

The Messenger

DECEMBER, 2015



Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
11:45 AM Fellowship

1459 White Memorial Church Rd.
Willow Spring, NC 27592
919-639-9973
www.wmpcwillow.spring.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Remembering God's grace, the mission of White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Willow Spring is:

*Come to be joyous and thoughtful in worship;
Walk with God's guidance into deeper faith and knowledge;
Stretch out to the needy with tangible acts of service;
Be loving and generous with time, talents, and treasures;
Go out into the world to welcome and invite.*

THE *Wonder* OF CHRISTMAS

Prayer Concerns

- Frances Seagroves and Myrline Watson – staying safe at home
- Jenn's son Jacob Baudoux is serving a tour Afghanistan. His mailing address is LCPL Jacob Addison Baudoux, VMA 223 (C/L) Unit 24091, FPO AE 09510-4091
- Sharen Jackson's friend, Jason Nunn; and son Curtis who had hernia surgery
- Butt Williams, Robin Grimes friend passed away on November 15th
- Prayers for Chelsey – Nicole Stanley's friend
- Prayers for victims, family members, friends and residents of Paris after terrorist attacks throughout the city.
- Continued prayers for Michelle Steinmetz, Florence's sister. She has greatly improved from the infection she was fighting and is staying in a rehab facility while she regains her strength.
- Mary Alice's cousin, Ricky Barbour is having colon surgery
- Connie's sister, Carol having surgery on an artery.
- Barry Allen, Lee and Glenda's son-in-law, cancer and dialysis concerns.
- Jeremy Johnson's mother, Jeanette, recovering from gall bladder surgery.
- Prayers for family and friends of Edna Gardner, long time friend of Glenda Talton's, as she is at the Healing Transitions Center in Raleigh.
- Prayers for caregivers and those who are missing their loved ones during the holiday season.
- Prayers for many cancer patients who are undergoing treatment; John Sullivan, Cindy Calloway, Nell Stephenson, Kim Ware, Janet Bunn, Cheryl Janimus, Barry Allen
- Hope and strength for recovering addicts and family members; help for those who are homeless to find assistance, work and shelter.
- Travel mercies to all during the holiday seasons.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| * Kaylan King | * Frances Seagroves | * Ann Harris |
| * Mitch Parrish | * Johnny Stewart | * Meagan Poole |
| * Janet & Carl Bunn | * Donald Ray Barbour | |

THOSE IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING

- Danny Matthews, Hester Family Care Center, 154 Haven Lane, Princeton, NC 27569
- Pauline Jones, Liberty Commons, 2315 Hwy. 242, Benson, NC 27504
- Vada Allen, Oak Hill Living Center, 9767 NC Hwy 210, Angier, NC 27501
- Dorothy Page, Gabriel Manor, 84 Johnson Estate Road, Rm. 112, Clayton, NC 27520

JOYS

- Thanks to Henry and to our cooks for the Senior's Luncheon on November 10th. Very good food enjoyed by all and shared memories of mission work from Henry
- Welcome to our church membership, Mary Alice Rhodes.
- Jenn's mother just had her 80th birthday.
- The knot has been tied – congratulations to Laura Katherine & Armuldo and to Teresa & Don and the Rodriguez family.
- Narcotics Anonymous continues to meet on Sunday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall. They had a great cookout on November 14th.

SERVICE AND CELEBRATION PAGE
DECEMBER, 2015

USHERS

Margaret King and Joyce Byrd



NURSERY

6 – Jenn Baudoux, 13 – Becky Stephenson,
20 – Cantata (children stay), 27 – Lynn Stephenson

BIRTHDAYS

1 – John Sanderson, 6 – Steve Rimbeoy, 7 – Peg Hall
7 – Jacob Baudoux, 8 – Judy Morris, 13 – Luke and Reid Evans,
14 – Jeremy Johnson, 27 – Becky Stephenson

LITURGISTS

6 – Judy Morris, 13 – Glenda Talton
20 – Don Smith, 27 – Anne Honeycutt

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Mike Stewart
919-756-1439

Please call if you have concerns

CLEANING

Volunteers needed our December 5th and 19th

SECRETARY HOURS

Sandy Parrish – Secretary

Wednesdays – 11:00 AM to when tasks are completed

Thursdays – 1:00 PM to when tasks are completed.

Angel Tree

We will again be hosting children from Dixon Road Elementary School with gifts. The anticipated price per gift item is \$15.00 and there will be 30-40 angels on the tree. The Angel Tree should be in place by November 29th at the rear of the sanctuary near the narthex. Please bring the gift wrapped, place angel onto gift for identification and return to the Library at church by December 13th so the gifts can be delivered to Dixon Road prior to release of students for the Christmas holidays.

Syrian Refugee Blankets

Thanks to Nancy Warren for promoting within our church the need for blankets for the family members from Syria who are arriving within our state. Nancy will deliver the blankets to the receiving area by December 1st.

Stagecoach Manor

Our church will be visiting the residents and staff of Stagecoach Manor to present them with a goodie bag and the sewn personal bag with toboggan and gloves. The Mission Committee is in the process of finalizing plans for a meal and maybe caroling. Please join us as we put a little "Joy" into the holiday season for the staff and residents.

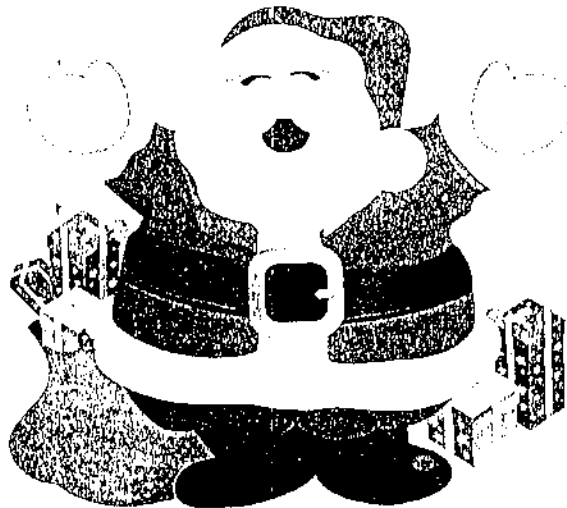
Backpack Buddies

The women of the church are gathering items for Backpack Buddies each month at Circle Meeting. There is a posted list in the narthex of items needed for Backpack Buddies. The items are taken to Lighthouse Baptist Church on B.H. Parrish Road for packing into the backpacks by a local Boy Scouts troop. If you do not attend Circle you can bring your donated items to Glenda or Judy.

Session Notes from November, 2015

Mary Alice Rhodes was welcomed by the Session as a new member and she will join the church on Sunday, November 22, 2015. Welcome Mary Alice! The Annual Congregational Meeting and Cooperation Meeting will be after worship on Sunday, January 10, 2015. Installation of officers and Session planning will take place on Sunday, January 17, 2015. The Rev. Dr. Margaret Wilson-Stayton will fill the pulpit on Sunday, November 29th. Communion will be moved from December 6, 2015 to December 13, 2015. The Cantata will be on December 20, 2015 during the worship service. Joy Gift will be Sunday, December 6th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The community sign is in place! A plaque dedicated to Rob Selner will be placed on the sign. Thanks to Mike, Ken and Ronnie. The Angel Tree and collecting blankets our Syrian refugees was approved. Until next month.....

Thanks our blessings received from Fearless Generosity Stewardship Focus. Please submit 2016 commitment cards by December 6, 2016.



*Our Christmas Cantata this year is a level of more advanced difficulty than usual and is very beautiful. We have enlisted more voices and we'll be ready to sing on Dec. 20.

*The wedding of Don and Teresa's daughter, Laura Katherine and Arnulfo was a charming multi-cultural event. They were wed in St. Ann's Catholic Church. The priest had a very warm and inclusive manner, since much of the ceremony was in English and Spanish. Laura was a beautiful bride. Her mom and dad also very FINE! The dinner reception was a fun affair. Music and dancing ruled the evening. Don's featured slow dance with Laura was highlighted with an impromptu interlude of "PUT ME IN COACH!" accompanied by a ball and ball gloves for a pitching routine between Dad and daughter, reminiscent of the growing up years. That was a sweet surprise for Don. Was there anyone that Teresa Holt didn't dance with at the wedding reception? The beautiful wedding music of our two church musicians, Teresa and Mike on violin was very beautiful.

*Does the tooth fairy still come to pick up teeth? Ask Landon Johnson who lost one of his front teeth last week.

*We know how multi-talented Deirdre Jersey and here is one way she gets it all done. Ira helped her prepare the fabric for the gift bags the church is making by ironing/pressing the fabric for her. Mouse taught her sons to iron!

*Jayce Stephenson's birthday gift to his grandmother was to come to worship and bring three college buddies. SHE WAS GRATEFUL.

*Teresa Holt is an ACE at finding interesting part time work that allows her to be flexible, play for us here at church and meet lots of people. Recently she has been working for Event Specialists demonstrating coffee machines at William Sonoma. That sounds good to me.

*Susan Foster and Stephanye Sanderson are giving their Fitbits good workouts, walking the farm paths during these beautiful crisp fall days.

*Stephanye WAS planning to retire from Rex Hospital Birth Center OR on Dec. 1, and have lots more time for those activities, BUT she got a call from the boss, asking (begging) her to stay at least 6 months longer. She said yes! Her mother was bummed over that.

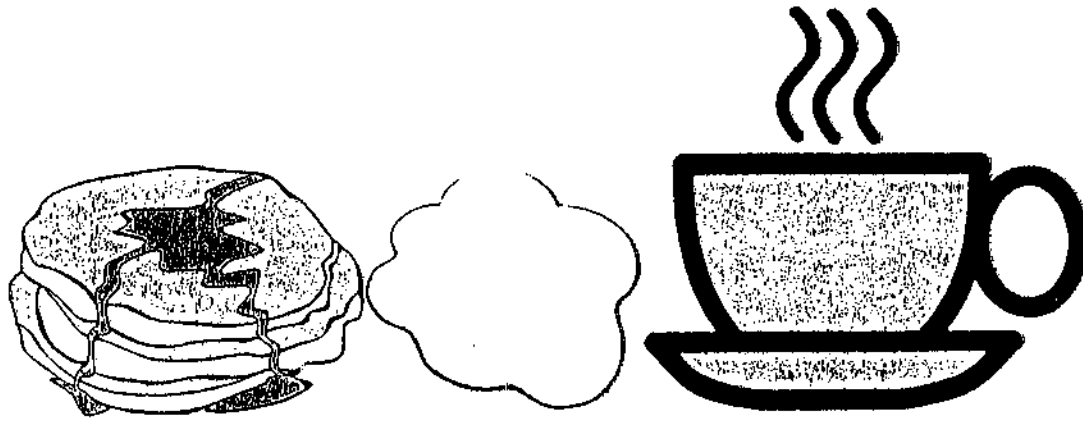
*Both of Stephanye and John's daughters are buying houses. Anna bought a townhouse/condo off Six Forks in Raleigh. She and Dad (and mom) are doing bits of face-lifting, before she moves in. Amomma will be visiting to eat in some of those wonderful North Hills restaurants. Ashley and her roommate, Tom, are closing on a house in Austin, TX next week. They will have a guest room. Mouse has never been to Austin. *

*Randy Stephenson, Linda's brother, who lives in Atlanta, is researching his grandfather's life and times, here in Johnston County. He is home the week before Thanksgiving, spending much time in the Jo. Co. Library. Linda and others in the family look forward to Randy's visits. In retirement he teaches English as a Second Language for Adults for a community college.

*Mouse read in FB that Duane and Medora's daughter and family are moving to the Raleigh area. Emmie will work for St. Giles Presbyterian Church. It will be wonderful to have the two granddaughters close to grandparents.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Monthly gathering re-implemented



Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love. I Corinthians 16:13-14

The WMPC Men's fellowship breakfast teams have reorganized after a long hiatus. We have already met with good participation in October and November. The planned future schedule is to meet the second Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the fellowship hall. Any deviation from the schedule, for special events or other changes, will be announced ahead of time.

There will be a hearty, delicious breakfast and an informal, "meaningful to men" devotion by Henry Coates. The monthly breakfast team will purchase the estimated breakfast foods to prepare and serve. A voluntary monetary donation will be collected at the breakfast and placed in the weekly church offerings for bank deposit. The team leader may request a reimbursement (with voucher) like any other church expense.

The next breakfast will be Sunday December 13th (at 8:00 a.m.) with Lee Talton's team cooking the meal. Other team members are Robin and Rush Grimes and Eric Hammond.

Future teams and team members will be finalized and announced along with a monthly schedule. All community men, those associated with WMPC, guests, and any others, are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly breakfast.

Journey Back to Bethlehem

BRINGING THE CRECHE TO LIFE

The Day Before the First Sunday in Advent

*And they came with haste, and found Mary, and
and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:16*

The creche. One night before Christmas I stood outside a church and watched a living nativity. Beside a makeshift stable, a shepherd in a bathrobe gazed at the sky. On the other side stood three figures in aluminum foil crowns. Inside, Joseph knelt beside Mary, who was holding a small bundle in her arms. A doll, I supposed. But suddenly a small cry drifted up into the night. It was a real baby!

Somehow in that moment I found myself in "Bethlehem," seeing the story with new eyes and a new heart. *A real baby that night*, I thought. One that cried and was comforted by *real* parents. One that was visited by *real* shepherds and *real* Wise Men. For the first time, the reality of Christmas came to me through a creche.

According to tradition, St. Francis instituted the custom of the creche in 1223 in the little Italian village of Greccio. To the awe of the townspeople, he re-created the nativity by placing a live child in a manger and leading an ox and donkey to the scene. By the sixteenth century, creche figurins adorned churches and homes all over Italy and Bavaria.

Even the King of Naples modeled his own clay figures. Eventually the custom of the creche spread around the world. Today we see nativities everywhere: in churches and department stores, under trees and atop roofs, on wrapping paper and Christmas cards. It has become so familiar we hardly *see* it. But this year I hope to discover the creche anew, like that night I heard the Christ Child cry.



Surviving the Holiday Season

Taking care of yourself is very important during the holiday season, especially when you are grieving the loss of someone special. You may have many grief feelings and reactions that feel intensified during the holidays, and taking care of yourself helps you to cope with these strong feelings. Taking care of yourself involves care on many levels: emotionally, physically, spiritually, socially, and as a family.

What will you do to take care of yourself and your family this season? Talk about it with your family. Place a checkmark beside the items below that will help you "survive" and cope with this holiday season.

- Sleep in, get some rest
- Ask for help from friends, family, neighbors—tell people what you need
- Cry
- Say "no" to:
- Find ways to incorporate your loved one into your holiday plans/gatherings (Ex: hang up a special ornament, fill their stocking with notes or meaningful objects, leave an empty place at the table, discuss how your loved one showed the principles of Kwanzaa, etc.)
- Have moments of quiet in memory of your loved one
- Volunteer your time to help others in need
- Exercise
- Talk about your grief with someone you trust
- Avoid overindulgence with food and (and for adults, alcohol)
- Take a hot bath or shower
- Read an uplifting book
- Get away on a day trip or small vacation; or, if this isn't possible, go out to eat or to a park for the day
- Find small pleasures: a sunset, a loved one's smile, a warm cup of hot chocolate, your pet
- Develop and remind yourself of a centering thought (Ex: I am not alone, I will make it through, I am loved, etc.)
- Find ways to do things together as a family: game night, watch a movie, take a walk, make cookies
- Pray, go to a spiritual sanctuary, meditate, recite a blessing
- Every day, name three things that you feel grateful for from that day
- (your own)
- (your own)



THE SECRET BEHIND THE SONG

People often think of the Twelve Days of Christmas as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that last for days beginning December 25 and lasting until January 6 – the Day of Epiphany – when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world and recalls the journey of the Magi. From 1558 until 1829 people in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this era someone wrote “The Twelve Days of Christmas” as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation:

“The surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church.”

Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious reality.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope, and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
5. The five gold rings recall the torah (Law) the first five books of the old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.
8. The eight maids a milking are the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the spirit (Gal.5).
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping stand for eleven faithful disciples.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

There you have it. The HIDDEN meaning of the “The Twelve Days of Christmas” and the secret behind the song.

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Music Ministry Practice, 7:15 PM	2	3	4
						5
6 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Second Sunday in Advent Joy Gift, 5:00PM to 7:00 PM	7		8 Music Ministry Practice, 7:15 PM	9	10	11
						12
13 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Third Sunday in Advent Mens' Breakfast	14 Session Meeting 7:00 PM		15 Music Ministry Practice, 7:15 PM	16	17	18
						19
20 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Cantata Fourth Sunday in Advent Blue Christmas 5:00 PM	21		22	23 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 PM	24 MERRY CHRISTMAS	25
						26
27 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM	28		29	30 HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE	31	

