

First United Methodist Church  
117 Third Street  
Cheraw, South Carolina 29520

## Our Mission

The mission of the First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.



*Address Service  
Requested*

### FUMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Wood, Jr., Pastor (woodtz1955@gmail.com)

Jonathan E. Kroepel, Director of Music (jkroepel@bellsouth.net)

Brandon Buchanan, Director of Youth and Children (Brandon@fumccheraw.net)

Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant (angie@fumccheraw.net)

Brian Enoch, Custodian

NON-PROFIT  
PRSRT STD.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHERAW, SC  
PERMIT NO. 31

Office Hours: M-F 8:00am—3:30pm  
Lunch 1:00— 1:30pm

## THE CONNECTION

First United Methodist Church

117 Third Street, Cheraw, South Carolina 29520

Phone: 843-537-7002 Fax: 843-537-7220

Preschool Phone 843-537-2212

Email: [methodist1@bellsouth.net](mailto:methodist1@bellsouth.net) [www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)

December 15, 2011, Volume 6, Issue 24

### *From the Pastor*

#### The Heart of Christmas: Pastor's Reflection

*I think we're going to have an exceptionally good Christmas.*

Those words were written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer from a prison cell in Berlin, Germany, on December 1, 1943. Earlier that year, he was arrested by the Nazis who suspected he was trying to undermine the German war effort. He was writing to his fiancée, Maria von Wedemeyer. He continued:

*The very fact that every outward circumstance precludes our making provision for it will show whether we can be content with what is truly essential. I used to be very fond of thinking up and buying presents, but now that we have nothing to give, the gift God gave us in the birth of Christ will seem all the more glorious; the emptier our hands, the better we understand what [Martin] Luther meant by his dying words: 'We're beggars; it's true.' The poorer our quarters, the more clearly we perceive that our hearts should be Christ's home on earth.*

Bonhoeffer's family was well-to-do and highly respected throughout Germany. He had lived a life of relative ease. Yet at Christmastime in 1943, at age, 37, he was in a prison cell almost twenty-four hours a day, living on meager rations, and being regularly interrogated – Tortured? We are not sure – for information. He could see his fiancée for only an hour once a month. He worried and prayed for friends and relatives who were fighting for Germany. Many lost their lives.

And this thoughtful Christian (a theologian, author and pastor) anticipated an “exceptionally good Christmas.” How could that be? Had he lost his mind?

No, he was someone who knew the heart of Christmas was not the gift-giving, nor time with family nor a break from work. Christmas, he knew, was about God coming into the world. Christ was the greatest gift any of us could receive. And the gift of Christ was, for him, enough.

“...the emptier our hands, the better we understand...” The gift of Christ was sufficient.

Hitler's henchmen were right in their suspicions. Two years later, Bonhoeffer was proven to have been involved in the *Abwehr* plot to assassinate Adolph Hitler. Bonhoeffer was hanged on April 9, 1945, just two weeks before the camp was liberated by the United States 90<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions.

The gift of Christ was sufficient. Christ is enough for each of us as well!

—Paul Wood

### *Remember our Shut-Ins and Sick*

#### **HOME**

Robin Motley, Angela Motley, Sabrina Tucker, Gene Huckabee,  
Michael Motley, Frances Laney

#### **CONVALESCENT CENTER**

Laura Stubbs

#### **NURSING HOME**

Sara Cook, Elaine Motley

#### **RETIREMENT HOMES**

Polly Edwards, Patsy Rushing, Margie Wannamaker

### *Our Visitors*

#### **November 20**

Tom Davidson, Kiersten Shepard.

#### **November 27**

Ok Yo Chang, Chae Sam Deford, Kathy DeFord, Rodney DeFord,  
Ashlyn Nelson, Jackson Thrailkill, Bryan Townsend, Carrie  
Townsend, David Townsend, Detra Townsend, Isabella Townsend,  
Michael Townsend, Nolan Townsend, Mike Turner, Pat Turner.

### *Wednesday At the First*

\*The meal begins at 5:30, is cooked by Carolyn Gary, and costs only \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 years old (Maximum \$21.00 for a family). Watch the Sunday bulletin each week for the menu. Sign up on the worship attendance sheet, or ask that your name be added to the list of “regulars.”

\*\*Handbells — Begins at 6:00pm.

\*\*Arts and Crafts with Janice Moore (K—2nd Grade) - 6:00 — 6:40pm.

\*\*The youth meet in the youth hut 6:00 — 7:30pm (doors open at 5:00pm)

\*\* Music for K—2nd Grade — 6:40 — 7:15pm

\*\*An adult study begins at 6:30 — 7:25pm.

