



In a Nutshell

Important happenings at Walnut Grove
and all around the United Methodist Church

December at The Grove: As a very busy month speeds us toward the end of another calendar year, let us all intentionally slow down and carve out time to embrace all the opportunities God gives us to love each other and the whole world! Below is a wealth of information with opportunities galore for each of us to invest and be blessed!

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Worship Services

Dec. 6 - Second Sunday of Advent - Pastor Laure will preach and preside at the Lord's Table for both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services. (Breakfast Sunday School Assembly and Sunday School in between!)

Dec. 13 - Third Sunday of Advent - Pastor Hunter will preach at the 8:30 service and our Hallelujah Choir will present the musical, "Baby Jesus, We Love You" at the 11:00 service. (Breakfast and Sunday School in between!). Each family who attends the 11:00 service will receive a special gift of their own and one to share - but you have to come support our children to find out what the gift is!

Dec. 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - NO Early service, Breakfast or Sunday School. **10:30am Combined Worship service**, featuring the Sanctuary Choir's presentation of, "Come and Behold Him." We will also have the opportunity to participate in a special offering for No More Malaria -

every gift of \$10 helps save lives through mosquito netting and medical care. Following the service, a meal will be provided by Betsy Parker, with donations received to support the 2016 Appalachia Service Project.

Thurs. Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion - The 5:00pm service in the fellowship hall will feature contemporary music, while the 8:00pm service in the Sanctuary will be traditional. Baby Jesus will have finished His Advent Journey through different families in the congregation and will join the other characters of the Nativity story! The Christmas Eve love offering will support families through project ZOE (Zimbabwe Orphans Endeavor) by providing livestock and other goods which help young families move from survival mode into thriving livelihood.

Sun. Dec. 27 - First Sunday after Christmas - NO Early service, Breakfast or Sunday School - **10:30am Combined Worship service**, "Lessons and Carols." With Christmas finally here, the day's message will come to us through scripture, congregational singing and even some of the stories behind our beloved Christmas carols. NO meal following this service.

Sun. Jan. 3 - Epiphany Sunday - Both 8:30 and 11:00 worship services focus on following the Light of Christ and will feature a celebration of all our church leadership and sharing in the Wesleyan Covenant Service. (Breakfast and Sunday School also resume!)

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

UMW Christmas Party - Saturday, Dec. 5th, 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All the women are invited to join and bring your families and a gift for exchange. Contact Dorothy Roberts for more information.

WG Young Adult Christmas gathering - from College age to 39ish, Ashley and Jason Conway invite you to celebrate Christmas in their home (2211 Laws Store Rd.) at 6pm, Sunday, Dec. 13. Bring a small gift (\$5-10) for exchange, and a side dish to add to the spread!

Christmas Caroling - Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:00pm. Bring your Jingle Bells and gather at the Fellowship Hall to take the Christmas Spirit to our Shut-ins!

Ministry Team meets Tuesday, December 15, 7:00pm

Christmas Open House at the new Parsonage: Pastor Hunter and Karen invite you to come by the parsonage (2618 Hawkins Rd.) between 3-6pm on Sunday, Dec. 27, to enjoy holiday goodies and fellowship.

SPECIAL APPEALS:

OCIM - Keep the single serve Apple Sauce coming! Over 200 cartons of individual serving cups have been collected from WG already but more is needed. We have a Dec. 16 deadline in order to meet the Christmas needs at Orange Congregations in Mission. Thank you so much for generously blessing others!

Help! We have **NO ONE** signed up for **Sunday breakfast** preps on 12/13. PLEASE contact the church office if you can help!

Outreach to the Davis family: Judy Parker has invited anyone who would like to bless the Nelson Davis family with food or drinks for the family following Saturday's funeral to contact her (919-732-3555) to coordinate delivery.

Wonderful Wednesday's resume January 20, 2016 (which gives us 8 weeks for the Covenant Bible Study, Children's Ministry, Choir practice, etc. plus an extra week for our Ash Wednesday Service, and wraps up just before Palm Sunday and Holy Week). Groups wishing to provide the Wednesday evening meal need to look for the dinner crew sign-up sheet starting the first Sunday in January.

Keeping in Prayer:

Doris Porterfield - on Hospice at the Roxboro Health Care Facility. Weakening quickly.

Ann Richardson - UNC Hospital fighting infection - hoping to come home later today (12/3)

Betty McCulloch - Lymph Node surgery on Thursday, Dec. 3 at Duke.

Larry "Bud" Morris - Coma; Head and chest injury from car accident in Germany

College students taking exams

Those in need and how we can help

Bereavement prayers for the Families of Nelson Davis, Donna Andrews and Billy Hawkins