

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church  
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Address Service Requested

# GOOD NEWS

from MOUNT OLIVET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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VOLUME XLIV

December 2016

NUMBER 5



Maybe I've been a pastor for too long. I love the seasons of Advent and Lent, seasons of preparation for the huge events to come, Christmas and Easter, respectively. I

love getting ready to proclaim the Good News of the birth of our Savior and God's victory over sin and death. I love that we recognize our hearts and lives need time to be ready to receive the wonderful gift God gives to us in His Son. My life needs preparation to allow Jesus to be born in me again this year.

Advent comes from the word *adventus* meaning "coming." Advent season, the beginning of the Christian Year, lasts for four Sundays ending on Christmas Day. During this Advent preparation, we use the color purple to bring this royal pageantry flowing into our lives. We use blue to symbolize the hope that builds by God's activity for our world.

I love the themes the Church has developed to tell this wonderful story of God's activity in our lives, even before we knew God (that sounds like *prevenient* grace, God acting in our lives before we knew God). Advent begins with the end in sight as our 1st Week theme is "Coming in Final Victory." With the 2nd and 3rd Sunday theme of John the Baptist preparing the way for Messiah, The final Sunday's theme are the awe inspiring preparations for the baby's birth.

If we are going to know how to get to Christmas, we begin with the final destination. As strange as Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* seems at times, it was Cheshire Cat who observed, "If you don't care where you're going, 'then it doesn't matter which way you go.'" Advent tells us, "we care where we are going; we're working for the master, Jesus."

Advent's roadmap tells us:

The Prophets have been "'a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

The angel Gabriel tells us, "God is about to do something and do something big!"

Angels singing in the heavens tell us we are going forward in boldness, "Do not be afraid."

Shepherds tell us we are headed to a new beginning with "glad tidings of joy."

Wise Ones tells us it's worth making that extra journey to worship the One deserving all worship.

Jesus tells us, "he's coming back for us."

As pastor, I have always been told "the pastor is the one person at church that needs to have a ten-year calendar in hand." While we live in the present given to us, we also need to work with the "end in sight." Our Mt Olivet vision statement proclaims, "As Disciples of Jesus, we will passionately follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as we unite to promote and nurture spiritual growth among God's Children."

May Advent prepare us to journey in the vision "born" in Jesus Christ.

*Dr. John*



# Children's Ministry

I would like to start off by saying thank you so much for the warm welcome I have received over the past few weeks. For those who haven't met me, I am the new Director of Children's Ministry and I'm very happy to be here.

I grew up in a Christian home and have attended church since I was little. My walk with Christ is so very important to me. I'm blessed to be given the opportunity to work with your children.

It is my goal as the Children's Director to see our little ones grow in Christ. Even at a young age we are laying the foundation in their hearts that will continue to be built upon throughout their life's path.

For several years, I have worked with children. The careers I've held include Daycare teacher, Substitute teacher, and an Early Literacy Coordinator. With the experience I've gained, I feel confident that God has now led me here to Mount Olivet United Methodist Church.

Originally, I am from Rocky Mount, NC. Currently, my home is in Edenton, NC. Several have asked me about the drive but it really isn't too bad. I look forward to getting to know each of you and being part of the community.

It is my sincere desire that with your help we can build our children's program. Investing in our children is the key to the future of Mount Olivet. We are blessed to be able to offer some great programs. These programs include, Nursery, Sunday School, S.U.R.G.E, and Children's Church.

*Director of Children's Ministry,  
Crystal Hale*



## Schedule:

Nursery: Is offered during all service times including Sunday School and is located on the first floor.

Children's Sunday school: 9:45 AM Offered Upstairs

S.U.R.G.E. :( Students, United, Reaching, Guiding, Each other in Christ): is offered on Sunday nights from 5pm-7pm. Third-Fifth grade meet to learn about giving on their journey with God.

Children's Church: is offered upstairs during the 8:30AM and 11:00AM services. Children's Church is where children Preschool -3rd grade are invited to worship on their level. (4th-5th graders are always welcome, by parent's decision.)



