

# Long Memorial UMC

*April 2011*

## From the Pastors Desk

Easter, at its best, is a love story. It not only tells us of God's love for us, but for our love for God. And nowhere is this driven home any clearer than in the Easter story found in John the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter. John utilizes light and darkness as an artist uses light to draw attention to a part of a painting. When Judas left the other disciples to go and betray Jesus, John pens these words: "And it was night." Now, John was doing more than just keeping us abreast of time. In John's statement we see a spiritual darkness, as the unity of the disciples was rapidly unraveling. And now, in John 20, we see the phrase, "early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb." Each of the other three Gospel writers made mention that on Easter morning the sun was rising, that it was getting lighter. But again John was not speaking of an actual darkness, but a darkness in the hearts of those who had put their hope and trust in the life of Jesus. With a heavy heart Mary Magdalene, a woman whose mess of a life had been changed by Jesus, came early in the morning. Why? She could not roll the stone away. But Easter was and is a love story. She came because she loved Jesus, and wanted once more to be with Him. We clergy see this so often as we stand by the open grave, speaking the words, "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Even though we know of the reality of death, we want to believe, we want to hold on to the fact that for every goodbye there will be an eternal reunion. When reason and rational thought fail, love triumphs. When she saw that the tomb was empty, she went to get Peter and John to tell them what had happened. After a race to the tomb, Peter and John believed something miraculous had happened, but Mary Magdalene stayed behind. You see, Easter is a love story. She saw a man she thought was the gardener, who she finally realized was Jesus. She lingered by the tomb, and was the first to see the risen Lord. But what kept her at the tomb? I do not know if it was faith, I do not know if she had hope, but I know she had love. She possessed the greatest of all gifts, she possessed love. And that love for Jesus gave her the opportunity to be the very first evangelist, to be the first person to claim to have seen the risen Christ.

Beloved, I pray that we come to church each Sunday for the proper reason. I pray that we come to church because we love God. We may not understand all the doctrines of the church, the political arena in which we live, but if we love God, then Jesus will call us by name, and the darkness will flee away. This is a gift of God, given freely, for, after all, Easter is a love story.

Bruce

## **ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES**

We are taking orders for Easter lilies that will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to purchase a lily in memory or in honor of someone special should call the church office (599-1193). The cost is \$12 per lily.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES FOR APRIL**

On Sunday, April 10 Rev. Allen and several members of the congregation will participate in a dramatic monologue during the two worship services. Rev. Allen will portray Simon Peter as he denies Christ. On Thursday, April 21 there will be a Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae service. During the Maundy Thursday service communion will be served, then during the Tenebrae (service of darkness) the sanctuary is stripped, candles are lit and extinguished during the scripture readings, and the congregation leaves in darkness. And on Easter Sunday, April 24, there will be just one service, the 11:00 service. During that service our confirmands will join the church.

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

**Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service – Thursday, April 21, 7:00 P.M. – Sanctuary**

**IMPORTANT: There will only be 1 worship service on Easter Sunday and this will be at 11 A.M.**

***The church office will be closed on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Easter.***

**REMEMBER:** Deadline for our May newsletter is Thursday, April 21st at 9:00 A.M. You may bring any articles to the church office or e-mail your articles to: [pwade@esinc.net](mailto:pwade@esinc.net) – Thank you!

## **MEETINGS ON THE AGENDA:**

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 P.M – **Staff Parish** - Library  
Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 P.M. – **Mission Committee** – Pastor's Study

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Members of our prayer chain are offering daily prayers for those on our prayer list as well as for others who have requested prayer. If you, or someone you love, would like daily prayers said for a special need, please call either Tania Edwards at 599-3863 or Martha Butler at 597-3946.

**CHRISTIAN HELP CENTER NEEDS :** peanut butter and jelly. A basket is in the Narthex for you to place your donations in. Thank you!

**Worship With Us Every Sunday**

8:45 AM - Early Service - Sanctuary

9:45 AM - Sunday School

11:00 AM - Worship - Sanctuary

**OUR INFORMATION**

Long Memorial United Methodist Church

226 North Main Street

P.O. Box 310 Roxboro, NC 27573

336-599-1193 (Telephone)

336-599-1194 (Fax)

**NEW 2011 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IN SEPTEMBER**

Mark these dates now: Thursday – Saturday, September 15, 16, and 17<sup>th</sup>. Lifetouch will be taking pictures of our church family on these dates so free your schedules NOW!

