



...The Rest of the Story

Westminster Presbyterian Church



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Christmas Eve Services



- 4:00 PM Children's Christmas Pageant
- 5:30 PM A Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights - featuring special guitar music by Sarah Stallings
- 8:00 PM A Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights - featuring the Chancel Choir and Westminster Brass Ensemble

The nursery for infants and small children will be from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. **There will be NO child care for the 8 p.m. service.**

Christmas Eve Potluck Dinner - in the Fellowship Hall between services (5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.). Bring your family & friends and enough extra food to feed one additional person. Volunteers are needed for serving & cleaning up. Please contact Bill McAvoy (493-7547).



Come!
Experience the re-telling
of our Savior's birth!

- * Practice for the Christmas Pageant began Wednesday, November 30th. This is part of the MP2 program. Children should plan to come at the regularly scheduled time (3:45 p.m.).
- * Children who do not attend MP2 are encouraged to join us each Wednesday (3:45-5:15 p.m.), November 30th through December 21st. Dress rehearsal will be on Dec. 21st.
- * The pageant will be presented at the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.
- * Children younger than Kindergarten age, who would like to be a part of the pageant, are encouraged to come to the dress rehearsal, December 21st at 4 p.m. Please contact Nancy to let her know that your child would like to participate in this "walk-on" part. We want to have enough star lights for every child. (Nancy: 489-4974; ext. 104)

We welcome all parents who will be available to help make the pageant a fun learning experience for our children. Please contact Nancy or Holly Schmidt (489-6887) to offer your assistance with costuming, preparing the small groups, staging, etc.

The Christmas Spirit

is that hope
 which tenaciously clings
 to the hearts of the faithful
 And announces
 in the face
 of any Herod the world can produce
 and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
 and all the dark nights of our souls
 that with God
 all things still are possible,
 that even now
 unto us a Child is born !
 ("The Christmas Spirit" from Kneeling in Bethlehem by Ann Weems)

Your WPC staff rejoices in how God has made so many nearly impossible things possible through you in 2005, and in how that Christmas Spirit will continue in the year ahead. We are honored to be part of your compassionate ministries!

Barbara, Betty, Gail, Haywood, Monica, Nancy, & Paul

Remember: On December 25th and January 1st there will be no Sunday School and only one worship service at 11:00 a.m.



- + **Buck Easley** is seriously ill at home after a stay at Western Wake Medical Center last week.
- + **Jean Lee** is in treatment for lung cancer.
- + **Jeanne Lockhead** is recovering from heart surgery on December 12th.
- + **Karen Wood** is recovering from surgery at Duke University Medical Center.

Sanctuary Guild

As you see the following folks during Advent, please thank them for the beautiful decorations in the Sanctuary: June Jones, Becky Walker, Ann Kline, Sandra Lutz, Barbara Rynerson, Gloria Kanoy, Bill McAvoy, and Mary Pickard. As different events take place in the Sanctuary through Advent, these folks and others will lend a hand by rearranging flowers and candles to keep things looking orderly and fresh. We are blessed by these talented and hard working members.



Year End Contribution Guidelines

The General Rule: The income tax regulations specify that “ordinarily, a contribution is made at the time delivery takes place. The unconditional delivery or mailing of a check which subsequently clears in due course will constitute an effective contribution on the date of delivery or mailing.” According to this language, a check dated December 31, 2005, but physically delivered in January 2006 is deductible only on the donor’s 2006 federal tax return. This is so, even though a donor backdates a check to read “December 31, 2005” during church services conducted in January 2006, or in fact completed and dated the check on December 31, 2005, but gives it to the church on or after January 1, 2006.

An Exception: The only exception to this rule is the case of a check that is dated and mailed (and **postmarked**) in December of 2005. The fact that the church does not receive the check until January of 2006 does not prevent the donor from deducting it on his or her 2005 federal tax return. The rules are summarized in the following table.

Remember: Do not file your 2005 Federal Income Tax Return until you receive your 2005 year end statement. Some donors may not be able to deduct certain contributions if they file a tax return before receiving their church contribution statement.

| Type of Contribution | Church Treasurer Reports as 2005 Contribution | Church Treasurer Reports as 2006 Contribution |
|--|---|---|
| Checks written in Dec. 2005 and put in the church offering in Jan. 2006 | | X |
| Checks written and put in the church offering in Jan. 2006, but “backdated” to Dec. 2005 | | X |
| Checks written and put in the church offering in Dec. 2005 but “postdated” to Jan. 2006 | | X |
| Checks written in Dec. 2005, mailed and postmarked in Dec. 2005, but not received by the church until Jan. 2006 | X | |
| Checks written in Dec. 2005, mailed in Dec. 2005, but not postmarked until Jan. 2006, and not received until Jan. 2006 | | X |



Relief

You continue to have a significant presence on the Gulf Coast in this Advent season of hope. Two dozen volunteers are working here in Durham on the shower trailers - getting them ready to go down to the

coast. A number of you have approached Paul about being on the next "away" team. Another church member returned last weekend to help construct a volunteer village.

