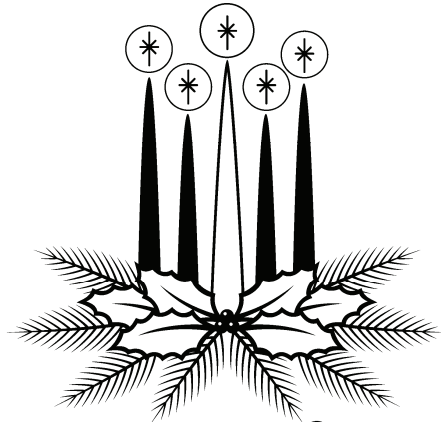


*Opportunities to Worship, Fellowship and Serve*



*Merry Christmas!*

*Rejoice this week,*

*knowing that the light of the world*

*has come to illumine our lives.*

**2012 GIVING ENVELOPES** — are in the back of the Sanctuary. Get yours today! May our giving in 2012 reflect our love for God, and our desire for our church to minister to our community and world.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT SUNDAY** — For New Year's Day, all adult classes will meet together in The Gathering Room, and will be led by Dr. Gafford. Make a new year's resolution to be in Sunday School each Sunday!

### *Participating in Worship Today*

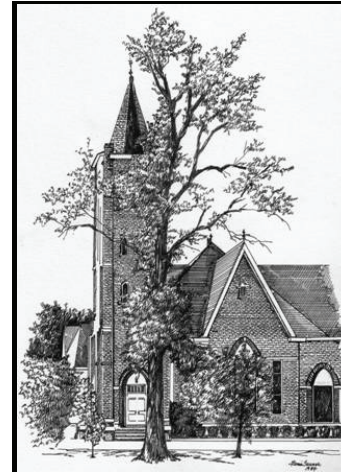
**Crucifer**—Virginia Fowler; **Acolyte**—Janis Usher;

**Ushers**—Robert Fowler, Stephen Fowler, Hubert Meggs, Dean Moore;

**Nursery**—Carolyn Wallace (SS and Worship);

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

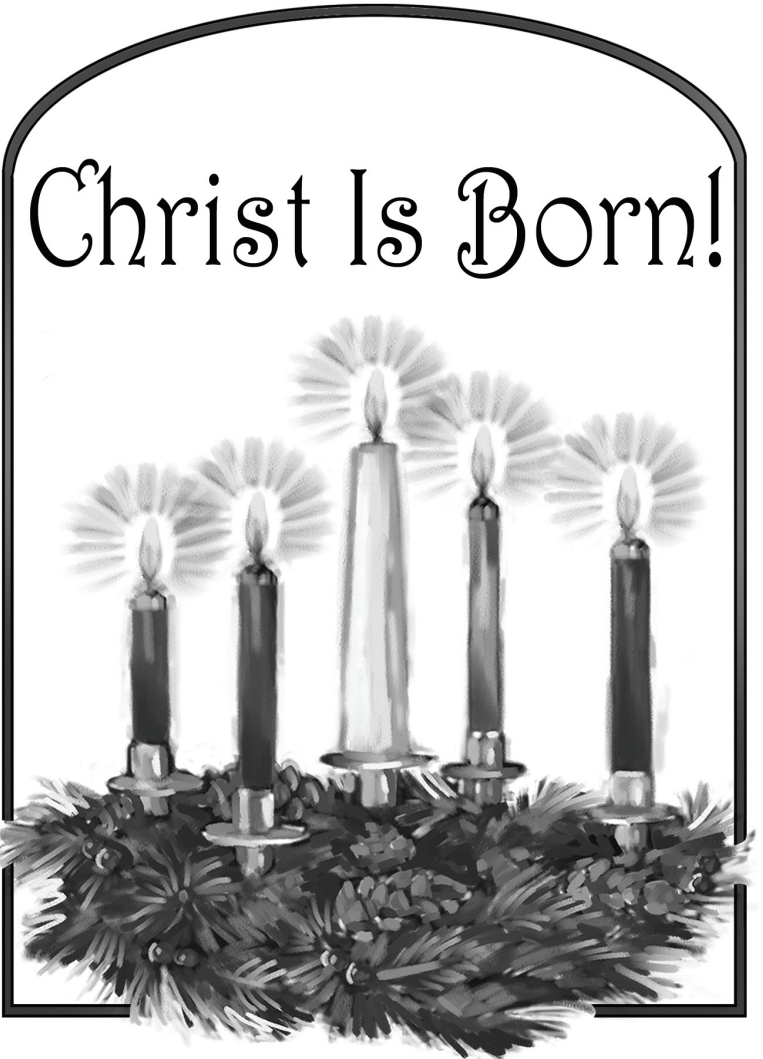
Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor ..... RESIDENT BISHOP    Joann Hart.....FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
Rev. Dickie Knight ..... DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT    Rev. J. Leon Newton..... RETIRED UMC MINISTER  
Rev. Dr. Ben Michael Gafford ..... SENIOR PASTOR  
Rev. Jim Hepler .... DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES    Office Phone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



**First United Methodist Church**  
**Bennettsville, South Carolina**

*Christmas Day*

*December 25, 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

Grand Fantasia on “Joy to the World”

Marc Cheban

## \*CAROL 230

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
stanzas 1, 3 and 6

ADESTE FIDELES

## \*CAROL 228

“He Is Born”  
stanzas 1 and 3

IL EST NÉ

## THE ANTHEM

“The Wexford Carol”  
Harmony

Traditional Irish Carol  
arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

## CAROL 230

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

## THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

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

## THE OFFERING OF THE PEOPLE

## OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

“Shepherds Came, Their Praises Bringing”

arr. Helmut Walcha

## \*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)

## CAROL 218

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

## \*SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1: 1-18, pg. 86, NT

## THE ANTHEM

“The First Noel”  
The Chancel Choir

arr. Michael Clawson

## THE MESSAGE

“God Showed Up”

Rev. Dr. Gafford

## \*CAROL 246

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

## \*CHORAL BENEDICTION “A Christmas Blessing”

Harmony

Richard Horn

May the song of the angels surprise you;  
May the fear of the shepherds enthral you;  
May the star over Bethlehem brighten your home  
With the light of Emmanuel’s birth.  
May the love of His Father enfold you,  
And the joy of His mother surround you;  
May the peace of God rest on your doorstep,  
And the Child at the foot of your hearth.

## \*CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel  
arr. Virgil Fox

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given!”

**Merry Christmas!** What a joy to be together in the presence of the newborn Savior. Welcome to the manger, as we worship our King. A very special welcome is extended to our guests. May the joy of this day abound as we worship together. Please worship with us whenever you are able.

**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.