### **APRIL ACOLYTES:**

April 3 – Brooke Peed  
April 10 – Jackson Kimbrough  
April 17 – Taylor Rogers  
April 24 – Cole Strickland

### **APRIL NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR 11:00 A.M.**

April 3 – Kay Carver  
April 10 – Tonya Gentry  
April 17 – Janet Clayton  
April 24 – Laura Atkins

### **APRIL LAY READERS:**

April 3 – 9 A.M. – *Alan Hicks*  
                  11 A.M. – *Donna Hoover*  
April 10 – 9 A.M. – *Sue Allen*  
                  11 A.M. – *Sue Allen*  
April 17 – 9 A.M. – *Gene Alston*  
                  11 A.M. – *Jan Kerr*  
April 24 – 11 A.M. – *Jean Andrews*

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS for April:** **Mr. and Mrs. Walt Rogers**

### **CIRCLE MEETINGS – 4/25/11**

1 & 2 – Daphne Crumpton – 10:00 A.M.  
3 – Katherine O'Briant – 10:30 A.M.  
4 – Martha Ann O'Hara – 7:30 P.M.  
5 – Patti Morgan – 7:30 P.M.

### **UNITED METHODIST MEN - BREAKFAST**

Our Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, April 17th, at 8:00 A.M. in the Harris Fellowship Hall and **ALL** men are invited to attend. Please come and enjoy a wonderful breakfast and fellowship with us. We also have a great program planned.

## **APRIL FLOWER CALENDAR**

April 3 – Nancy Lee Newell  
April 10 – Pam Barth  
April 17 – Palm Leaves  
April 24 – Easter Lilies

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

April 01 – Ginny Brown  
April 02 – Elizabeth Humphries, Helene Moran  
April 09 – Sally Humphries, Carolyn Hicks  
April 10 – Vickie Carver  
April 11 – Harriett Adcock  
April 13 – Peggy Jones  
April 14 – Barbara Alston, Carter Hodgkin, Danny Long  
April 17 – Al Cole  
April 19 – Caroline Allen  
April 23 – Buddy Bradsher  
April 26 – Anna Wesley  
April 27 – Ray Dean  
April 28 – Anna Wilkerson  
April 29 – Doug Robinson  
April 30 – Charles Daniel

### **UMCOR'S ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, APRIL 3**

Next Sunday, April 3, Long Memorial will join United Methodists everywhere by participating in a special offering that supports our United Methodist Committee on Relief's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to provide an immediate response to disasters. Our special offering today for the Japan Emergency will go directly toward assisting those whose lives were shattered by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami because UMCOR has already assessed their relief needs and provided initial funding in response. Be assured that, through your compassionate giving, when catastrophes cause suffering, your church will be in the lead to ease the pain.

## Preschool News:

*But God raised him from the dead. Acts 13:30*

### **PRESCHOOL CELEBRATION SUNDAY – APRIL 10!**

The week of the young child is an annual Nationwide celebration in April sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, to call attention to the needs, rights, and well being of our “youngest citizens” and to support programs and services that meet their needs. Long Memorial’s celebration will begin on April 10.

During the week of the Young Child you are invited to visit us to observe the “Parade of Art” in the hallway in front of the offices and classrooms featuring the work of YOUR favorite artists. Also, we hope everyone will join us for 11:00 a.m. Worship on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for our Annual PRESCHOOL CELEBRATION SUNDAY. The 3’s and 4’s are proudly working on several songs to sing for you.

As we celebrate our children, let us give thanks to God for this Weekday Ministry of The Long Memorial United Methodist Church. Our preschool program is to expose each child to a wide variety of experiences which enhance growth in the four major developmental areas (Social~Emotional~Physical and Cognitive) and in their aesthetic and spiritual growth. We are so blessed to reach out in the community... where children are taught that God is LOVE and that HE commands us to LOVE AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER – these concepts are the cornerstones upon which is built our MOST IMPORTANT GOAL --- the development of Positive Social Skills. GOD IS GOOD!

SPRING BREAK BEGINS THE WEEK OF APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>. NO PRESCHOOL APRIL 15-22.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2011-2012 PRESCHOOL YEAR HAVE BEEN MAILED.

*Pamela B. Day, Director ☺*

## Children's News:

The Long Memorial Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The egg hunt will immediately follow the Church Service and the UMW Palm Sunday Lunch.

**We are asking people to donate the plastic eggs and/or candy.**

You may place the eggs and candy in the box located out in the Narthex or give to Pam. You do not have to fill the eggs -- Pam and Youth will take care of all that.

So excited for a Great Day!

Thank you in advance for your help with all this.

All Children are Invited

Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

Meet in the Library just before the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service if you would like to Process in with Palm Fronds.

