



# *The Methodist Messenger*

JANUARY 2018

Whiteville United Methodist Church



Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Communion Service - 6:30 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS TRUTH ACCORDING TO THE CREED

The birth of Jesus is given attention by two gospels, Luke and Matthew. Of the two, Luke offers the longest account of Jesus' birth. And as you remember, Luke's version of the birth of Jesus, which is found at Luke 2:1-20, is the traditional Gospel Lesson for the Christmas Eve Service of Worship.

But in the Church, there is another authoritative version of the birth of our Lord. It is found in what we United Methodists call The Nicene Creed, which is at #880 in The United Methodist Hymnal. The Nicene Creed's account of Jesus' birth is from a heavenly point of view.

As you read from The Nicene Creed below, about the Son of God (or the Second Person of the Trinity) being born as Jesus of Nazareth, may your heart jump for joy!

. . . We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human . . .

If you are ever asked to provide a brief story of the birth of our Lord, what appears above would be an excellent start. May the "merry" of our "Merry Christmas" include lots of room for amazement and wonder.

In Christ,  
Pastor Paul

### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANK YOU!

From the Stallsworth's to each and every one of you: Merry Christmas! Since the Season of Christmas lasts for twelve days, "Merry Christmas" still works for all of us. May your merriment continue, with the blessing of the Church, through January 5!

The Stallsworth's also wish to thank you for all your kind cards, notes, and gifts of food. You have helped make our celebration of Christmas 2017 most memorable. Again, our heartfelt thanks to you.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
GIVES A LANDON LECTURE  
AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
ON JANUARY 19, 1968.

#### LIVING IN RESPONSE TO THE GIFT OF THE CHRIST CHILD: LOVE IS PATIENT

"I once heard a man, then a young professor, tell of being on a plane in the late sixties and finding himself next to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He introduced himself to Dr. King and, as their journey progressed, he revealed to Dr. King that he was active in the Civil Rights struggle on his own campus. Because of his work in the racial struggle, he had become alienated from his father. He told Dr. King how his father could not understand him and how they had grown apart.

"'What can I do,' he asked Dr. King, 'to raise the consciousness of my father, to make my father see that he is a racist, that all of his pious talk about 'loving black people' is just a lie?'

"Dr. King put his hand on the angry young man's hand and said, 'Your father is doing the best he can. He has not had many of your educational opportunities, opportunities which your father has provided for you. As a Christian, you must be patient with him and love him.'"

– Dr. William H. Willimon from Pulpit Resource, Vol. 23, No. 7, which is quoted by For All the Saints: A Prayer Book for and by the Church, Vol. III, pp. 54-55.

#### CALLING FOR RESPECT REQUIRES ACTING WITH RESPECT

Each December, for years, this pastor has received a seasonal card from a Duke University administrator, professor, and author. He is a gifted man, who makes many contributions to the university he serves, to our state, and to our nation. In many of his annual cards, he offers a Psalm in modern English, reports on his health and work, and includes a comment on contemporary politics. This year's political commentary was particularly interesting, so I dropped him a brief letter that, in part, noted: "In the political poem on your card, you write, early on: 'No little irony there is that the unity that Lincoln, the R originator, did catalyze/Would be blown apart 150 years later by Rs-in-name-only, to no one's surprise./Because like "the emperor's invisible clothing," all R-unity today is elusive,/Masking nonsensical retrograde policies backed by no factual evidence conclusive.'

"Later, you conclude your political musings with this: 'Above all, I beg You [God], inspire Americans who differ but who are of good will/To reach out across all boundaries to warm the ties of amity that are now chill;/And motivate all of us to make our highest priority the creation of a union new/That will be the rebirth of a new America that welcomes the expression of every view.'

"On the last stanza of your poetic prayer, most Americans would probably be with you. (Though some of us would, most likely, place our 'highest priority' elsewhere.) However, methinks the concluding hopes for increased 'amity' and welcome would, perhaps, be more realizable if signs of 'good will' had been demonstrated earlier in the poem. Just a thought."



## OUTREACH

We have been notified about where the meals we packaged at the Rise Against Hunger Event were shipped! A shipping container, holding 144,936 meals, has been sent to the Dominican Republic for a partner of RAH, CitiHope International. This organization nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in the Dominican Republic.

