield, Darlington and Marlboro counties. A collection box is in the church office hallway.

Participating in Worship Today

Crucifer—Bill Kinney; **Acolyte**—Janis Usher;

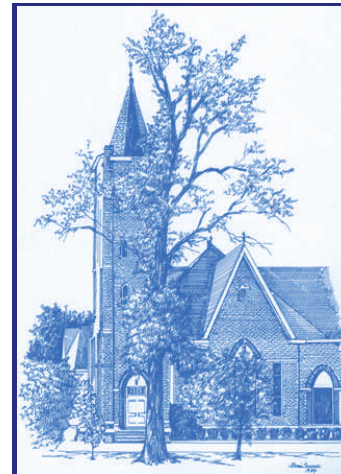
Ushers—Gene Baker, Joey Jones, Mac McLaurin, Phil Thomas;

Nursery—Brandy Deal, Beth Hepler (SS and Worship);

Greeters—The Seekers Class; **Altar Guild**—Elaine Crow, Beverly Hodges

Rejoice in the hope of a Savior!

Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor RESIDENT BISHOP Joann Hart.....FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Rev. Dickie Knight DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT Rev. J. Leon Newton..... RETIRED UMC MINISTER
Rev. Dr. Ben Michael GaffordSENIOR PASTOR
Rev. Jim Hepler DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Office Phone 843.479.3231
Beth HeplerEARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR Office E-mail..... BvilleFUMC@bellsouth.net
April McCallADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Website www.BennettsvilleFUMC.net



First United Methodist Church
Bennettsville, South Carolina

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2011



The Church In Worship

WELCOME AND PARISH CONCERNS

Please sign the attendance folder and pass it down the pew for each person to sign. As the folder is returned, note the names of others in your pew. Extend a welcome to our guests!

OPENING VOLUNTARY

arr. Edwin C. Johnson

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

(and quoting Handel’s “For Unto Us a Child Is Born”)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise, and generation to generation, we are Your people.

You have been with us wherever we have gone.

You will be with us wherever we may go.

You have planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey,
then You planted our salvation in Mary’s womb.

Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.

Our souls magnify the Holy One.

Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 240

MENDELSSOHN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*THE GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Love Candle)

1 John 4: 7-9

CAROL

“Advent Candle Song”

Sally Ahner

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate, Forgiving God,

we trespass on Your mercy and take Your favor for granted.

We think only of ourselves.

We forget the lessons of those who came before us,

and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us.

We grow proud and seek power.

We do not see the destruction of our actions and how it distances us from You.

We do not recognize our hunger for what it is, or where it leads us. We grow faint.

Bring us home to You, Merciful Beloved.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Holy One forgives and bestows favor on each of us, even and especially when we are lowly in spirit. We are blessed from generation to generation by the Mighty One, whose strength and mercy are forever.

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, and The Lord’s Prayer in unison

THE OFFERING OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

arr. Marianne Bahmann

Pastorale on “What Child Is This”

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 95

OLD HUNDREDTH

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

(TEXT BY THOMAS KEN, 1674; MUSIC ATTRIBUTED TO LOUIS BOURGEOIS, 1551)

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 217

James R. Murray, 1887

“Away in a Manger”

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 1-20, pp. 54-55, NT

THE ANTHEM

“Angel Medley”

arr. Keith Christopher

The Chancel Choir

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled.” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! the herald angels sing; “Glory to the newborn King.” Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains: And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth; Ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

THE MESSAGE

“A Child Is Born”

Rev. Dr. Gafford

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 236

CHRISTMAS

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL

“We Are Waiting for a Savior”

JACOB’S LADDER

**We are waiting for a Savior, We are waiting for a Savior,
We are waiting for a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“God Rest Ye Merry”

arr. Wilbur Held

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

A warm welcome is extended today to all who join us in worship. As we continue our Advent journey, may God’s love guide us in preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

An infant and toddler nursery is provided during the worship service. It is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building, and the elevator is available to access the nursery. **Personal hearing devices** are available for those who have difficulty in hearing the service