

In A Nutshell

December 5, 2018

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. – Philippians 1:12-18

Paul wrote his letter to the church at Philippi while he was a prisoner in Rome. Though confined and under watch while awaiting trial, he wrote to encourage the Philippians, assuring them that his situation was being used by God. He told them, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am".

Notice that this verse does not say that Paul was always happy. Happiness depends upon circumstances, but for believers, contentment is possible in any situation because it's anchored in God. Although Paul's imprisonment was difficult and uncomfortable, He scarcely mentioned the conditions. This letter is not filled with complaints but with rejoicing because his focus never wavered from Christ.

Paul did not see himself as a victim. He believed that he was under the sovereign hand of the living God. This was the place ordained for him at that time, in accordance with the Lord's divine purpose.

What's more, the apostle saw good results of his time in prison. The entire imperial guard heard about Jesus through the apostle's consistent witness. His confinement was also having the opposite effect of what his enemies had planned. Instead of driving Christians into hiding, Paul's example of contentment in the face of hardship made them bolder.

Like Paul, we can choose how we'll respond to pain and hardship. If we opt to be resentful and bitter, our suffering will be wasted. But if we see each situation as a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth, we'll be able to learn contentment and rejoice in the Lord through it all.

--In Touch Ministries

Serving this Week

8:30am Contemporary Service

Greeters: Pam Kimrey and Laura Harris

Ushers: Elaine Berry and Donnie Davis

Nursery: Bennett Lockamy and Layney Harris

Breakfast: **No one is currently signed up for breakfast. Please bring something to share!**

Scripture Reader: Brenda Berry

Advent Readers: Phil and Lorraine Hines

11:00am Traditional Service

Greeters: Sharyn Gates and Carol Gerbracht

Ushers: Judy Parker and Bruce Richardson

Nursery: Debbie Gates and Faith Parker

Acolyte: Ava Lee

Counters: Alan Campbell and Todd Roberts

Scripture Reader: Keegan Walker

Advent Readers: Hunter and Karen Preston

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Due to lack of participation we will NOT be going caroling this Sunday afternoon, Dec. 9th.

Hosting Baby Jesus

Our church has a beautiful tradition. Leading up to Christmas Eve we joyfully pass Baby Jesus (from the manger scene in the vestibule outside the sanctuary) from home to home. Each home has the chance to write about their experience having Baby Jesus visit their home. If you or a family member haven't had the chance to host Baby Jesus please respond to the Nutshell email with your name and contact information so we can help Him find His way to you.

Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction

This Friday, Dec. 7th @ 6:30pm

The Dinner and Silent Auction is to benefit Donnie, Sharon, Alec, and Evan Dement. Recently Donnie was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma and we want to do all we can to help this beautiful family! The menu for the evening will be spaghetti (with a variety of sauces), salad, garlic bread, and homemade desserts. **Cost is by donation only.**

Entertainment for the evening will be a blast from the past with old pictures and videos from previous Walnut Grove events. If you have any you would like to share, please send them to Tina Walker (tina.walker45@gmail.com) Please help us to spread the word!

The Hallelujah Choir and Cast present:

"The Night the Animals Sang"

On Sunday, December 16th at the combined 10:30 worship service, children from ages 2 through 5th grade (and a few youth who will remain unseen) will tell the Christmas story from the animals' point of view. The front of the sanctuary will become a large stable complete with cows, sheep, doves, who will be joined by shepherds, angels, a large camel and donkey as the nativity story unfolds. As the narrator tells the story, the animals show their surprise as they discover they are all able to speak to each other in the same language! When they find out what is to happen that night, they will all join together to make the stable ready. As the story is told, the animals experience the miracle of Jesus' birth and sing sweet songs to the baby Jesus. You will not want to miss this special telling of the Christmas story.

Wednesday Night Dinners

Starting back on January 9th

Thanks to everyone who provided delicious meals during the fall! Following suit, our online sign up will be open for the month of December so act fast to get your group signed up! Any available spaces starting in January will be catered. See the link below to sign up!

[Wednesday Night Dinner Signup](#)

For any questions please contact Amanda at 919-618-9559 or walnutgrovemethodist@gmail.com.