Thanks to the congregation, we have also been able to provide gifts for 20 children served by Families First over the past year. For the first time in several years, all of the stars were taken from the tree! We hope all of you who "adopted" an Angel were blessed by your participation; you have definitely made a difference in the lives of children. Love, peace and happiness,  
Vickie Pait, Outreach Chair

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will meet on Thursday, January 4, at 6:30 p.m. at Joe's Barbecue (500 Green Hill Drive, behind Lowe's) for dinner, devotion, and discussion. All the men of the church are invited to attend. Brad Crowell, President

## NURTURE COMMITTEE

The Nurture Committee would like to wish everyone a happy and blessed New Year! Hope is such a wonderful gift from God and every New Year brings a renewed sense of hope for the future. Our faith helps us to look toward the unknown with the assurance that God will see us through whatever happens in our lives.

We are planning to meet to take down the Chrismon Tree on Friday, January 12, at 10:00 a.m. Anyone who would like to come and help with that task is welcome! - Debbie Conway, Chair

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Bible study class will begin Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven by David Jeremiah on January 17 and will run for 10 weeks. The group meets in the Parlor from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Study guides are around \$12. Please call the Church Office (642-3376) or Florence Marlowe (642-4714) to order a guide by January 2. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join!

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year. Whiteville United Methodist Women are looking forward to the New Year and all the opportunities that we will have to share the love of Jesus Christ with others.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on Monday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Beverly Justice will have the devotion for the meeting and is also the hostess.

We would like to welcome Debbie Sellars as the President for the New Year and encourage all women of the church to join in for an evening of fellowship and

learning, as well as the enjoyment of refreshments together.

## CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet on Thursday, January 18, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., in the Adult Sunday School Class. Come and join the group for fellowship and support!

## YOUTH FUND RAISER

The Youth are selling God's Creation calendars as a fund raiser for their ski trip. Prices are: Wall calendar/\$7, pocket calendar/\$5, and note pad/\$3. These beautiful calendars make great gifts! Stop by the Church Office to purchase some.

## SERVING THIS MONTH

Greeters: 7<sup>th</sup> - Nancy Oakley, 14<sup>th</sup> - Dial and Betty Gray, 21<sup>st</sup> - John and Shirley Kennedy, 28<sup>th</sup> - Frank and Sylvia Walters.

Soundboard Workers: 7<sup>th</sup> - Darryl Diefes, 14<sup>th</sup> - Suzanne Hall,

21<sup>st</sup> - Lynne Inman, 28<sup>th</sup> - Beverly Justice.

Acolytes: 7<sup>th</sup> - Anna and Sophie Bivens, 14<sup>th</sup> - Volunteer needed\*, 21<sup>st</sup> - Emily and Ellen McLam, 28<sup>th</sup> - Emily and Andrew Sauls.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 <sup>th</sup> Florence Marlowe	18 <sup>th</sup> Sabra Allen
5 <sup>th</sup> Grant Merritt	19 <sup>th</sup> Carol Worrell
9 <sup>th</sup> Alan Pait	22 <sup>nd</sup> Kyle Hood
10 <sup>th</sup> Hannah Deans	24 <sup>th</sup> Ross Barnhill
14 <sup>th</sup> Greg Williamson	27 <sup>th</sup> Carly High
17 <sup>th</sup> Sabra Allen	31 <sup>st</sup> JoAnne Biser

## FUND ASSISTS THE COOK'S

A fund to assist Leigh (Whiteville UMC Preschool Director) and Brownie Cook, in their recovery from the Christmas Day fire which destroyed their house and two cars, has been started by First Baptist Church. If you wish to donate to this fund, please make your checks payable to "First Baptist Church," write "The Cooks" on the memo line, and deliver or mail the check to First Baptist Church/412 North Madison Street/Whiteville, NC 28472. Thank you.

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for their many acts of kindness and support during this difficult time. It has been a comforting blessing to each of us. Also, thank you to those who prepared the meal. Not only was it delicious, it made the gathering extra special.

With Much Love, Ann Worthington and Family



Whiteville United  
Methodist Church  
902 Pinckney Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472

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Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church

As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.

The Whiteville United Methodist Church Service of Worship is broadcast on WTXY 1540 AM from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Also it is available online at [www.wtxy1540.com](http://www.wtxy1540.com): **click on "Church Services" in the upper heading, and then click on "Click to Listen Live" next to "United Methodist Church of Whiteville"** at 10:00 a.m. to hear the complete audio of the service.

Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Layton Dowless, Custodian

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Office (910) 642-3376

[wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org)

[www.whitevilleumc.org](http://www.whitevilleumc.org)

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth, Pastor