

Long Memorial UMC

December 2011

REMEMBER: Deadline for our January newsletter is Friday, December 30th at 5:00 P.M. You may e-mail your articles to: pwade@esinc.net – Thank you!

PRAYER CHAIN: Members of the prayer chain are offering daily prayers for those on our prayer list. If you, or someone you love, would like daily prayers for a special need, please call either Tania Edwards (599-3863) or Martha Butler (597-3946).

Worship With Us Every Sunday

8:45 AM - Early Service - Chapel

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)

Rev. Bruce Allen Contact Information:

508 Clayton Avenue, Roxboro, NC 27573

Home: 336-599-2284

Cell: 336-504-1240

E-mail: fallen@nccumc.org

MEDICAL CONCERNS: Kathryn Garrett – At home

December Events At Long Memorial UMC

- Sunday** *December 4th – 10:30 A.M. – Brass Quintet – Advent Prelude Concert*
- Sunday** *December 4th – 6:30 P.M. – “Best Christmas Present Ever” – Performed by The Children of Long Memorial UMC*
- Sunday** *December 11th – 5:00 P.M. – Love Feast in the Moravian Tradition*
- Sunday** *December 18th – 11:00 A.M. – Chancel Choir Cantata – “Shout The Good News”*
- Tuesday** *December 20th – 7:00 P.M. – Blue Christmas, A Service of Comfort and Hope – to be held in the Chapel*
- Saturday** *December 24th – 5:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve Service Followed by brief handbell concert and hot drinks*
- Sunday** *December 25th – 10 A.M. – Christmas Sunday Worship Service*

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Christmas is homecoming. Already many families prepare to receive long lost relatives and friends who will be back home for Christmas. Look out to any mid-to-late December congregation, and one sees familiar faces of kids home from college, wise relatives from the East bearing gifts. Welcome home.

And always I think there are the “exiles” come back to church. We preachers sometimes make wisecracks about those lost sheep who wander back in from the cold at Christmastime. Attendance picks up in December; by Christmas Eve, the place is packed. Where have they been all year? we want to know. See you again on Easter! we say.

But why not homecoming now? Have you been in “exile”? What voice, what recently smoothed way (Isaiah 40:10-11) has beckoned you back? Advent is the good news that our sense of separation, the loneliness that pervades our age, the boundaries between us, and the alienation are all being overcome by the God who says in Christ, “Good news! Come home!”

What voice calls you home—those words spoken not to you, but you heard them as if spoken only for you? That face from the past? That vaguely felt, but gnawing, sense of yearning? That echo come up from deep in the soul’s memory upon hearing again a carol not heard since childhood? That coincidence that might not have been not merely coincidental?

“Come home, come home; you who are weary, come home!” we sing.

Wilderness is that place, which is no place. Exile is that time when we are far from where we are created to be. Home is that place where we are at last where we ought to be. Welcome home.

Bruce

The Best Christmas Present Ever! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Sunday, December 4th

6:30

Harris Hall

Presented by:

Our Children:

**Sam Bailey, Julia Stovall, Laney Hodgkin, MacKenzie Clayton,
Mary Margaret Stovall, Taylor Rogers, Anniston Stovall,
Hester Claire Linville, Cole Dallas, Nate Stovall, Noah Paith,
Cam Dallas, Logan Duncan, Tres Linville, Joseph Stovall, Stephen Paith**

Love Feast

December 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Don't forget the beauty and solemnity of the Christmas Love Feast worship service on Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. Certainly this is an important event in the life of our church, but it is so much more. In many ways the Love Feast is our church's gift to the community to help remind everyone that is hurried with Christmas shopping, busy baking Christmas goodies, and pre-occupied with cleaning up the house for company the real meaning of this season. As you make plans to attend this service, please invite some of your friends to come as well. *A nursery will be provided for this service.* Please bring an unwrapped gift or two to place under the Chrismom Tree. These presents will be given to Santa's Helpers and shared with families who are in need this Christmas season. This year they are asking our congregation to bring

EDUCATIONAL TOYS OR TODDLER TOYS!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Please plan to worship on Christmas Eve at our 5:00 P.M. worship service in the church sanctuary.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

...Norma Sabiston in the death of her husband, Rev. William D. Sabiston, III;
...Diane Carpenter in the death of her sister, Jeanne Wilson;
...Eugene Berryhill and Claudia Berryhill in the death of their wife and mother, Huldah Hall Berryhill.