These are wonderful expressions of your faith and your sacrificial stewardship. The trips are not without their rewards - just look at how many folks have signed up for seconds!

There continue to be lots of ways to serve, including this Saturday (Dec. 17th) - another crew of worker bees will begin stripping out the next trailer. Keep reading for more ways to become involved.....

Kendrick and Fuzzy Lewis are our newly adopted evacuee family. They left the shelter in New Orleans, came to the Raleigh shelter, and then over to Durham about a month ago. Kendrick is a delightful 21-year-old man who wants to be an electrician. Your Evacuee Resettlement Task Force is looking into getting him enrolled in courses at Durham Tech in January. Fuzzy is Kendrick's 1-year-old son whose mom is in Texas and is currently not able to deal with caring for a baby.

Kendrick and Fuzzy are lodged in an apartment in North-east Durham. You have provided them with most of the furnishings needed. One of our faithful has donated a used car; another has promised to underwrite the first six months of auto insurance. It looks like we will be able to get a full scholarship for Kendrick's education at Durham Tech. The Task Force is still working on childcare issues and looking for a job for Kendrick.

Our involvement in this ministry is likely to go on for at least 6 months. If you would like to help, you may send donations to the church earmarked "evacuee resettlement" or call one of the Task Force members and offer your services. They are: Co-chairs: Kirstin Overholt (419-6024) & Laura Loehr (619-5023); Monica Nichols (493-0832), Kelly Keadey (383-7691), Carol Mansfield (493-4842), Jeff Sutton (541-4788), Mack Aldridge (419-0607).

WOMEN'S MISSION TRIP

If you are interested in an all women's mission trip to Mississippi in the early spring (late March, early April), please contact Betty Berghaus (489-4974, ext. 108; betty@wpcdurham.org). We will hold an organizational meeting after 11:00 worship on January 15th.

Choir



Notes

The Junior Choir will sing for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service - anthems are "The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy" and "Mary's Song." Note that we will not have an extended rehearsal on Dec. 21st, but will simply review our anthems immediately following the Christmas pageant rehearsal. No rehearsal on Dec. 28th. Choir resumes on Wed., January 4th. Happy holidays to all!

Christmas Caroling with Chancel Choir & Friends takes place on Tuesday, December 20th. All are welcome - meet in WPC parking lot at 6:00 p.m. We travel by church bus & private cars to sing for shut-ins & retirement centers. Carol books are provided. Join us for this wonderful, heartwarming tradition!

Questions? Call or e-mail Monica Rossman: 489-4974, ext. 113; monica@wpcdurham.org



The students of Westminster School for Young Children have been busy celebrating Christmas! Our three-year-olds learned about Christmas celebrations around the world last Friday. Our four-year-olds have participated in their own Moravian Lovefeast and a Mexican Fiesta!

Thanks to Haywood, Betty, Paul, Nancy, and Monica for teaching us about Christmas through their stories, songs, and prayers at Celebrations. Our students always look forward to spending time with them during the week.

Thanks to all of you for participating in our annual "Share A Toy" drive. The Durham Rescue Mission will put all of those toys, games, and books to very good use this season! We also thank you for your continued support of this program. Our staff and students wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Our last day of school is this Friday, the 16th. We will return on Wednesday, January 4th.



Parent to Parent

Sunday School Class Schedule

12/18 - "Bible Stories for Children" - Nancy Rozak
 12/25 - No Class
 01/01 - No Class
 01/08 - "Epiphany and Resolutions" - Mary Todd Peters
 Anyone is welcome to join us!

Parking at WPC - Safety Concern

Unfortunately, several cars have been vandalized in our church parking lot over the past few weeks. All of them contained women's purses or other valuable items in clear view. Some of these robberies occurred during the middle of the day as mothers parked "for just a few minutes" to pick up their children from pre-school. Two cars were vandalized Sunday night during the Advent Sing-along dinner.

The police tell us that such robberies are very commonplace, especially this time of year, so please take care to lock your cars and not to leave purses or other valuables in clear view. It only takes a few seconds to break the front window, remove a purse, and disappear.

NEW HOPE CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER FRIENDS BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2006
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS FUN AND
 EXCITING EVENT AT NHCCC.**

Currently donations are being accepted for auction items (pottery, woodcraft, professional services, gift certificates, travel, and hospitality, etc.) If you would like to contribute a new, quality item to this event please contact Kim McNeill, Camp Director, at 942-4176.

Look on our website in January for ticket information, auction items, and details about this exciting evening at New Hope Camp!