# Welcome Crystal Hale!!



# Youth Ministry

In this article you will find information about our upcoming Sunday night schedule for the month of December. I am looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior as we go throughout this month that is filled with so many special events and opportunities to celebrate. It is my hope and prayer that our students are reenergized in their love and worship of God as they remember the greatest gift ever given: Jesus Christ.

## Sunday Nights in December

December 4th- Children's Ministry Christmas Drama from 5:00-6:00, Youth group at the Cove from 5:00-7:00 PM.

December 11th- Sunday Night Youth Group, 5:00-7:00 PM

December 18th- Plan to come from 4:00-8:00 pm, as we have our annual Christmas party at the Cove from 4:00-6:00, followed by Christmas caroling with the rest of the church from 6:00-8:00 pm. The party will consist of dinner, Christmas games, and a tacky Christmas outfit contest. Don't forget to wear a tacky Christmas outfit to this event for a chance to win a prize!

December 25th- Will not meet, Merry Christmas!

## Winterfest Information

"Winterfest" is a Christian concert-based event at Liberty University from December 30th- January 1st. This event will take place at Liberty University on December 30th and 31st, with concerts taking place from 6:30 pm-midnight both of those nights, which includes ringing in the New Year at the second concert. Our group will be spending time together on campus at LU until the concert starts on the 31st, with potential activities such as ice skating, using Snowflex (an artificial ski slope), or using the student union center gymnasium and other amenities.

The concerts include performances by Newsboys, For King and Country, Crowder, RED, Andy Mineo, and more. There will also be speakers including David Nasser and Rich Wilkerson, Jr. This is a fantastic lineup that the students will really enjoy hearing. Please be in prayer for the Spiritual growth of our students at this event. We still have a few open spots for this trip, students can sign up in the church office.

## Summer Mission Trip: The Cove is Going to Canada!

We are excited to announce our 2017 summer mission trip: We will be partnering with Long Lake Camp in Nova Scotia to help lead a week-long camp. This is a place that

is near and dear to Sarah's heart, as she spent two summers working there as a counselor. We are so excited to see what the Lord has in store for our mission to some of the children in Nova Scotia. Drew and Sarah have been praying for months, and had the opportunity to meet with the director of the board at the camp while they were in Nova Scotia in September and spent time praying and talking together for this mission. We ask that you would join us in prayer now as we prepare and as we start fundraising. The total cost of this trip for each student will be \$1,000, so we look forward to seeing how God provides this money for our team. This is a larger trip than the past few years and we are excited with great anticipation, knowing that the Lord's timing is perfect and He has laid the ground work for this trip already! There will be a meeting for the students who are attending this trip on December 4th at 4:00 PM at the Cove. December 4th is also the last day that student can sign up to go on this trip.

*Drew Peyton*

## 2016 Winter Schedule

\*All events are open for students in the 6th-12th grade unless otherwise stated\*

Wednesday- High School Bible Study, 7:30-9:00 pm at Drew's House. This Bible study is open to all 9th-12th grade students. We will discuss topics that are of interest to our students, study the Scriptures and pray together.

Thursday morning youth breakfast, 7:00 -7:40 am each Thursday morning school is in session; come out for a great hot breakfast and a guest speaker each week. Transportation is provided to Manteo Middle School and Manteo High School after breakfast. This event meets in "Room B" inside the main church building.

Sunday night Youth Group 5:00 - 7:00 pm. This is a time for students to grow in their love for God and their love for one another as they fellowship through the sharing of food, playing games, and studying Scripture together.

Sunday school will continue to meet as previously scheduled. (9:30-10:30)



# Music Ministry



Our chancel choir leads worship each Sunday morning for the 11:00 AM service. We would love to have you join us! If you are interested in singing with the choir, we meet on Thursday evenings in the choir room.



The Resounding Praise team leads worship for the 8:30 AM service each Sunday. If you are interested in joining, then stop in at a rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM or contact me for more information. We would love to see you there.



If you are in 6 – 12th grade and are looking for a great time to worship with your peers and prepare to lead, then come and join us. Youth Praise meets on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM. We will be leading worship this month on December 18. We would love to have you share your talents with the Youth Praise team and the church.