### *Memorials and Honorariums*

#### **In Memory of Evelyn Wolfe**

Betty Hurst, M&M Ellison Outen, Cheraw Intermediate School

#### **In Memory of Grace Quick**

M&M Keith Smith

#### **In Memory of Ernie Jansen**

M&M Keith Smith

#### **In Memory of Mary Jackson**

Lib Norton

#### **In Memory of Roy Smith**

M&M Jackie Streater

#### **In Memory of Ainsworth Finlayson**

M&M Jackie Streater

#### **In Honor of Revs. Paul and Kay Wood**

M&M Jackie Streater

#### **In Honor of Ruth “Sis” Funderburk**

M&M Jackie Streater

### **Staff Christmas Gift**

As in past years, donations are being accepted for a monetary Christmas gift for members of the church staff. Contributions may be dropped off at the church office, mailed, or placed in the offering plate. (Please clearly designate "Staff Christmas Gift" on your check or on the envelope if making a cash donation.) The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will present the monetary gift to staff members in December. The deadline for contributions is Friday, December 16. This is a good way to express our appreciation to the staff for the work that they do!

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

### **First Methodist Pre-School News**

First Methodist Pre-School would like to invite you to come out and spend a moment at the School. Come read a book, rock a baby, or swing a child on the playground. How gratifying it is to rock a new born baby! A new life that God alone can create. From the beginning of time until the end of time, babies are born. The smell of a newborn doesn't come in a bottle. I cannot imagine anything in this world that could make you forget all your worries more than holding that baby in your arms. DSS has sent out notices that all cribs have to be replaced in our school. That means 15 new cribs for these precious little babies. They can't be just any crib; they have to meet certain specifications. Our cribs will cost between three and five hundred dollars apiece. We are limited in space so ours have to meet a double qualification. Please help us provide a safe place for these little ones to rest their heads. Their safety is our first concern.

A great way to do this is in the form of a memorial or in honor of someone that you care about deeply. Your support for FMPS is deeply appreciated.

In Christian Faith,

Catrenna

### **Advent and Christmas Worship**

December 18	Genesis at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall Children's Pageant and A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24	Family Service at 4:30 Traditional Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 (Both services will include Holy Communion and Candlelight.)
December 25	No Sunday School. Christmas Worship at 11:00
January 1	Sunday School and Worship

### **New Website**

We are indeed excited to announce the unveiling of our church's new website. We are grateful to Paul Wood, III and John Wagnon for countless hours they have given in designing a top notch website. The web address for the website hasn't change and can be accessed at <http://www.cherawfirstumc.org>.

## **Newsletter Deadlines**

January 1 Newsletter

Deadline December 19

January 15 Newsletter

Deadline January 6

## **November Perfect Attendance for Sunday School**

Debbie Adams, Jim Bennett, Norma Cobb, Jimmy Duffy, Hollis Dusa, Scott Eddins, Susan Eschenfelder, Bill Eutsler, Pam Humphries, Dawn Leach, Jayson Lewis, Mary Lou Long, Joey Mills, Lib Norton, Brenda Rayfield, Greg Sanderson, Linda Smith, Keith Smith, Sarah M. Therrell, Beulah Threatte, Tavener Threatte, Michael Wagnon, Doug Wilson.

## **November Perfect Attendance for Worship Service**

Benson Stubbs, Scott Eddins, Brandon Buchanan, Susan Eschenfelder, Amy Lewis, Bob Lockey, Micki Lockey, Judy Dixon, Julia Tucker, Betty Thrailkill, Kay Wood, Cindy Sanderson, Jimmy Duffy, Bill Eutsler, Cheryl Postlewait, Brenda Rayfield, Mary Lou Long, Austin Sanderson, Sarah Allen, Ellison Outen, Sammy Quick, John Sanderson, Greg Sanderson, Jerry Carter, Jerry Therrell, Doug Wilson, Jim Crawford, Pete Owens, Harold Lomas, Jerry Turner, Robert Calhoun, Jim Bennett, Jackie Furr, Jeff Allen, Jane Campbell, Pat Barham, JoAnne Morgan, Lib Norton, Sarah M. Therrell, Flo Outen, Linda Smith, Gaila Wilson, Jackie McGee, Lynn Tweed, Sawyer Becker, Hollis Dusa, Dawn Leach, Eric Dusa, Leighton Becker, Jean Assef, Manuel Assef, Todd Becker.

## **A Note from The Preschool Board Chairperson**

Fellow members, it is time for me to post a few words to explain my feelings about a church facility which is very dear to my heart. After a number of years as pre-school board chair, I will be stepping down, and the board will be under the able leadership of Henrietta Kollitz. I will, however, remain on the board.