WEDNESDAY PICK ME UP

It has been said that seven days without prayer makes one weak. Indeed, seven days between worship services seems like a long time. For that reason, I am proposing that beginning in February 2012 I will offer a devotional time and communion every Wednesday morning. Those who wish to may come and gather in the chapel for a hymn, a devotional and communion. It should take no more than 30 minutes. However, I want to receive input on what members of the church may want. I hoped to have the devotion start at 8 am, but that is not written in stone. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in the Wednesday morning service, and let me know what I might do to help accommodate you and your needs.

"BLUE CHRISTMAS" 2011

The season of Christmas provides a great many emotions in the hearts of many of us. We are thankful for our many blessings, grateful for family and friends. We get excited as we participate in the decorations, parties and the hoopla which is a part of the season. And, while these very positive emotions are a part of the experience of Christmas, there are many not so positive emotions alive and well in our hearts as well. There is the frustration which may take place because gifts may not be purchased due to lack of funds. There may be sadness due to the loss of a loved one, emptiness because the family unit has changed since last Christmas. This year, Long Memorial will offer a service on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 in the chapel, to meet the needs of those who feel sad, stressed and empty at Christmas. Please come and participate in this event. It is all right to be blue at Christmas; it is healthy to experience it in the presence of others. Together we can draw upon grace that God offers, even at Christmas time.

ALPHA COURSE 2012

On Sunday, January 15, 2012, Long Memorial UMC will participate in a program known as the ALPHA course. The ALPHA course is a 15 week long practical introduction to the Christian faith. Each week participants will gather to share a meal and watch a DVD, dealing with topics such as "Why did Jesus die?" or "Why and How Should I read the Bible?" and "What About the Church?" or "How can I be sure of my faith?" The DVD program is led by Rev. Nicky Gumbel, an Anglican Priest from London, England. Using marvelous illustrations, a simple easy to understand logic, and wonderful sense of humor, Nicky leads individuals to deeper faith in Christ, in a non threatening way. This class is for seekers, that is, individuals who have no understanding of faith, AS WELL as a refresher course for believers, something we all need!

The program will take place in the Harris Hall. \$5.00 will be required to purchase a study book, and participants are asked to help with the meal, by bringing a covered dish of their favorite food. The course is open to members and non members alike. Please consider participating in January. If you have any questions, please contact me at home (599-2284) or on my cell (336-504-1240).

Bruce

ARE YOU PLANNING ANY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

If you are starting to think about your New Year's resolutions for 2012, please consider one that will benefit you, your church, and your community.

Long Memorial has been without a representative to Person United Methodist Parish (PUMP) for over a year now, and we have been missed by the other United Methodist Churches in our county. We need an individual willing to attend PUMP meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM to keep Long Memorial involved with our sister churches. And if you're hesitant to take on this responsibility on your own, you may bring a spouse or church friend with you. Being a PUMP representative is actually an ideal position for someone new to our church.

PUMP provides the advantage of information sharing among our churches. For example, should another church be planning a mission trip or hosting a special guest speaker or event, our representative would bring back that information so members of Long Memorial would have the opportunity to participate, and vice versa. Past coordination of PUMP's endeavors resulted in the building and continued support of Person County's Safe Haven domestic violence shelter. And currently, PUMP churches are providing assistance to county schools, similar to our Hand in Hand program. So, just as we are a part of our United Methodist Conference and District, you can make sure we are a part of PUMP. Please let Pastor Bruce know if you are willing to make this your New Year's resolution.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On November 15, forty-seven shoeboxes filled with toys for boys and girls were delivered to Lamberth Memorial Baptist Church, the drop-off site for Person County. The combination of all your donations and our Wrapping and Assembly Party made for a successful outcome to our church-wide effort. Both your Missions and Outreach, and Nurture Committees thank you for your participation.

And you will have another opportunity to bring a Christmas smile to a needy child this year. Before our Moravian Love Feast on Sunday evening, December 18, you may place an unwrapped gift under our Chrismon Tree, this time for a child in our own community.

Budget Pledges for 2012

Pledges Received 78

Amount Pledged \$239,520

Please turn in your pledge cards if you have not already!

Children's Church for the month of December –

Stephanie Linville and Jessie Saunders

DECEMBER ACOLYTES:

December 4 – Cole Strickland

December 11 – Hester Claire Linville

December 11: Love Feast – Hester Claire Linville

December 18 – Katie Pleasant

December 25 – Mackenzie Clayton

DECEMBER NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR 11:00 A.M.

December 4 – Loudell Long

December 11 – Christy King

December 18 – Janet Clayton

December 25 – Emily Humphries

UNITED METHODIST MEN INVITE YOU

On Sunday, December 18th, the United Methodist Men will have their annual church wide December breakfast. Everyone is invited at 8:00 A.M. to the Harris Fellowship Hall for this time of Christmas fellowship!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

December 04 – Patti Morgan
December 08 – George Gentry
December 11 – Mackenzie Clayton
December 12 – Fran Westmoreland, Dolly Denton
December 14 – Caroline Cates
December 15 – Becky Brann
December 16 – Daphne Crumpton, Brian Lowery
December 18 – Ed Harvey
December 19 – Mark Allen
December 20 – Charlie Stewart
December 21 – Clay Tuck
December 22 – Ron Johnson
December 23 – Marion Tillett
December 25 – Bob Blanks
December 27 – Harvey Ellis
December 28 – Cathy Lowery, Karla Peed, Susan Claire Bailey
December 29 – Nannette Carver
December 30 – Will Carver, Claiborne Tuck, Carol Silbaugh

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE LONG MEMORIAL MEMBERS WHO ARE LIVING IN VARIOUS FACILITIES WITH A NOTE OF CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Canterbury House - P.O. Box 1851; Roxboro, NC 27573

Marion Tillett
Betty Garrett
Becky Clayton

PCMH Extended Care - 615 Ridge Road; Roxboro, NC 27573

Vergie Clayton
Norma Burnett

Cambridge Hills - 5660 Durham Road; Roxboro, NC 27574

Ed Harvey
Otha Day

Roxboro Nursing Center – 901 Ridge Road; Roxboro, NC 27573

Bob Kirby
Elizabeth Humphries

THE 2012 FLOWER CALENDAR WILL BE POSTED SOON ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE HALLWAY - PLEASE STOP BY AND SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY TO PLACE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

CHRISTIAN HELP CENTER NEEDS : canned fruits and canned vegetables. A basket is in the Narthex for you to place your donations in. Thank you!

FROM The WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Thank you to:

...the banner committee. We now have banners in our sanctuary for the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Kingdomtide. These beautiful banners were designed by Sue Allen and stitched by Barbara Alston.

...the United Methodist Women for their gift of new Bibles for our sanctuary.

*Merry Christmas From the Staff Of
Long Memorial United Methodist Church*

Preschool News

Preschool News

LONG MEMORIAL PRESCHOOL

If you were to stop by the church on any given morning during the first two weeks of December you will find memories that are being made.....

- Sounds of Christmas Carols ringing from Classroom to Classroom...
- Wonderful smells of baking...
- Kiss-mas Trees....A countdown 'til Christmas....
- Beautiful Christmas decorations created by the children and displayed in the classrooms and hallways for all to see and enjoy...
- Listening to the Christmas Story and learning that LOVE was born at Christmas...
- Excited young children playing with completely unbreakable and touchable manger scenes... Telling and retelling the Christmas Story...
- Decorating classroom Christmas trees...and un-decorating them
- Elf On The Shelf...
- Celebrating Christmas in Story and Music presented by the Long Memorial 4's
On Friday, December 16th 7:00 p.m. Church Sanctuary.
- "Jesus Cake" to be shared by ALL.

"The Joy of Giving"

*For Somehow not only at Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.*

*And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.*

By: John Greenleaf Whittier

**Long Memorial Preschool will be closed December 19 and reopen on January 2!
Merry Christmas!**

UMYF...

ATTENTION YOUTH! IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Come to Church – 11:00 a.m. Worship this Sunday, December 4th

The plan is for ALL of us to sit together.

(Find me when you get here)

When the service is over, we will remain where we are, because Sheila Mitchner will be here to go over the LOVE FEAST with us and let us know what we are doing and where we go. Then we are off to LUNCH together.

(Be deciding where you wanna go)

Bring money for lunch and \$5-\$10 also. We will run to Wal-mart to shop for the Hygiene Bags we are putting together for the Christian Help Center.

Oh yea, WE WILL ROCK THE CHURCH VAN!

So excited to see you Sunday!

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### **Mark your calendar:**

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Meeting For the 11 am Worship Service/Lunch/Shopping (No evening Youth)  
...Children's Christmas Pageant at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – LOVE FEAST – Be here at 4:30p.m. wear black pants/skirt and white shirts.

PIZZA AND PRESENTS AFTER THE LOVE FEAST AT THE ALLEN'S. BRING a \$10

Wrapped GIFT FOR A GIRL OR BOY for our annual Gift Exchange.

Also, we will be putting together the Health Kits for the Christian Help Center.

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## UMYF SKI 2012 - WINTERGREEN, VIRGINIA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. DETAILS TBA!

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**We are in the season of Advent. Advent is the name for these days leading us to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. It is a season to give attention to God's gift for us that is new every year.  
We watch and we wait in Advent. We watch so that we might be found.**

*Wishing you and your family a very "WONDER-FULL" Christmas.  
Pam*

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