

# The Bell Ringer



## BLACK MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

...SEEKS TO FOLLOW JESUS, MAKE DISCIPLES, AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD

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*Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012*

*Vol. XXVI No.6*



### Advent - We Begin Active Waiting

We began our Advent Journey on November 27, 2011 - the first Sunday of Advent. Our Sunday worship that day was the traditional Hanging of the Greens Service. It is a time to prepare our sanctuary and our hearts for the coming of Christ. One of the most special parts of the service for many is the decorating of our Chrismon tree. Together we come as a church family and hang the Chrismons to remind us of God's gift to us -Jesus the Christ. I hope

all of you can be with us for all the special services and events planned during Advent and Christmas.

Advent is a time for preparation and a time for waiting. It is a time for us to prepare ourselves spiritually for welcoming anew the Christ Child and to be reminded that our waiting now is for the return of Christ our Savior. Henri Nouwen wrote these words about the process of waiting for Christmas: "Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our hearts that makes already present what we are waiting for. We wait during Advent for the birth of Jesus. We wait after Easter for the coming of the Spirit, and after the ascension of Jesus we wait for his coming again in glory. We are always waiting, but it is a waiting in the conviction that we have already seen God's footsteps." Waiting for God is an active, alert - yes, joyful - waiting. As we wait we remember him for whom we are waiting, and as we remember him we create a community ready to welcome him when he comes.

During this season we will be centering on the key words 1) Hope, 2) Peace, 3) Love, 4) Joy. These will guide our times of study in Sunday Education Hour, in Worship, and in an Advent devotion that is being prepared for you. Over the next four weeks, we will be sending an email devotion to our church members. These short devotions are prepared to assist you in your spiritual preparation for Christmas. If we do not have your email address, please give it to the church office. If you do not have an email address and would like a printed copy of our devotions, please call Joan at the office ( 669-8248) and one will be sent to you. It is my hope that over the next weeks our worship services, e-devotions, times of study, and other times together will bless you and draw you closer to God and to each other.

It is a joyous time of the year and a wonderful blessing to share it with one another as God's church!

Advent blessings – Pastor Lynda



## Advent

### Schedule

Advent is in full swing and our calendars are filling up. Be sure to print out the calendar in this newsletter and post it on your refrigerator to help you keep up with the events. Most of our upcoming events are listed below as well.

**UMW Christmas Party** - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6:00 p.m.

**Lovefeast** - Sunday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m.

**Morning Circle Christmas Lunch** - Tuesday, Dec. 13, 12:00 noon.

**Christmas Music Fest** - Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.

**Choir Christmas Luncheon** - Sunday, Dec. 18, 1:00 p.m.

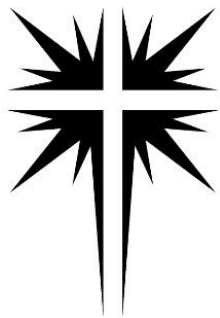
**Sarah Circle Christmas Party** - Monday, Dec. 19, 6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship** - Saturday, Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Service of Lessons & Carols** - Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 am. (No Sunday School on this day)

Mark your calendars and join us!

### Lovefeast



We will celebrate our Christmas Lovefeast on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the 10:30 a.m. service of worship.

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us for this unique celebration. A gathering of Christian friends to sing carols, read scripture and share a simple meal. It is a beautiful service that

ends with the lighting of festively hand wrapped candles. You won't want to miss this meaningful service.



### MUSIC FEST

Our Choir and Handbells are preparing a wonderful Service of Music for Sunday, December 18. They will tell us the Christmas Story in song and music during this special service. Be sure to join us for what is always a special experience.



Before you stuff your stockings and your turkeys and gifts magically appear under your tree, take time out to pause and prepare your hearts. Because it's not just Aunt Bessy who is coming for Christmas....it's the Christ Child. So, take a moment as we gather together and remember that Love came down at Christmas in the form of a baby -- given for us. Join us at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church for our Christmas Eve Communion Service. You will be blessed and in turn can be a blessing to others.



Christmas Day, come to the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. for a service of lessons & carols. What a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas Day! *There will be no Sunday School on this day.*

# In Appreciation

The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to join us for a reception immediately following our worship

service of December 18<sup>th</sup>.

As many of you are already aware, Mr. Fred Dillingham, has resigned as Director of Music. Fred has been with us for over seven years and we thank him for his service at BMUMC.

On Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>, the Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata and we hope all of you will be with us for this very special time of worship and for the reception honoring Fred after the service.

We wish Fred and his family the very best and hope having more time with his family will be a wonderful blessing for all of them.

– Staff Parish Relations Committee



## Choir Christmas Luncheon

A 1 1 members of the Handbell Choir, Chancel Choirs and their families are invited to a luncheon on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Choir members are asked to bring a covered dish item to share. Lynda and Mike Briggs will be hosting. Parsonage is located at 103 Fairway Drive. For more information, please call Lilwyn Trippe 669-8654 or Lynda Briggs 669-8248.

## A Caroling We Shall Go....

This year we are planning an afternoon of Caroling to our Homebound. We hope many of you will join us for a fun afternoon of sharing the joy of the season. Watch your email and bulletin for more details.



Join Us for Caroling



The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Saturday, December 17 @ 10:00 a.m. at the home of Lynn Deese. We will be discussing "I Still Dream about You" by Fannie Flagg. Carpool will leave

from church parking lot at 9:45. Join us!