I wish that all church members could experience the joys that have been mine during these past years. First of all, we have two of the most dedicated directors on the planet. You have only to visit FMPS to see the love which Catrenna Buffington and Phyllis Johnson have for every child and every staff member in the pre-school. (Catrenna is a master fund-raiser, too). My relationship with both Catrenna and Phyllis has been exceptionally rewarding, and I will continue to visit often.

Secondly, I must mention the outstanding staff. It is inspiring to visit each classroom and see the love each staff member has for the little ones in her care. And the learning that is taking place in the older children's classes is amazing. A primary school principal has commented that our graduating four-year olds outrank any others in Cheraw as far as kindergarten readiness is concerned.

I cannot end this without mentioning the love and kindness these ladies have shown me during the past years and during my recent illness and surgery. Catrenna called me every day that I was hospitalized, and she even kept my dog! That is true Christian love! They also had a homecoming party at the school for me. True Christian love is everywhere in the pre-school. I will support it ad infinitum!

I love you Catrenna, Phyllis, staff members and I envy you, Henrietta!

Please, fellow church members, visit our pre-school and you will be as proud as I am! Thank you for allowing me this privilege.

Yours in Christ,

Ruth Middleton

# Merry Christmas

## *Dr. Tim McClendon: Candidate for the Episcopacy*

United Methodists in many places are hoping that former First UMC Pastor, Dr. Tim McClendon, will be elected a bishop. Earlier this year he was unanimously nominated as a candidate for the episcopacy by the General and Jurisdictional Delegations of the South Carolina Conference.

Elections will be held July 18 – 20, during the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC. To learn more, click on [www.timmccclendon.org](http://www.timmccclendon.org).

## Estimate of Giving Cards

If you have not submitted an Estimate of Giving Card for 2012, please do so as soon as possible. Cards are available in the church office and should be submitted to Angie Smith.

—Finance Committee





### **Worship Schedule for Advent and Christmas**

December 18	the Fourth Sunday of Advent A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24	Family Service at 4:30 Traditional Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 (Both services will include Holy Communion and Candlelight.)
December 25	No Sunday School. Christmas Worship at 11:00
January 1	Sunday School and Worship

### **YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS**

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2011 giving record, they must meet one of three requirements:

1. The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. The contribution is dropped into the offering plate or delivered to the church office on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Church Office will be open December 28 through the 30 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm to assist you with year-end giving matters. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the church office at 843-537-7002.

*As an attempt to save paper and not have so many announcements printed in the bulletin each week, repeating week after week, we now print all the announcements and meetings that are already scheduled for the month on a sheet in the middle of your newsletter. On the back you will also find a calendar for the month. This way you may pull this page out of your newsletter and post it somewhere at your home, for reference throughout the month. As announcements and meetings are added we will print them in the bulletin.*

### **Meetings for December 2011**

#### **Community Greeters Meeting**

Monday, December 19 at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall.

#### **Caring Callers Meeting**

Monday, December 19 and Tuesday, December 27 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall

### **Announcements for December 2011**

Sunday, December 18 — Genesis Service in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30am.

Friday, December 23 — Office closed, Christmas Holiday.

Monday, December 25 — Office closed, Christmas Holiday.

Tuesday, December 26 — Office closed, Christmas Holiday.

# ***December 2011***

## **Thursday, December 15, 2011**

Cub Scout's Christmas Party/Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6:00pm

Preschool Christmas Musical, Sanctuary, 6:00pm

## **Sunday, December 18, 2011**

Genesis Service, Fellowship Hall, 8:30am

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship Service, (Service of Lessons and Carols), 11:00am

Praise Singers Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:00pm

Fellowship Hall Reserved

## **Monday, December 19, 2011**

Community Greeters Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 9:15am

Caring Callers, 11:00am

Boy Scout Meeting, Scout Hut, 6:00pm

GriefShare Meeting, Pairs and Spares Classroom, 6:00pm

January 1 Newsletter Deadline

## **Tuesday, December 20, 2011**

Bulletin Deadline

## **Wednesday, December 21, 2011**

Kinsey Mulloy Classroom Reserved

## **Friday, December 23, 2011**

Office Closed—Christmas Holiday

## **Saturday, December 24, 2011**

Christmas Eve Services, Sanctuary, 4:30pm and 7:00pm

## **Sunday, December 25, 2011**

Worship Service, 11:00am

## **Monday, December 26, 2011**

Office Closed Christmas Holiday

## **Tuesday, December 27, 2011**

Office Closed Christmas Holiday

Caring Callers, 11:00am

## **Wednesday, December 28, 2011**

Bulletin Deadline