



The Circuit Rider

December 2022

**Be watchful!
Be Alert!**

Hard to believe, but we've arrived at the dawning of a new Christian year, Advent, where voices from ancient texts reveal things about the identity and purpose of the One for whom we wait. Every week in Advent we look for signs of God-with-us. But in our searching, we also run the risk of missing important clues because we've been on this journey so many times that it begins to feel familiar.

In high school, I was a student bus driver; made a whopping \$65 a month. I'll never forget the nervousness when taking my road test as a school bus driver. The examiner, Don Phelps, had a reputation of being tough on his students, after all, as kids, we were taking on huge responsibilities. Mr. Phelps knew that traveling on any of the familiar roads in our small, rural community meant examinees were less likely to pay as close attention to the traffic patterns and road signs unless he were to take us down roads less familiar. Think about it; once you've traveled the same familiar roads, the signs, billboards, and markers become like wall-paper; so familiar that we hardly take notice.

The stretch of road Mr. Phelps had me drive was less familiar and proved beneficial. I was taken into a neighboring county where nothing was familiar. I had to pay close attention to where I was; every intersection, every caution and every turn had me on a higher alert than I might usually pay. During the test, when Mr. Phelps asked me about specific road signs, intersections, or traffic patterns, I had the ready answer because I was paying closer attention than normal.

All of the scriptures in Advent are roads we've traveled before; we know the stories frontwards and backwards. The Scriptures we hear during Advent invite us to be alert, awake, and watchful. It's a message we're likely to miss of something crucial to the specialness of the arrival of the Christ child if we fail to pay attention, even if we've heard the message year after year after year.

During Advent, unless we are alert, we could fall into a familiar groove, go through the usual motions, without getting below the surface to the heart of what this season is about.

Camp United Methodist Church

4807 Main Street
Shalotte, NC 28459
(910) 754-4840 cumc.office@atmc.net

Sunday Services

8:30AM Praise & Worship
9:45AM Sunday School
11:00AM Traditional Worship

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Like any good book, the mystery of God becoming flesh leaves us anticipating something that something special is about to happen. Some seriously, Good News!

And God willing, by December 25th, we'll find ourselves kneeling beside the manger, eyes looking with wonder at what this wisdom beyond logic has delivered to us and to the world.

Still In One Peace...
Pastor Terry



A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over
the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with
every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which Christ brings
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy
children

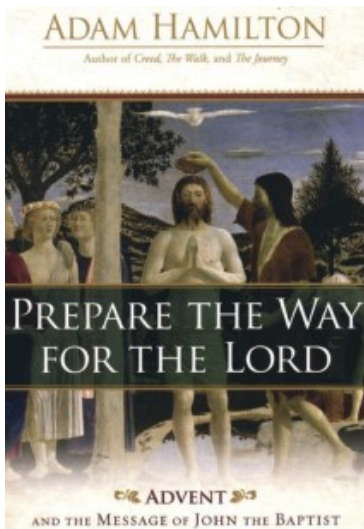
And Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful
thoughts forgiving and forgiven For Jesus sake Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson



What a beautiful service it was on November 27th! Kudos to all who worked diligently to bring it to fruition: Sue Wells and Becky Hewett for their organizational skills; the harpist, Becky Nissen (What amazing sounds!), the choir for its beautiful music, Rev. Tara Lain for her meaningful message and Rev. Terry Williams for his gentle leadership. It was also heart-warming that the program included participation by basically the whole congregation.

Thank you all for this blessed event.




Prepare to receive Christ this Advent with the message of John the Baptist and best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton *In Prepare the Way* for the Lord. Hamilton explores the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for His coming.

Jane and Pastor Terry will lead this study on Wednesdays during Advent at two different times. An afternoon session will be offered at 3:00PM and an evening session following the Wonderful Wednesday meal (Meal @ 5:00PM, study at 5:30PM.)

All meetings will be in Fellowship Hall. Books will be ordered at \$15.00 each.

Signup sheets will be available in the narthex and hallways.





Pastor Terry and Jane will host an Open House at the parsonage on December 8th from 3:00-7:00PM. Everyone is invited to drop by and enjoy some Christmas goodies. The address for the parsonage is: 4642 Mintz Street, Shallotte, NC 28470.