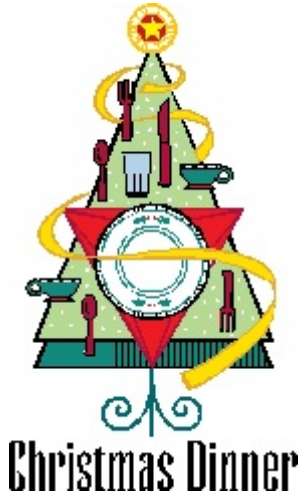
## We need your help!

If you would like to help wrap the candles for our Lovefeast, come to the church on Wednesday, December 7 at 11:00 a.m. We will meet in the Christian Issues Classroom.



Lovefeast Candles

## UMW Christmas Events

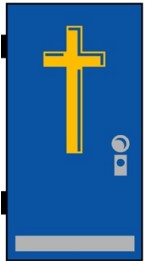


The UMW will hold their annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. The meal is \$13 and will be followed by the installation of officers for 2012. Margaret Whitt will speak to the women about how the School of Christian Mission she attended in July impacted her life. In addition, there will be a presentation of two Special Recognition pins. Give your check to Lynn Deese, treasurer or pay at the door. *Bring a bag of food for SVCM or a donation of money.*

The Morning Circle will hold their Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, December 13 @ 12 noon at the Monte Vista.

The Sarah Circle will meet in the Church House on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. for their Christmas Party. Members are reminded to bring finger foods, an exchange gift and food and gifts for our family.

The  
Church  
Office



Will Be  
Closed:

The Church Office will be closed on December 22 - 26 for Christmas, and January 2 for New Years.



## Church-Wide Advent Service Project: Warmth-in-Winter Tree

As a congregation we will bring hope to Veterans this Christmas by trimming a Warmth-in-Winter Tree filled with scarves, hats, gloves, and socks. Our tree is sponsored by the mission committee and is located in the west Narthex. Each week, from December 4 - December 25, we invite you to help us decorate our tree with the items you bring. Why not buy items as a family and bring them to church and hang them on the tree. It is a wonderful way to help us all appreciate the joy of giving during Advent. Let us give to those that have so little. If you have any questions about this project, please call the church office at 669-8248.

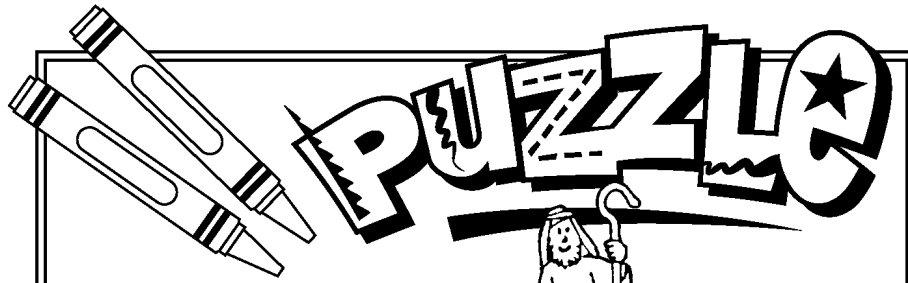


### December

JEREMY MORRIS	5	ANGELA HYATT	19
LAVERNE HUESTON	6	PRESSLEY JOHNSON	21
LAURA MOORE	6	JACK ELLISON	22
JASON MCGINNIS	6	CHARLES GOUGH	22
ROGER RIO	6	LOREN MOORE	24
KARLEE CORDELL	6	CHAD MILLER	26
TOM BROOKS	8	JEANETTE JONES	26
JIM GRASS	9	MILLICENT BRADEN	26
SANDRA HYATT	11	BEAU SCHNEPP	29
DAVID LAUER	12	GLADYS DARKIS	30
TERRY HUGHES	19		

### January

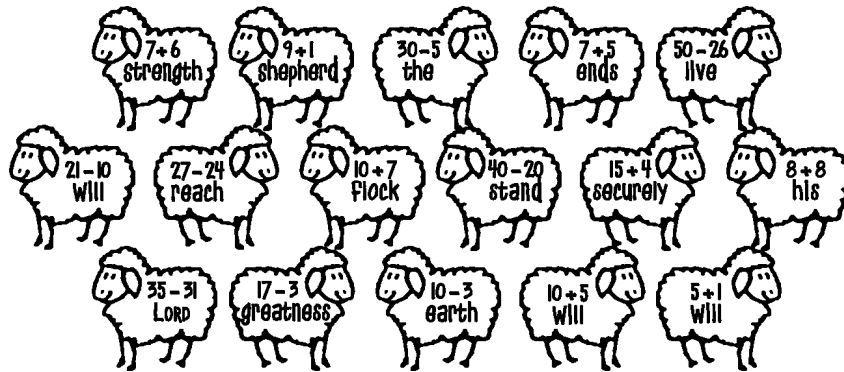
LINDA PARKER	1	TAYLOR MCGINNIS	16
BRIAN BURPEAU	1	MOZELLE SMITH	17
PORTIA GOUGH	2	BEN CLEVELAND	19
DAVID BARNES	8	BILL TAYLOR	20
DANA OWEN	9	JUSTIN QUESINBERRY	20
CHRISTA ELDRIDGE	10	JIM BRUNNER	21
ALLEN ULLRICH	10	THOMAS BROOKS	22
MADISON ELDRIDGE	11	DONNA HUGHES	26
JON DECKER	12	PAM ROBISON	28
THERESA SPACH	14	JEFF JONES	31
CHRIS GREENWOOD	15		



# A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 20 and 10 his 17

in the 13 of the 4 .... And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV