

BELL'S MESSENGER



The Newsletter of
Old Union United Methodist Church
& Surrounding Community



Website: www.oldunionumc.org

Email: oldunionumc@northstate.net

December 2014

Issue 12, Volume 3

Christmas Program

Christmas Program "Christmas Leaves Cricket County" on Sunday, December 21st at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

There will be a Barbecue Meal (free for the community) by the Young Adult Sunday School Class after the program. We ask everyone to please bring a dessert.

Christmas Special Singing

Christmas Special Singing will be Sunday, December 7th at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. If you would like to sing or play an instrument, please see Gene Farlow.

Cooked Pork Shoulders

The Young Adult Class are now taking orders for Cooked Pork Shoulders. The price this year is \$50 each which includes 1 bottle of Barbecue Sauce. They are to be picked up between 3 pm and 5 pm on Sunday, December 21st or after the Christmas Program. The last day to order is Thursday, December 18th. Let any Young Adult Class member know or call (336) 498-7102 to order.

Christmas Card Box

The Christmas Card Box is in the hall under the bulletin board. It has been updated to the best of our knowledge with at least one person in each household. Start your Christmas Cards now. There are approximately 50 slots.



Christmas Parties

It is that time of the year where Sunday School Classes and the Groups in the church will start having their Christmas Parties. The Youth ministry and United Methodist Women have already had their Christmas parties. The other ones I know of are:

Sunday, December 7th: United Methodist Men Christmas Party at 8 am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone bring a covered dish breakfast item.

Saturday, December 13th: Senior Adult Class Christmas Party at Pioneer Steak House in Archdale then come back to Fellowship Hall to play bingo. To ride the bus with Bill meet at church at 5:30 pm or you can meet the group at Pioneer at 6 pm

Sunday, December 14th: Adult Class will have their Christmas Party starting at 11 am at Main Street Steak House on Main St. in Randleman.

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings

We are doing the Salvation Army Christmas Stockings again this year. They need to be turned in at the church on Sunday, December 7th or you can take it to a Salvation Army or any participating store that is taking them up.



From Pastor Ed

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW?

Just recently you received a message from your pastor which asked such a question. I think it goes without saying that this time of the year that comes with an invitation to sojourn to Bethlehem prompts such an inquiry. More than any other time in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church year, both this journey to a manger in the Holy City and the journey we walk through the season of Lent brings about the process of self-examination which, at times, can be a most painful time in our lives. When heavenly light pervades the darkness of this world which tries it's best to creep in to our lives, that which needs to be changed is made evident. Consequently, we see the connection between Christ's birth, death, and resurrection. At his birth we discover the realization of the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation for the world he created with his own hands and called good. At his death and his resurrection, we see God's mission come to pass and the Scripture John 3:16 firmly in place. In this, we see the strong connection between Christmas and Easter---the eternal hope of life everlasting as reasoned in God who in his perfect timing became Incarnate and walked among us feeling our woes thus relinquishing his place from heaven.

Why is it that we reserve Advent and Lent as only those times during any calendar year to do a little or much house cleaning which could and should be attended to each and every day of our lives! I truly believe the world would be a much better place in which to dwell if only we as members of humanity would see each and every day of our lives as opportunities for evangelism. But that process starts with that person in whose reflection we see in a mirror. Through the God-driven breath we receive for healing and wholeness for ourselves, others could be touched much more effectively for God's Kingdom as more and more servitude and discipleship occurs in Jesus' Name. Advent darkness was and is made brilliant in the illumination of God's wondrous

grace and when we wake up in it, you and I become a contagion for others as God's Holy Spirit dwells with us.

As we sojourn to this City so Holy and as we gaze upon the face of God's love in the face of the Baby Jesus, may we see with hearts made toasty and eyes opened wide the true beauty of this season and the many opportunities God provides for us along the way to be made perfect as he is perfect. In all these things---DO YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW?

From the Armfield family to yours, may you experience not only Christmas magic this Christmas season but more importantly, may God's richest blessings be with you all. God Bless!

Pastor Ed



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History of Old Union UMC Trivia Question

November's Question:

When the picture below was taken this certain thing was not there. But if a picture was taken today at the same spot this certain thing would be there. What is it?



November's Answer: Paved Parking Lot



December's Question: What year was the following picture taken? Who was the pastor at the time?



(Answer will be in the January Bell's Messenger)

United Methodist Women

The UMW had their 11th Annual Buffet, Raffle and Auction on Saturday, November 8th. It was a big success. Total profit for the night was \$3,202.00. We want to thank everyone who helped cook, furnished items, washed dishes, auctioneered, took up money, poured drinks, cut desserts, came to eat or said a prayer for our success. If I left your contribution out, we thank you also. This will help a lot in our missions for the next year.

Our December meeting will be Saturday, December 6th at 8:30 am. Each person will be bringing a breakfast dish to share. Instead of exchanging gifts among ourselves, we are bringing \$5.00 gifts to be sent to Dustin Spillman.

Stay tuned for information about our January meeting.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met Sunday, November 2nd at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. Christopher Benskey was the host.

We decided to get some prices on 3 new signs to advertise the Country Breakfasts for 2015. We also decided to have a Pancake and Sausage supper on Saturday, April 18th. Also to have a raffle for this meal and start selling tickets in January, more details are later in the newsletter.

We would like to thank everyone that helped in any way with the Cooked Pork Shoulders the day before Thanksgiving. We raised \$1,110.94.

The January meeting will be Sunday, January 4th at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall.

We do encourage all the men of the church to come out and join us the first Sunday of each month.

United Methodist Youth Ministry

The United Methodist Youth Ministry met Sunday, November 16th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Mark Russell had the program and refreshments. At this meeting we put up the chairs for the buffing of the floor in the Fellowship Hall.

We also met for our Christmas Party on Sunday, November 30th and went to Pizza Inn in High Point to eat. Then we all went caroling with others in the church.

We are continuing to sell the Rada Knives etc. which make wonderful Christmas Presents. There are also new books on the desk of the Financial Secretary. If you would like to purchase see any of the Youth Ministry members or you can now order online and have it delivered to your home and the profits still go to the Youth Ministry. More information on how to order online is in this newsletter following this.

Our next meeting will be in January, the date will be announced later.



Rada Cutlery

The Old Union United Methodist Church Youth Ministry sells Rada Cutlery year round. You may now order online and have it delivered straight to your house and the profits still go to the Youth Ministry. All you have to do is go to www.helpourfundraiser.com and the internet ordering number is 504861 and the password is oumym . Thank you for your support.

What is Advent?

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.



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Other Churches Christmas Programs in the Community

Mt. Zion UMC- Come and experience the **1st Annual Walk To Bethlehem Live Nativity** with Biblical scenes of our Lord Jesus' birth. **The Live Nativity will be held December 13th from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

This year's Living Nativity will take place on the historical grounds of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church which was founded in 1792. The one-day event will feature actors and live animals including a camel, and live music including the Steele Family – a bluegrass Gospel band. There will also be an indoor marketplace filled with food, crafts and other activities for the whole family. Admission is FREE!

Mt. Zion is located at 2354 Finch Farm Road in Trinity, NC (Randolph County). Take exit 106 on I-85 S and turn left. Mt. Zion is 4 miles from Wheatmore High School.

Sophia Christian Church- "Cricket County Christmas" on Sunday, December 14th and Monday, December 15th at 7 pm

Food Collection for Christian's United Outreach Center (CUOC)

The Items to be Collected for the next 2 months are:

December: Ramen Noodles
January: Dried Bag Beans

High Demand Items needed at this time are: Field peas, green peas, corn, pintos, northern and navy beans (dried or canned), macaroni and cheese, green beans, canned fruit (no sugar added), hamburger helper, sloppy joe mix, breakfast cereal (no sugar added), oatmeal, grits, instant potatoes, ramen noodles, pasta, soup, spaghetti sauce, bath soap and laundry detergent.

Meals After Church

We will continue our tradition in 2015 as we have the last few years. A group or Sunday School class in the church will take one Sunday a month to fix a meal after church for a Fund Raiser.

