

The Messenger

December, 2016



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.wmpcwillowspring.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.*

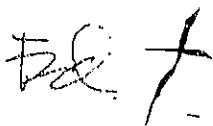
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

December Newsletter 2016

Hello friends,

During this month of December, this season of Advent, we come together in anticipation of the birth of our Savior. We have begun the holy season of Advent, the season of preparing for the birth of Christ, by making ready our welcome for God's only Son, Jesus Christ. As we renew the special meaning of the Advent, a season of reflection and anticipation, let us clear our minds and open our hearts to the coming of the Christ. Let us honor Christ's birth by learning more about this season, and the coming of our Savior. Let our songs and symbols represent our personal rededication to God's glory and the incarnation of God's love in the world. For God loved us so much that God sent us the Prince of Peace. Now more than ever, we need to follow Christ's peaceful ways, so that the world may live with justice and in peace. The season of Advent expresses hope and expectation for both the first and second coming of Christ. During celebrations of Advent, it is my hope and wish that we experience Christmas as a part of the larger story of Christ's life, suffering, death, and resurrection. We can approach the Advent & the Christmas season with a real sense of anticipation once we understand how the whole season initiates us in the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ. Advent reminds us that there is still much darkness. It is a darkness made up of sin, evil, ignorance, hate, and pride. But let us be reminded of the growing power of Christ, the Light of the world. Many blessings to you and your families during this most wonderful time of the year!

Peace and grace,



Pastor Ed



Prayer Concerns

- Our dear friend, Jim Kramer passed away on October 28th after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Please keep Rita in your prayers.
- Helen Best, Judy's sister, had surgery on her leg and is healing as expected.
- Alyssa Talton Wood, had a "clean" PET scan after going through a 2nd round of radiation iodine therapy. God is Good.
- Judy's brother-in-law, Buddy Brooks anticipating open heart surgery
- Jenn's niece, Ashley and her baby, Julian. Prayers that baby will be okay as he was born two months premature.
- Anona Huff's granddaughter was born on November 17th and came to visit us in church. Beautiful baby, Mary. Congratulations to Lilly, Anona and her family.
- Prayers for Linda Strickland's and Ann Stephenson's sister in law, Geraldine Stephenson. She is having heart problems.
- Bruce Coats, who was a basketball coach to many of us at Cleveland School passed away on November 26th. Condolences to his family and friends.
- Anne's friend, Jane Gurley has been diagnosed with brain cancer.
- Annette & Anona's father had to have heart stents. Their nephew has been cancer free for two years and is expecting a baby in July.
- Sandy's friend, Kathy Baker has been placed on life support
- Gatinsburg and other Tennessee residents and business owners as they recover from the devastation from fires.
- Continued prayers for victims of Hurricane Matthew and the volunteers who are helping people recover.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| * Kaylan King | * Mitch & Sandy Parrish | * Pam & Robin Grimes |
| * Meagan Poole | * Danny Gay | * Helen Smith |
| * Connie Aberant | * Jeremy Chapman | * Sue Hamilton |
| * Edna Norris | | |

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

- Participating in Friendsgiving at WMPC on Thanksgiving Day. A good time and good food for all.
- Ann Stephenson's 80th birthday celebrated by many and especially by Ann. Congratulations to this special lady.
- Hanging of the Greens on November 27th was Advent Sunday and enjoyed by so many. Thanks for making our church even more beautiful during this special season of the year.

SERVICE AND CELEBRATION PAGE
December, 2016



USHERS

Lisa Stanley and Justin Honeycutt

NURSERY

4 – Children stay in church, 11 – Jenn Baudoux
18 – Michelle Johnson and Kaylee Johnson
25 – Becky Stephenson

BIRTHDAYS

1 – John Sanderson, 6 – Steve Rimbey
7 – Jacob Baudoux, 8 – Judy Morris,
13 – Luke and Reid Evans, 14 – Jeremy Johnson,
16 – Lori Hall, 18 – Annette Bridges,
20 – Jerry Smith, 27 – Becky Stephenson

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Nancy Warren

H: 919-639-3674

flagman22@embarqmail.com

Please call if you have concerns

SECRETARY HOURS

Sandy Parrish – Secretary

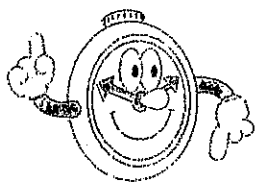
Wednesdays – 11:00 AM to when tasks are completed

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

Vini Haiti

Come to Haiti! We are off to a good start in getting the first ever WMPC International Mission Trip together. There is still time for you to join us for the 10th Anniversary trip. The dates are May 25th to June 2nd in 2017. Pastor Ed and Kathy will lead the team to the **Yahve Jire Children's Foundation in Despinos Haiti**. The total cost for the trip is \$1,800. The first deposit of \$100 is due December 15th to lock in our air fare (please talk to Kathy if you need just a little more time). There are so many ways to be involved. The first and most important thing whether you are actually traveling or staying behind is to pray for God to lead us and guide us as we set about this new ministry; you can come with us; you can help with donations of school supplies, clothing, shoes, art supplies, or kitchen supplies; you can help sponsor a traveler; you can help come to fundraisers for the construction costs; you can lend a team member a suitcase or a pair of work gloves or work boots; you can drive the team to the airport or pick them up; you can help get gifts for the kids or sponsor a high school student to go to school; you can begin sponsoring the children at the home with a monthly donation; and again, you can continue to pray for these beautiful children of God and their caretakers. This is so exciting to see the way that God is working at WMPC, won't you be a part of His plan? Come to Haiti! For more information, please contact Kathy Johnson at wojo2005@gmail.com or 919 622-1059 with questions, comments, ideas, and smiles.





Time & Talent Survey

When thinking of tithing we often reach for our wallets, pulling out whatever we have or are willing to give that won't hurt too much to do without. Tithing can also be thought of in regards to time and talent. Time and talents are valuable gifts of tithing. Many programs in the church require time to be donated instead of money. Many of you have heard of the idea of tithing your time and talents in addition to tithing money. When someone gives of themselves freely, it truly speaks volumes. It is often much easier to write a check than to commit to giving of one's time. When a person says yes to a church program it almost always requires more time than initially thought. You end up at the church before people arrive and well after everyone else has gone home. Time is giving up, giving to and giving of one's heart. It's a labor of love, a labor that a price cannot be tied to. Please give of your time and your talents. If you have not completed the Time and Talent Survey please drop it in the



offering plate or in the church office. We want to know what you are interested in so we can celebrate the many gifts of the congregation of White Memorial. The Church office is preparing a list of all the many areas you have stated that you would like to participate in or contribute to the life of the church. This list will be shared with the various committee chairs, so don't be surprised if you are called on to share your gifts and your time in the coming year.



THE SECRET BEHIND THE SONG

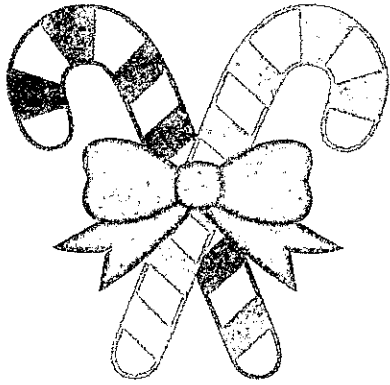
People often think of the Twelve Days of Christmas as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that last for days beginning December 25 and lasting until January 6 – the Day of Epiphany – when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of 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 our 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 our 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.



The Christian Education Committee would like to invite you to the annual Joy Gift Program. The date is Sunday, December 4th, 2016, at 5:00. Please join in the festivities as we will have a chili and vegetable soup dinner, a Christmas play by the youth, a cookie exchange and a visit from SANTA!! What better way to kick off the Christmas season than a night spent with family and friends at Church!

Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies (baked or bought). Please place 2 dozen cookies in bags of 6 with the name of the cookie visible. We will then enjoy the other dozen with dinner and during the nights activities.