*One of my favorite songs during the Christmas season is called He Made a Way in a Manger. This song uses the theme that is found in the familiar carol, Away in a Manger. The chorus of the song reads as follows:*

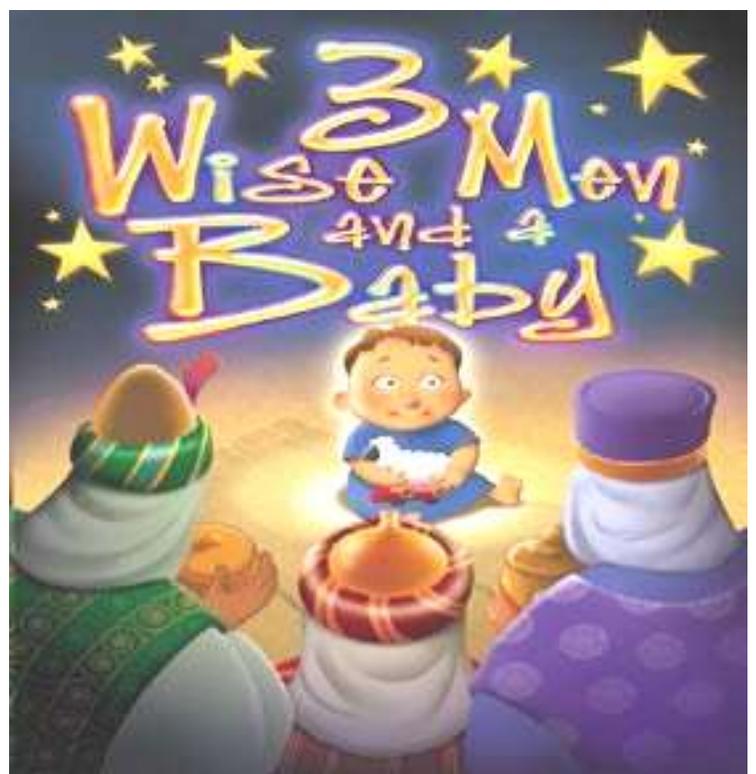
*“He made a way in a manger  
A way through the Son  
Messiah the Promised  
Before time had begun  
For God so loved this world  
Though He knew what love would cost  
He made a way in a manger  
To make a way to the cross  
(He made a way)”*

*What I love so much about this passage is that it doesn't end with a baby in a manger. In so few words it expresses the journey that Jesus took from the manger bed to a cross on a hill. We celebrate the manger and the birth of Christ because Jesus died for our sins on a cross. As another part of the song states:*

*“He is the life Who died our death  
The precious Lord Jesus  
Laid down His sweet head”*

*Our children have been hard at work on the Christmas musical 3 Wise Men and a Baby! We will be presenting the musical on December 4 at 5:00 PM. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus through this musical presentation.*

*This year we will be presenting our Christmas cantata O Night Divine on December 11 at 10:00am. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our risen savior, Jesus Christ.*



# Missions

We hope you are getting into our ADVENT DEVOTIONAL REVERSE FOOD DRIVE and filling your bags....By the time you come to Christmas Eve Service or Christmas Day service; the Roanoke Island Food Pantry will have many many bags of food; you will have fed your soul through the devotionals and the Hungry will have food during the Winter Months. You may also have learned at least a couple new things about the Pantry and prayed for our community.

We have some alternative gift options available outside the church office on the small shelf. You can provide financial gifts to honor someone that will help different ministries. For example, there are cards you can purchase from Society of St Andrew that just \$12 provides 500 meals!

Our Angel Tree of gift needs is a little different than in past years. We have been in touch with men in programs to get free of addiction like Dare Challenge and the House of Prayer and Women at Albemarle Teen Challenge. We have asked them for gifts ideas to provide for them to take to their children or parents or spouses. In most cases, the addiction has severely strained family relationships and the person getting the help now sees more clearly how their addiction has affected their families. Having a gift to give them goes a long way in the healing process. It's the little things we may do, that when done in love, can have the biggest impact.