Sunday, January 11th: Young Adult Class will have Chili Beans, Vegetable Soup, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Dessert and Drink. Price: Donation

February: Senior Adult Class (Date and Menu will be announced later)

March 15th: Adult Class (Menu will be announced later)



FREE Soup Saturday

There will be a FREE Soup Saturday for the needy or anyone that wants a free meal on Saturday, January 17th (Snow date is Saturday, January 24th) from 11:30 am until 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The menu will include soup (kinds will be announced later), a sandwich and Tea, Coffee or Water. There will not be any take outs available or transportation provided. You are welcome to provide transportation for someone if you want to yourself.

We will take up donations for this Mission on Sunday, December 28th and again on Sunday, January 4th.

Country Breakfasts for 2015

Saturday, March 21st

Saturday, May 16th

Saturday, September 19th

Pancake and Sausage Supper

The United Methodist Men will have a Pancake and Sausage Supper on Saturday, April 18th from 5 pm until 8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Menu will be all you can eat pancakes, sausage and Tea, Coffee or Water.

We will also start selling Raffle Tickets in January 2015 to be given away at this meal. We are still in need of 2 more items on the raffle with a value of between \$50 and \$75 to make this meal all profit. Please let Jeffrey know by the end of December if you are willing to donate something.



Missing You Mission

Please remember that if there is any person that you have noticed that is not at church and would like a card sent to them, please write their name on paper provided in the pews and give them to Linda Byrd or place them in the offering plate.

Dustin's Address

A1C Spillman, Dustin L
2868 March Circle
Bellevue, Nebraska 68123

Scheduled Board Meetings 2015

Sunday, January 11th at 2 pm

Sunday, April 19th at 2 pm

Sunday, July 12th at 2 pm

Sunday, October 18th at 2 pm

Shut Ins Addresses

Marjorie Adams
6087 Old Walker Mill Road
Randleman, NC 27317

Church Cleaning Schedule

December: Who ever has Christmas Program

January: Jeffrey Smith



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Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please forgive me if your Birthday or Anniversary has not been included in the Newsletter. I only publish the ones that I have been given. If you would like yours to be included please give all your family's birthdays and anniversary on an index card or piece of paper. Thanks.

Anniversaries

December:

12/2: Burt & Michele Blakely

January:

1/21: John and Jan Johnson

Birthdays

December:

12/3: Toni Brown

12/4: Lukas Blakely

12/5: Jeffrey Smith

12/12: Brayden Gladden

12/20: Zackary Stinnett

12/21: Nellie Johnson

12/27: Amber Parrish

12/28: Dalton Spillman

January:

1/6: Darrell Spillman

1/8: Lovier Stephens

Luke Johnson

1/9: John Johnson

1/15: Jaylyn Gladden

1/18: Tommy Johnson

1/19: Chris Stinnett

1/23: Robin Parrish

1/24: Alex Johnson

1/28: Michele Blakely

1/31: Lynda Spillman

Newsletter Submissions

Please have all newsletter submissions for the January edition of the Bell's Messenger to me by Sunday, December 28th. Remember my email is jws13@northstate.net.



Trunk or Treat



UMW Country Buffet and Auction



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Christmas Caroling



Young Adult Class At Snyder's Farm before Decorating Church



**OLD UNION UMC
UPCOMING EVENTS**

(as of Tuesday, December 2, 2014)

- **Sunday, December 7th: United Methodist Men Christmas Party at 8 am**
- **Sunday, December 7th: Christmas Special Singing at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.**
- **Saturday, December 13th: Senior Adult Class Christmas Party**
- **Sunday, December 14th: Adult Class Christmas Party**
- **Sunday, December 21st: Christmas Program “Christmas Leaves Cricket County” at 6:30 pm followed by Barbecue Meal (free for the community) by the Young Adult Sunday School Class**
- **Sunday, January 11th: Meal after church, the Young Adult Class will have Chili Beans, Vegetable Soup, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Dessert and Drink. Price: Donation**
- **Sunday, January 11th: Regular scheduled Board meeting at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary.**
- **Saturday, January 17th: FREE Soup Saturday, from 11:30 am until 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will include soup (kinds will be announced later), a sandwich and Tea, Coffee or Water. There will not be any take outs available or transportation provided. You are welcome to provide transportation for someone if you want to yourself. Snow date is Saturday, January 24th.**