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>.**

**ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO MEET PAM IN THE LIBRARY JUST BEFORE THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE. BRING YOUR FRESH FLOWERS FROM YOUR GARDENS AND LET'S FILL THE CROSS.**

## Youth News:

APRIL Calendar:

**April 3.** Reg. Youth Meeting 5:00-6:30! Dinner Provided.

**April 10:** CROP WALK. Meet Pam at church by 3:00 p.m bring your \$10.00 and a canned food for the Christian Help Center. (make checks payable to: LMUMC- Crop Walk)

**April 17:** Palm Sunday and the Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Meet Pam at 11:00 a.m. to help hide the Easter Eggs for the Children. Church-Wide Lunch prepared by the UMW immediately following the Worship Service.

**April 24:** HAPPY EASTER!

CROP WALK:

*They walk for food.  
They walk for water.  
They walk for firewood.  
They walk to escape violence.  
They walk to seek shelter.  
They walk to farm their fields.  
They walk to find employment.  
They walk to go to school.*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual CROP WALK** will be Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:30 p.m. THE WALK BEGINS AND ENDS AT LONG MEMORIAL UMC.

Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. The walk will be approximately 3 miles. Following the walk we will come back to Long Memorial for a Hot Dog supper. We need volunteers to help serve and cook the hot dogs. Please let Pam know if you are willing to help. ALL CHURCHES are invited and encouraged to attend this year. I hope our church will get involved!

This year, besides giving 25% of the total donations from the Person County CROP WALK to the Christian Help Center, we are asking everyone to bring canned foods to help restock their shelves.

*WE WALK BECAUSE THEY WALK! COMMUNITIES RESPONDING TO OVER COME POVERTY.*

**PLEASE JOIN US BY MAKING A DONATION: TO LMUMC: CROP WALK!**

**OUR YOUTH GROUP IS ASKING FOR EVERYONE TO GIVE \$10.00** (make checks payable to: LMUMC: Crop Walk

Get out those walking shoes and LET'S WALK for Hunger! Come on and Walk with us. Any questions call Pam. EVERYONE INVITED! Let me know if you plan to join us so we can plan how much food to prepare.

**Senior High Mission Trip to The Hinton Rural Life Center**

July 17-22.

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

The total cost for each participant is \$395.00

We are asking Church Members to help us go to Hinton by Purchasing Stock.

**TAKE STOCK IN LONG MEMORIAL UMC'S YOUTH**

Support our summer mission trip, to Hinton Rural Life Center by purchasing stock in the trip at \$20 per share.

Stock options include the honouring or memorializing of someone special to you. Names will appear in the August Newsletter and July 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Bulletin. Please note that stock investors (those purchasing stock) will be invited to a dessert dividend buffet sometime in August to hear about our trip. Please consider investing in this worthwhile mission trip.

All donations are tax deductible and your support is greatly appreciated.

Place \$ in offering or mail check to:

**LMUMC: P.O. Box 310 c/o Youth Missions**

**No later than July 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**STOCK ORDER FORM**

I would like to take "stock" in the future of the youth of Long Memorial UMC and "share" in their summer mission trip.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF SHARES: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$20 per share

Check and Completely Fill Out:

- In honor of  
Name \_\_\_\_\_
- In Memory of  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Class**

**Patrick Morgan, Daniel Oakley, David Oakley, Brooke Peed, Ashley Stewart, Carter Tuck**

**Confirmation Sunday is on Easter Day - April 24<sup>th</sup>.**

*Confirmation in The United Methodist Church is a time of intentional preparation, it gives teens the opportunity to reflect on our faith and gives them a safe environment to ask questions. Confirmation helps youth to investigate the depths of the faith and helps them begin to understand what it means to become a full devoted follower of Jesus Christ and to make their first public profession of faith.*

*We ask that you will continue to pray, support, and give all our confirmands your blessings as they continue their walk with Jesus Christ.*

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### The tale of Three Trees

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed about what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds above him. "I want to hold treasure," he said. "I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I will be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be a strong sailing ship," he said. "I want to travel mighty waters and carry powerful kings. I will be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked down into the valley where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave this mountain at all," she said. "I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they will raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world!"

Years passed. The rains came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall.

One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell.

"Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest," thought the first tree. And I will hold wonderful treasure."

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "this tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a sweep of his shining axe, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters," thought the second tree. "I shall be a sailing ship fit for kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven.

But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a sweep of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought him to a carpenter's shop, but the busy carpenter was not thinking about treasure chests. Instead his work-worn hands fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals.

The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold or filled with treasure. He was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took him to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ships were being made that day. Instead the once-strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. Too small and too weak to sail and ocean or even a river, he was taken to a little lake. Every day he brought in loads of dead, smelly fish.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once-tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted to do was stay on the mountaintop and point to God."

Many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams.

But one night golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box.

"I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed onto the lake.

Suddenly a thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. He knew he did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry, jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her.

She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything.

It had made the first tree beautiful. It had made the second tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.

That was better than being the tallest tree in the whole world.

