

# The Connection

Volume 1 Issue 4

December, 2014

## "Being the Church" in the Snow Hill Community

### A Word from the Pastor

Dear Snow Hill Family,

As we begin the season of Advent we look forward to all that is to come. So often that consists of looking forward with anxiety to all the spending, parties, gift giving, family expectations, and even the darkness of winter. We know that Christmas is so much more – and yet, we let it get blended into all of the artificiality that is not truly Christmas.



My prayer this year is that each of us will *keep Christmas real*. We do that when we treat the story of Joseph, Mary, and the Christ child as the news event it was, not as an ancient story or fable. If we gloss over the news and reality of Jesus' birth we are setting ourselves up to treat the rest of his life, ministry, death, resurrection and salvation of human kind in a similar cavalier fashion.

May I encourage each of us to be intentional about spending some time each day in prayer, scripture and meditation.

Hope, peace, joy and love to you all.

*Pastor Pat*

### Don't Miss Any Sunday in Advent

Each Sunday of December will provide for meaningful worship. As a part of those worship experiences the following special events will be included.

**Dec. 7—Hanging of the Greens @ 6:00 p.m.** This is a special tradition in which advent worship is combined with the custom of preparing the church building for the season. Music and tradition combine to make this a beautiful service. Immediately afterward a delicious reception will be provided in the fellowship hall.

**Dec. 14 – GREAT DAY!** Our dedicated chancel choir will present an inspirational cantata for a musical worship experience.

**Dec. 21 – HANDBELLS RING!** This Sunday before Christmas our hand bell choir will add to our worship and contribute to helping the season ring in your hearts.

**Dec. 28 – CHRISTMAS IS HERE!** Christmas morning is past, but the Christmas season has just begun. Come worship and sing of Christmas joy!



### CANDLE LIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**11:00 P.M. – MIDNIGHT  
December 24**

JOIN IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, SONG, AND THE WORD AS WE WELCOME THE FIRST MOMENT OF CHRISTMAS TOGETHER IN GOD'S HOUSE.

### Honoring Friends and Family

At various times, including birthdays and Christmas we want to honor someone special in our lives. It can be challenging to find the best gift or recognition for that person. A wonderful way to do this is to make a gift to the church in their honor, in their memory, or in appreciation for something they have done.

In order to provide such gifts please make a check payable to SHUMC and write "Honor" on the memo line. Honor cards will be available in the pews and in the narthex to enclose with the check. In each month's newsletter we will include the names of those being honored (amounts of gift will not be listed).

### Ring a Bell for the Salvation Army

Snow Hill members will have the opportunity to bless many folks by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, Saturday, December 20 from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Ingles Grocery in Walnut Cove. This is a fun and easy way to provide funds for folks in need. No organization has been more faithful and exhibited more integrity over the decades than the Salvation Army. Get a partner – or a group – and serve one or more shifts that day! Questions? Ask Pastor Pat.

The Signup Sheet for ringing the bell is in the church narthex.



### Did You Know?

1. Where did the name for the Methodist bookstore, Cokesbury come from? The first two Methodist bishops were Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury. Their names were combined as the name of the first Methodist seminary as well as becoming the name of the bookstore when it first opened.

2. When was the first woman ordained in the Methodist Church? In 1956 Maud Jensen was granted full clergy rights.

## Members Unable to Worship With Us

Please keep the following SHUMC members and neighbors in your prayers. If you have the opportunity to visit or send a card it would be most appreciated.

Ila Mae Overby  
Jacqueline Priddy  
Billy Shelton  
Elsie Sisk  
Mary Tilley

We will not publish addresses in the online version of the newsletter, please contact the church for more information.

## Hearing "Aids" for Snow Hill

We are delighted to announce that those with hearing challenges in the sanctuary will now have help. Due to an anonymous donation we have been able to secure an audio system and 10 headsets. If you have a hearing loss and would like to try the new headsets they will be located in the narthex each Sunday morning. For assistance or questions please see Chuck Spicer

## NEW CLASS FOR ADULTS PROVIDES DEEP AND CHALLENGING DISCUSSION

Do you think of Sunday School as old fashioned, or just for kids? Do you relish the extra hour of sleep or reading the paper before you get ready for Church? You may be missing out on a great opportunity to grow spiritually and broaden your theological understandings.