DISCERNMENT TASK FORCE

After a series of meetings with our District Superintendent Rev Tara Lain and the Assistant to the Bishop for Clergy Life, Rev. Beth Hood, the core leadership has named a *Camp UMC Discernment Task Force* whose purpose is to review and offer reliable resources to the congregation as it pertains to the provisions of the Book of Discipline paragraph #2553 related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination/marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference. More in depth information will be forthcoming.

Please pray for our task force members:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Harold Beaty | Joan Henderson |
| Aaron Black | Ray McKinnon |
| Jill Greene | Kitty Reedy |



Camp will have our live nativity this year on December 13th, 14th and 15th from 6:00PM-8:00PM. If it is a blessing to share this with all of the people driving by. Please help us by volunteering an hour of your time. We need 14 people each evening for a one hour shift. Please text or call Carol Grantham at 910-538-9446 to sign up. She will be in the sanctuary every Sunday for sign up, too. Blessings to all.



So many times in life we see something or someone that just blesses our heart. And then we say to ourselves, "Oh I wish I had a picture of this moment.". Well, I was blessed several times this month with sweet pictures I want to share. Sisters and sisters, friends of sisters, and a "dog lovin" lady that will always have on seat on the front pew. These 3 beautiful ladies are so faithful to Camp that it brings me much "Joy" when I see them on Sunday.



Sisters
Connie Richardson and Lou Bell



Friend
Virginia Winfree



Dog Lover
Gretchen Lutz

Let's call this a "Joy" moment. During this wonderful Advent season, find yourself just one little moment and take a picture of your "Joy". Then it share with us in the January Circuit

May your Christmas be filled with good health, a whole lot of laughter, and more love than you can stand.

Sue Wells, Altar Guild



*The children's ministry stayed busy in **November** with our weekly Camp Kid meetings. Our second-fifth graders participated in our first church lock-in. 15 children participated in our evening at Planet Fun. 10 kids braved staying overnight at the church and waking up for a sunrise devotional at Inlet View! I am so thankful for the families of Camp UMC and their willingness to raise their children in a loving church environment.



*The children's ministry is not slowing down this December!. The following events will take place this month.

Parents Day Out: December 10th from 1:00-5:00PM in the toddler/nursery wing. (open to all children ages birth- 12 years old)

Children's Christmas Program: December 11th at 3:00PM in the YFC

Camp Kids Christmas Party: December 21st from 5:30-7:30PM

*Childcare will be available at both Christmas Eve services.

*Camp Kids will not meet on December 28 due to Christmas break.

*Our children's ministry is in need of **volunteers** to support our ministry on a weekly basis. There's no better way to get to know our children than through volunteering! You are invited to support in multiple ways.

-Lead a children's moment at the 8:30AM and/or 11:00AM worship service one Sunday a month

-Volunteer during children's church at the 8:30AM service once every 3 months

-Volunteer to teach one of our four children's Sunday School classes once every 2 months.

Please prayerfully consider joining our volunteer team! All lessons and materials are provided for you!

Have a wonderful Christmas season with your family and friends! I'm sending many warm wishes and blessings to you this Advent season!

Love,

Allison Hunter
Director of Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry

We are so excited for the tremendous amount of support our Youth received for their Pilgrimage Event and Stock Sale, both financially and prayerfully. Although Kevin and I were unable to attend due to the arrival our newest grandchild, everyone had a great time. Julie Chandler, Dean Anderson and TJ Yoder were the chaperones-extraordinaire! We had 3 youth attend for their very first time! So exciting!

A special thank you to Kelly Barefoot who designed and created the amazing banner they took to Pilgrimage. You can see the banner in the photos below.



Zeb and Jax McGougan



The whole gang

To celebrate the connection the Stock sale created between the youth and our amazing congregation, we will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, December 4th at 5:30PM in the Fellowship Hall for all of our Shareholders. If you missed your opportunity to purchase stock and would like to attend the dinner and hear all the ways God moved in and through our youth, let me know you want to attend so we can plan accordingly for food. It should be a wonderful night of celebration.

Looking ahead we have our Christmas party on Sunday, December 18th, and reservations are already booked reservations at Lake Junaluska for our Winter Retreat from January 13th to the 16th, 2023!! We are grateful for our time together locally at Camp, and for the opportunities of retreats and the new experiences to grow our friendships and our walk with God.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas one and all!