WWW.NEWHOPECCC.ORG



2005 Honor Card

Urban Ministries of Durham



Are you looking for that perfect holiday gift for the person on your list who has everything? Consider an Urban Ministries of Durham Holiday Honor Card by Greensboro artist William Mangum. An Honor Card is an alternative gift that benefits those in need at the same time as it conveys to the recipient that they are remembered and loved during this holiday season.

This year's Urban Ministries' Honor Card is entitled "Homecoming" and can be purchased at the following locations: any Wachovia Bank branch in Durham, The Regulator Bookshop, House of Frames, and Urban Ministries of Durham. You can view an image of the honor card cover at <http://www.williammangum.com/homecoming-2005honorcard.html>.

Help feed, clothe, and shelter those in need in Durham this holiday season by purchasing this beautiful William Mangum Honor Card for a minimum donation of \$5.00. Call 682-0538, ext. 25, or visit www.umdurham.org for more information.

Hospice Care Volunteers Needed

Can you spare just 30 minutes a week to read to someone? Liberty Hospice in Durham is looking for volunteers to help patients in all sorts of ways, depending on your availability, your talents, and your gifts. Please consider using your gifts and talents to help someone in our community. For more information or to sign up, please contact Sara Nesbitt at Liberty HomeCare and Hospice (471-1368 or snesbitt@libertyhomecare.com).



Our Christmas Eve offering this year will go to **Housing for New Hope** to work toward ending homelessness in Durham. Every \$100 or greater gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$40,000!

Westminster Presbyterian Church
 3639 Old Chapel Hill Road
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Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 760

Phone: 919-489-4974
 Fax: 919-493-4553
 Website: www.wpcdurham.org



December 18, 2004 - Bell Sunday
Preacher: Haywood Holderness
Title: "Mothers of God"
Text: Luke 1:26-38

December 25, 2004 - Christmas Day / Birthday Sunday
(One worship service at 11 a.m., no Sunday School)
Preacher: Betty Berghaus
Title: "A Christmas Message"
Texts: Isaiah 52:7-10, Luke 2:8-20, John 1:1-14

January 1, 2004 - Holy Communion
(One worship service at 11 a.m., no Sunday School)
Preacher: Haywood Holderness



Christmas Caroling with Chancel Choir & Friends takes place on Tuesday, December 20th. All are welcome - meet in WPC parking lot at 6:00 p.m. We travel by church bus & private cars to sing for shut-ins & retirement centers. Carol books are provided. Join us for this wonderful, heartwarming tradition!



"...and what does the Lord
 require of you but to do justice, and to love
 kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
 Micah 6:8

Calendar Highlights

- 12/18** **8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Fellowship**
 Calhoon Cabin
5:00 p.m. Session Meeting - Room 105
7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - Room 105
- 12/20** **6:00 p.m. WPC Christmas Caroling**
 (see article on this page)
- 12/21** **4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**
 Fellowship Hall, Parlor, & Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Website Committee - Room 103
7:00 p.m. Brass Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 12/24** **4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant**
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Potluck Begins
 Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights
8:00 p.m. Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights,
 including music with the Chancel Choir & Brass

Responsibilities for December 18 - December 25, 2005

| ACOLYTES | NURSERY | USHERS |
|---|---|--|
| 12/18 Christopher Kelly & Jack Mountain | December Nursery Coordinator - Barb Vanden Broek 12/18 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Marge Enberg 2-5 - Frances Anton 11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Neil & Jennifer McElroy <i>Toddlers</i> - Debbie & Lynn Chesnut 2-3 - Gene & Louise Holland 4-5 - Bill & Lucy Stokes <i>Float - (Volunteer Needed)</i> 12/25 11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Laura & James Chesnut <i>Toddlers</i> - Blair & Ben Chesnut 2-3 - John Cowan 4-5 - Kevin & Michelle King <i>Float - (Volunteer Needed)</i> | 12/18 8:30 - Sue & Don Dates, Dennis Enberg, and Bonnie Birch 11:00 - Beverly McGraw, Kim, Kevin, & Kyle Scott, and LuRuth Arena |
| 12/25 Allie Ruffing & Kevin Scott | | 12/25 11:00 - Mike & Kay Rosenmarkle, Frank & Margaret Falkovic, and Jim Agnew |
| LECTORS | | SOUND TECHNICIANS |
| 12/18 8:30 - Bill Bartholomay 11:00 - Julie Fishell-Billman | | 12/18 8:30 - Doug Wellemeyer 11:00 - Frank Stallings |
| 12/25 11:00 - Kim Scott | | 12/25 11:00 - Frank Stallings |
| ELDER GREETERS | | |
| 12/18 8:30 - David Edwards 11:00 - David Holmes | | |
| 12/25 11:00 - Bill Bartholomay | | |
| OFFERING COUNTERS | | |
| 12/18 Mary Beck & Jeff Sutton | | |
| 12/25 Bill & Anne Young | | |