*Missions Committee*



# Nannie Midgett

The Nannie Midgett Christmas Dinner will be on Monday, December 19, at 6 PM, at the home of Wanda Daniels. Please bring a food item to share and a \$10-\$15 gift for the gift exchange.

# Preschool News

We have lots of exciting things going on in preschool right now! October was a great month, as we got to go on our favorite field trip to the Pumpkin Patch. We also had an exciting Fall Festival with lots of good food and games! We always enjoy our time of fellowship with our preschool families!

November was another exciting month! We have been working on Fall crafts, and we prepared for our big Thanksgiving Dinner with both classes and their families. We had a special movie and a Thanksgiving feast with our afterschool kids on Wed., Nov. 23rd, which is a half day for them. We also put up our Christmas tree on this day!

December will be a very busy, but very exciting month for us also! We will be making lots of pretty Christmas crafts and practicing our Christmas songs. We will be taking a field trip with our 4 yr old class to Darrell's for breakfast and then to the Christmas Shop to pick out a special ornament to take home. On Friday, Dec. 16th, we will have our Christmas Luncheon with both classes and their families. The kids will sing their Christmas songs and we will all eat lunch together and then we will be on Christmas break until Mon., Jan. 2nd.

*Shon Lee Ballance, Director*

# Worship



December 2016

Altar Guild will be announced in Bulletin

Ushers for December

8:30 Bobby & Deloris Harrell 473-5739

11:00 Malcolm & Susan Fearing

Thanks to everyone who helps with Worship Committee activities. Please note special worship times for Advent activities elsewhere in the newsletter.

*Sarah Wise, Worship*



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER



1. Jenna Frank
2. Olivia Gainey , Casey Howell, Gena Terry
3. Chuck Edwards, Tess Harrell,  
Elizabeth Hodgson, Lindsay Mitchell
4. Chris Edwards, Sarah Pritchard, Kenneth Wells
5. Zackary Hodges, Horace Midgett
6. Stacie Allen, Courtney Herrera, Lynda Midgett
7. Rebecca Evans, Michelle Johnson
8. Ward Blanchard, Pauline Rock
9. Gene Dever
10. Katherine Bottjen, Dana Griddle,  
Katherine Moore, Edward Williams
11. Artie Ange, Tucker Walker
12. Meldine Lee, Jen Phillips, Joe Willis
13. Paige Davis, Denise Trevino
14. Cindi Griffith, David Hook
15. Rebecca Boyce, Sammy Midgett
16. John Dutton, Mya Erpelding, Lauren Garza
16. Dan Otte'
17. Ruby Beasley, Jim Davis, Patty Dutton
18. Michelle Barnes , Sophia Farrow, Aaron Fauth
18. Hillary Harrison, Jan Krauss
19. Dana Davenport, Pam Harrison, Donald Jones
20. Mabel Clupper
21. Ann Payne, Paul Rock, Lee Stell
23. Joanne Braine, Meris Duprey Carroll Harrell
23. Kathy Seawell
- 26 Chris Basnight, Clarence Skinner, Alex Updike
27. Kim Hunt, Wendy Kelly, Coy Tillett
28. Jeff Bliven, Aaron Hopkins, Rex Tillett
29. Metta Austin, Kaley Gallop, Peg Landreth
29. Caleb Noone, Peyton Shell
30. Judith Fearing, Jen Meekins, Traci Nissley
30. Jennifer Warth
31. Kathryn Gore, Alex Martin, William Spence
31. Anna Strawser

5. Kenny & Maggie Sexton, 18 yrs.
7. Bob & Karen, Hewett, 53 yrs.
11. Lee & Sarah Wise, 22 yrs.
15. Ronnie & Carol Meekins, 59 yrs.
15. Gary & Carol Setzer, 27 yrs.
17. Paul & Jenny Terry, 22yrs.
18. Olin & Dotsy Davis, 40 yrs.
22. Jim & Barbara Brown, 60 yrs.
22. Walter & Barbara Holton, 45 yrs.
23. Clarence & Ruth Lewis, 42 yrs.
28. Edison & Reda Midgett, 68 yrs.
29. Buddy & Erin McCown, 15 yrs.

## PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

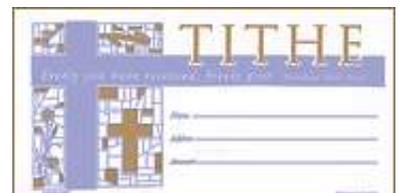
A group has meet several times to put together prayer blankets. Every prayer blanket is prayed over. We pray for specific individuals: those sick or experiencing surgeries and in the hospital, homebound persons, those in nursing homes, cancer patients and others who may need comfort. We have mailed prayer blankets as far away as Charlotte and delivered blankets to recipients in Greenville and Raleigh. We have made home visits and given prayer blankets to several Mt. Olivet church members.

If you are interested in helping with the Prayer Blanket Ministry please contact Aletia Goudy in the church office.

[James 5:13-15](#) Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Paula Oliver

## 2017 CHURCH ENVELOPES ARE IN



Each year fewer families are using the Church envelopes for their gifts and tithes to our Church. This is for a variety of reasons including the use of online giving, choosing to not use envelopes, or some that may not know that envelopes are available. If you would like a set of giving offering envelopes for 2017, please e-mail [agoudy@mountolivetumc.org](mailto:agoudy@mountolivetumc.org) or call the church office at 252-473-2089.



*"In each heart lies a Bethlehem,  
an inn where we must ultimately answer  
whether there is room or not...." (Ann Weems)*

To pause in this Advent season and listen for the voice of God speaking through Scripture just may be a way to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Join us for

**"Christmas Scripture Readings" – a time of quiet**  
Wednesdays 10:00-11:00am Sanctuary at Mt. Olivet

Share this time to explore the stories of Christmas, reading in a quiet, prayerful space, listening together. Begins Wednesday December 7, 2016  
No preparation is needed, just come with an open heart.

Led by Sarah and Rodney Benson

*"This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places."*

All are welcome.

# THANK YOU

To The Members of Mount Olivet,

I am so honored and humbled to receive a Prayer Blanket. I will cherish it forever especially knowing how many people need one. This blanket has answered so many prayers for myself since the day that Jennifer dropped it off., I am so blessed and thankful for the continued prayers that I need to bet through each day. Prayers do work and I am a witness to that! Thank you so much.

*Jan Krauss*

Dear Ladies

(Edna, Paula, Suzanne, Patty, Reha, & Sherron),

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer blanket and all the love and prayers that it represents. We will always treasure it. Reuben and I are in a new season of our life, one that we never, ever envisioned. We will rejoice in HOPE and be constant in our prayers.

Love in Christ, Reuben & Jean

# Trustees Update

1. Forward in Faith Sanctuary
  - A Painting is complete
  - B Carpet is complete
  - C Seat cushions to be ordered this week [ Aprox 3 months to get them]
  - D New choir chairs will also be ordered with matching fabric
  - E Some electrical work to be done this week [new switches and receptacles]
2. Outside siding etc
  - A Most of siding complete except section in front
  - B Work progressing on Steeple
  - C new external doors for equipment room have been installed
  - D Painting of outside to start shortly [ weather Permitting]
3. Once these much needed repairs have been completed

## NEXT ITEMS

- A new hymnals
- B New Bibles
- C New outside sign
- D New ceiling in Classrooms upstairs

Plus other items on the official Forward in Faith Program

4. Forward in Faith is currently on budget [ with some unknowns to go]

Total Giving to Capital Campaign in 2015  
\$2,100.50

<b>2016 Capital Campaign Finance Breakdown</b>	
Pledged Capital Campaign 2016	61,138.00
Gifts Capital Campaign 2016	9,128.00
Memorials Capital Campaign 2016	2,095.00
Honors Capital Campaign 2016	<u>100.00</u>
2016 Total giving	\$72,461.00

## Trustee notes

- 1 Dominion Power seems to want to replace the main electrical Lines to the church.
- 2 Dominion is very aware of the leaning Electrical Power Pole



- 3 Currently getting needs requirement of new phone system [I know some have experienced dropped call etc.]

The Trustees