Kelly Littlejohn,
Youth Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



A first draft of the 2023 budget has been prepared. It indicates that expenses will exceed offerings by over \$100,000. As a frame of reference, offerings have been declining for the past four years:

2019	\$813,000
2020	\$629,000
2021	\$615,000
2022	\$590,000 (Est.)

It is thought that part of this offering reduction is attributable to both Covid and the divisive issues facing the UMC. Whatever the reason, if this downward trend continues there will be substantial reductions in Camp's ministries, administration and worship facility maintenance.

Current year Camp membership is the same as in 2019. The first draft of the 2023 budgeted expenses is basically the same amount as the 2022 budget.

The 2022 budget was, by design, deficit financed. That is, there was \$100,000 in Covid relief funds that remained to be used. The hope was that with those funds and an uptick in giving we would be in a better financial position. By year end the Covid funds will be depleted and the increase in giving did not occur.

For over 200 years Camp has been a beacon of God's love in the Shallotte area. Let's keep it that way. Camp members have always risen to the occasion when financial considerations were required. We trust this will be the case in 2023.

Thank you.
Finance Committee

Summary of Financial Results Year to Date – through OCTOBER 2022

Thank you for commitment and
faithfulness to CAMP church.

Revenue & Expenses (10 months)

Offerings =	\$ 489,305
+ Other Revenue* =	\$ 15,965
- Expenses =	(\$ 549,120)
= Net =	\$ (43,850)

* Includes sale of property, interest, capital credits and other miscellaneous revenue

LOCAL MISSIONS



THANK YOU CAMP CHURCH

Once again your generosity has been overwhelming. Thanks to you, 80 children at Waccamaw Elementary will be receiving new shoes and 2 pairs of socks.

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER



This organization's mission is to reach those both inside and outside the prison walls with the Gospel. We want to bring Christ's unconditional love and forgiveness to all the incarcerated, their families and to the newly released as they transition back to society.

The ministry also has programs designed to reach the children of prisoners in an effort to break the cycle of crime. **During the month of December, the mission team will be collecting \$30.00 gift cards for these children.** The cards can be from Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Visa cards, etc. Please consider donating to this worthwhile project and make a difference in a child's life.

"The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to make things better.
Robert F. Kennedy



NEXT PICKUP will be on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00-10:30AM. Meet at Big Oak Mobile Home Supply 1309 Hale Swamp Road.

May the blessings of the season fill your life with joy and hope that happy times and good fortune are headed your way this coming year.



What is SALT? The letters stand for: S=Seasoned, A=Adults, L=Living T=Testimony. This is a ministry for the adults in the church. We generally meet on the third (3rd) Monday night of the month to share a meal and have some type of program or fun activity.

Recent SALT activities

In **September** we had a cookout. Burgers and hotdogs were cooked by the Grill Master, James Russ.

The **October** gathering was a little more competitive. After a delicious meal, we played BINGO.



No BINGO yet.

Our **November** meeting was the most competitive. We had a trivia contest, created and presented by Jill Bryant. It was tough. The most entertaining part was the bonus round. It had questions about the Andy Griffith Show. It was loads of fun to listen to everyone trying to remember the name of the singing family from the down in the holler.

Mistress of Ceremonies,
Jill Bryant



Next meeting will be **December 19th** at 5:00PM in the fellowship hall. We ask that everyone bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. We will be singing Christmas Carols.

By the way, we have monthly door prizes that are to die for!!

If you have questions, please contact Tamy Munns at 910-274-2506.



These fellows looked "stumped".

THE NEW YEAR IS COMING. THINKING ABOUT RESOLUTIONS?

A little history: Did you know? For early Christians, the first day of the new year was the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, the English clergyman John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the raucous celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the new year. Now popular within evangelical Protestant churches, especially African American denominations and congregations, watch night services held on New Year's Eve are often spent praying and making resolutions for the coming year.

www.history.com

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS SUGGESTIONS

1. Go a whole day without checking your email.
2. Turn off your phone one night a week.
3. Do Random Acts of Kindness.
4. Reduce your waste (garbage, not your waist).
5. Volunteer.
6. Write down one thing you're grateful for every night.
7. Drink more water.
8. Call a friend instead of texting them.
9. Don't buy things you don't need.
10. Take the stairs.
11. Stay in touch with the people who matter.
12. Avoid negative people.
13. Donate clothes you never wear and things you never use.
14. Talk less. Listen more.
15. Take good care of yourself.