Young Adult Christmas Party

Monday, Dec 17th @ 6:30pm

Join us at The Conway's home for fellowship and of course, food! Bring your favorite appetizer to share. Kids are welcome! For more info or directions contact Ashley Conway (919-475-5211).

College Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 22nd @ 5:00pm

All college-age kids/young adults are invited to the Humphrey's home for a Christmas reunion! Come see all your old friends (and maybe some new ones) home from school. Dinner will be provided. Please bring a \$10 gift for our gift exchange game. For more info or directions please contact Courtney Humphrey (919-417-1059).

Spiritual Gifts Workshop

Check out the Spiritual Gifts Workshop flyer attached to the Nutshell email. **Please note that Session 2 will be held on Mondays.** Space is limited so get your name on the list! Contact Sharon Addison (919-644-1036) for details. Session 2 is almost full!

Appalachian Service Project

It seems crazy to be thinking about a summer mission project in December but here we are. ASP has been a huge part of our church for 13 summers. We started in 2005 with one team from Walnut Grove and one other team from Lebanon UMC. For the past two years we have taken 5 teams made up of 35 youth and adults. We have been fortunate enough to have helped approximately 60 families to make their homes warmer, safer, and dryer. If you have ever considered joining our ASP Teams, we would love to talk to you! We have worked around many situations and have been as flexible as possible in helping all who have a desire to serve Christ in this way. No skills are required, simply a servant's heart. For more information or how you can get plugged in contact **Lou Rutledge at 919-414-6568 or Louella.rutledge@duke.edu.**

Dates To Know

Friday, Dec. 7 – Dinner & Silent Auction Benefit for
Dement Family @ 6:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 8 – UMW Christmas Party @ 6:00pm

Thursday, Dec. 13 – Exchange Club Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, Dec. 14 – Youth Christmas Party Lock-In @ 8:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 16 – Children’s Play “The Night the Animals Sang”
(Combined Worship Service @ 10:30am)

Monday, Dec. 17 – Young Adult Christmas Party
Hosted by The Conway Family @ 6:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 22 – College Age Christmas Party
Hosted by the Humphrey Family @ 5:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 23 – Adult Choir & Orchestra Music “Good News From Home”
(Combined Worship Service @ 10:30am)

Monday, Dec. 24 – Contemporary Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00pm
- Traditional Christmas Eve Service @ 8:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 30 – Combined Worship Service @ 10:30am

This Week’s Happenings

Wednesday, Dec 5th

Children’s Play Rehearsal	5:30pm (dinner) 6:00pm (rehearsal)
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm

Thursday, Dec 6th

Praise Team Rehearsal	7:00pm
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Friday, Dec 7th

Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction for the Dement Family	6:30pm
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Saturday, Dec 8th

UMW Christmas Party	6:00pm
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Next Week's Happenings

Sunday, Dec 9th

Early Service	8:30am
Sunday School	10:00am
Worship Service	11:00am
Children's Play Practice	5:00pm
MYF	5:00pm
Orchestra Rehearsal	6:00pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm

Tuesday, Dec 11th

MMBL	11:30am
Line Dancing	6:00pm

Wednesday, Dec 12th

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
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Thursday, Dec 13th

Exchange Club Dinner	7:00pm
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Friday, Dec 14th

Youth Christmas Party Lock-In	8:00pm
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Saturday, Dec 15th

Children's Play Dress Rehearsal	10:00am
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This Week's Birthdays

Wednesday, Dec 5th

Phil Hines
Blade Jones
Hunter Preston

Thursday, Dec 6th

Cheryl Ray
Robin Williams

Friday, Dec 7th

Adam Gates

Saturday, Dec 8th

Darryl Clayton

Next Week's Birthdays

Sunday, Dec 9th

Gwen Hall-DiFabio

Lynwood Clayton

Cameron Ray

Casey Young

Wednesday, Dec 12th

Ricky Triplett

Thursday, Dec 13th

Gardner Latta

Saturday, Dec 15th

Mary Blalock

Have a great week! See you Sunday! Amanda