Each Sunday, *The Wired Word* provides a discussion centered around a news event of that week. Bible verses and evocative questions are used to discern what God's messages for us are, based on the subject matter. So far we have discussed, the choice to end one's life, the Texas governor's subpoena of pastors sermons, the NFL story, The Arkansas governor's pardon of his son, and selfless giving at the Albuquerque Airport

If another type of adult study appeals to you, remember that we have two other adult classes that also meet Sundays at 9:45. Come visit one or more of these classes and find your fit.

## Worship Through Service

Snow Hill UMC members have a number of ways to worship through service. There is always room for a new person.

- Operation Christmas Child—Shoe Box Gifts
- Backpacks for students at Piney Gove Middle School
- Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army
- Support the Northern Stokes Food Pantry
- Help in our Ramp Ministry
- Support the Southeastern Stokes Outreach Ministry
- Visit a member unable to attend services (we can give you a DVD of any Sunday Service to take with you)
- Get involved with our United Methodist Women or United Methodist Men
- Help with maintenance work at the church and/or SHAPE
- Make a donation to S.H.A.R.E—Snow Hill Area Relief Effort—which will enable the church to help those individuals and families in the Snow Hill Area in need.
- and more—Worship isn't just for Sundays at Snow Hill!

## End of Year Giving

Remember that all gifts and offerings to the church must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be included in your

## Welcome New Member

Becky Bibeau—Reaffirmation of Faith

## Caring for Each Other

The Snow Hill UMC family extends its sympathy to the family of Joy Rogers Martin. Joy was a beloved member of our church until her death on November 19. Her service was held in the Sanctuary on November 22 and her burial was in the SHUMC Cemetery.

## Cocoa with Santa

Please join Santa as he makes a special stop at SHUMC on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 1:00—3:00 p.m. Please invite every child (of any age) in the Snow Hill area to talk with Santa, have a picture made, and enjoy hot cocoa and other goodies. There is no fee for this special event.

## Visit Your Parsonage

Fifteen years ago SHUMC built its own parsonage. The parsonage provides a home for pastors when they are appointed to this church. Most members of the church have never had the opportunity to visit this part of the church's facilities. The pastor invites all of the church community to an **OPEN HOUSE, FRIDAY, DEC. 26 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.**

Those who are physically able to walk from the church parking lot without difficulty are encouraged to do so in order that our older and physically challenged members can use the parsonage driveway. We look forward to sharing your parsonage with you.

## December Calendar

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| Dec 3   | Wesleyan Bible Study 6:15 @ parsonage  |
| Dec. 6  | Cocoa with Santa - 1:00—3:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall  |
| Dec. 7  | Hand bells meet at 5:00<br>Hanging of the Greens 6:00 p.m.   |
| Dec. 8  | United Methodist Women   |
| Dec. 10 | Choir Rehearsal – 7:30   |
| Dec. 14 | Chancel Choir Cantata – <i>Great Day!</i> 10:15 a.m.<br>Handbells practice at 5:30 p.m.  |
| Dec. 17 | Pastoral Leadership Team Meets – 6:15-8:15 (choir dismissed at 7:30)<br>Choir rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.  |
| Dec. 19 | Travel to Boone for Operation Christmas Child—est. 6:00 a.m. departure from church   |
| Dec. 21 | United Methodist Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.<br>Hand bells Play for Worship<br>Christmas Caroling (Led by our Youth) meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Worship—11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary  |
| Dec. 26 | Open House @ Parsonage 5:00—7:30 p.m.  |
| Dec. 28 | Celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child  |

Snow Hill United Methodist Church  
2030 Snow Hill Church Road  
Danbury, NC 27106

[www.snowhillumc.org](http://www.snowhillumc.org)  
Facebook: [Snowhill UMC—Danbury NC](https://www.facebook.com/SnowhillUMC-DanburyNC)

Rev. Pat Spicer  
Church: 336-593-3362 / Cell 336-314-1276  
Email: [revpspicer@snowhillumc.org](mailto:revpspicer@snowhillumc.org)