Parade Magazine



The Agape Group will be hosting a Martin Luther King Jr. program at Camp UMC on January 16th. The program will be in the sanctuary from 12:00-12:45PM. A light lunch will be served from 1:00-2:00PM. More details to follow.

NOTE: The Agape group is focused on uniting in LOVE, worship, fellowship, service and education with churches and people of different races, cultures, religions, etc. Its focus is on the greatest commandment, Matthew 22:37, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and mind and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

December

1	Kelly Barefoot	13	Bob Deaver	22	Helen Hendricks
2	McKenna Inman	13	Annabel Holland	23	Chris Ballou
3	Monica Gilotty	13	Bill Minor	23	Nova Chambley
3	Susan Holland	13	Elizabeth Smith	23	Kathy Meissner
4	Curtis Bolden	14	Dave Gilotty	24	Don Green
4	Elizabeth (Bettye) Wolny	14	Jane Williams	24	Kristin Medwid
5	Hattie Greene	15	Amy Nelson	25	Mason Anderson
7	Madison Albertson	16	Zack McGougan	25	Richard Holcomb
7	Gary Poulos	16	Judi Russ	26	Al Parker
8	Joyce Baughman	17	John Cox	26	Tina Marie Sifford
8	Eddie Hahn	17	Virgie Poulos	27	Ann Medley
8	Gwen Simmons	18	Len Henderson	28	Gary Concelmo
9	Helen Hamer	18	Izaiah King	28	Gordy Lewis
9	Tyler Lewis	19	Keith Compton	28	Alex Thompson
10	Anna Anderson	19	Douglas Hunter	29	Michael Sidelinger
11	Laura Beaty	20	Andy Verzella	31	Jackie Gibson
11	Barb Jacques	21	Hollen Groff	31	D.B. Grantham
11	Steven Jarvis	21	Rae Matthews	31	Pat Hurst
11	Diane Memory	21	Pat Vonatski	31	Jack Kyzer
13	Beverly Carlisle	22	Mary Jo Craft		



Mike & Beth Michelakis	6 (36)
Dennis & Libby Leggett	13 (47)
Jeff & Cindy Maynard	17 (39)
Terry & Melody Stephens	18 (28)
Chris & Kim Isenhour	20 (25)
Thom & Judy Arnold	21 (59)
Jeanne & Thomas Frederick	27 (53)

DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

Dec. 1st	Church Council Meeting	6:30PM
Dec. 4th	Youth Shareholder Dinner	5:30PM
Dec. 3rd	Parents Day Out	1:00-5:00PM
Dec. 8th	Open House at the Williams	3:00-7:00PM
Dec. 9th	Amy Shreve Concert	7:00PM
Dec. 11th	Christmas Cantata (Adult Choir)	11:00AM
Dec. 11th	Children's Christmas Program	3:00PM
Dec. 13th-15th	Live Nativity	6:00-8:00PM
Dec. 18th	Youth Christmas Party	5:30PM
Dec. 21st	Children's Christmas Party	5:30 PM
Dec. 19th	SALT Activity	5:00PM
Dec. 25th	Christmas Service	10:00AM



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3:00 Jail Ministry		Bulletin Deadline 9:30 Prayer Shaw 2:00 Basket Weavers	3:00 & 5:45 Advent Study 5:00 WW 5:30 Camp Kids 5:45 Adult Choir 7:30 Bells		5:00 Community Meals	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5-9 pm MMOM Hwy 53 Fundraiser 6:30 Church Council	2	3 10am Shallotte Parade
4 Communion 5:30 Shareholders Youth Dinner	5 4:00 SALT Planning Mtg	6	7 10:00 Amazing Grace	8 3-7 Pastor Terry & Family Open House	9 5-8 MMOM Parents Night Out 7:00 Harpist, Amy Schreve	10 1:00-5:00 Children's Ministry Parents Day Out
11 11:00 Christmas Cantata 3:00 Children's Program	12 4:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Joy Circle 6:00 Trustee	13 10 Susanna Wesley UMW Circle	14	15 11 MMOM Christmas Program 6:30 Finance	16	17
Live Nativity						
18 5:30 Youth Christmas Party	19 5:00 SALT Activity	20 6:30 SPRC.	21 5:30 Children's Christmas Party	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:00 Traditional 6:00 Praise & Worship
25 10:00 Christmas Service No Sunday School	26 4:00 Staff Meeting	27	28	29	30	31