



The Circuit Rider

December 2023

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

By Donna Varnam and Rev. Terry Williams

I've thought about what Joseph must have pondered as he prepared to return to his ancestral home in Bethlehem. It wasn't a trip he had planned to make and certainly not one he thought would include the companionship of his betrothed, Mary, who was in her third trimester of pregnancy. This going home was dictated by authority, not by choice. The pilgrimage was long, uncomfortable and exhausting, but also one of surprise and wonder. Joseph's trip home not only resulted in the making of a family, but most importantly, the birth of the Christ child. A Savior who would bring love and light to a fallen world and give us all a path to find our way home.

While the Advent Season is a reason to celebrate and anticipate, it is also a time when we can get caught up in the emotional hurdles of the past and feeling anxious about the future. How can we find the hope, peace, joy and love that often get lost in these human emotions and blocks our way home? I sat down with Pastor Terry to hear what he had to say about finding our way home, especially at this time of year:

What do you think has caused discord in the church and caused people, especially young people, to distance themselves from the church?

Pastor Terry: A lot of people have been damaged by the church. It wasn't intentional to hurt people, but the residual impact due to disagreements, prejudices and of course, disaffiliation, influenced many and the mistrust was inevitable. It's my prayerful hope we can put that season behind us as we await the season of Advent, focus our thoughts on coming home to the church, learning and trusting again, and worship Jesus who loves us unconditionally. If we focus on moving forward, there will once again be an opportunity to share the unconditional love we know and trust with the body of Christ. Bringing people back home is who Camp UMC is at their core!

What brings you hope of bringing people back into the church?

Pastor Terry: The season of Advent begins a new church year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. His birth is an invitation and Christmas Day leads us into the full Christmas spirit. Everything is transformed around Jesus's birth, and with this deeper invitation comes an opportunity for us all to come home. Replacing apathy or complacency with hope and joy gives us added strength entering 2024.

What are your plans, as a pastor, to initiate a calling for people to come back home?

Pastor Terry: Our main purpose is to bring people back into a life with Christ and a deepening of their faith. We've recently launched an evangelism campaign that was birthed out of a

Camp United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Services

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

Advent Sermons.....2	UWOF/Souper Sun.....8
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continuing education program from Adam Hamilton's Ignite Conference, a nationwide program on church growth and leadership development. Several members of our staff and laity attended this program and from our shared experiences, action teams are being developed to coordinate the growth of the church and expand evangelism ministries. Together we have created a theme around Advent/Christmas: Come Home for Christmas. We hope as we move forward that people who are dechurched, unchurched and pre-churched will be drawn to the sincerity of our message. **All are invited!**

Pastor Terry's bags are packed and he is planning to take us on a six-part sermon series to ignite an adventure in our church. No one should miss this journey. Call neighbors, family, friends and bring community awareness as we travel together to invite everyone back Home for Christmas.



ADVENT SERMON SERIES

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

IT'S TIME TO HEAD HOME.

Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

ONLY THE BEGINNING

Mark 1:1-8

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

JUST WHO WAS JOHN

John 1:6-8; 19-28

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Mary's Song of Praise

Luke 1: 46 – 55

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM

IT'S A BOY!

The Christmas Story

(per Luke's Gospel)

Luke 2: 1 - 8

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

I DON'T LIKE SURPRISES

Luke 2:25-40

Recent AdMinistry Team's Decisions

The Church AdMinistry team has made a number of decisions which we wish to report to the Congregation.

The Team authorized the Evangelism advisory group to spend \$250 for new color brochures to be placed in the welcome center in the church narthex. New guests will be directed to a rack designed to hold the brochures. The initial order will be for 150 copies of each brochure. They will provide information about Children's programs, outreach, youth, and adult ministries.

The Team also authorized the spending of \$350 for postcards which will be mailed to 1,000 new homeowners, that is, people who have moved to homes within 15 miles of our church during the last two years. The postcards will provide information about our Church and include an invitation to worship with us, with details about our Advent and Christmas services. The theme of the postcards will be: "Come Home for Christmas".

We have had an 11 acre parcel of land, which was donated to the Church by the Mintz family several years ago, listed for sale for several months. The asking price has been \$400,000. Our real estate agents spoke to the Team and advised a price reduction. The land does not have water and sewer service, which will be an expense for whoever decides to purchase the land, and that has been the major concern of those who have shown interest in the property. Our Agents have looked at recent land sales for comparison and believe our asking price is too high. After consideration and discussion, the AdMinistry Team decided to reduce the asking price to \$250,000.

Mothers Morning Out asked for permission to install a shed behind the Church. It is needed for storage. They also asked to be permitted to shore up a portion of the sand box located in the children's playground. Mothers Morning Out will pay for those items. They also asked us to repair the electronic entry pad on the door coming into the classrooms from the playground. The number 0 was missing. The Team authorized the Trustees to pay for that repair, which is estimated to cost \$150.

The Team asked Tamy Munns to put together a technically skilled group to look at any needed improvements in the sound system, for both the sanctuary and on-line worship. That group will report back to the AdMinistry Team on needed improvements and costs.

Ray McKinnon asked the team to approve a \$500 donation from the Mission fund to be sent to the Sierra Leone hospital for them to purchase a blood analyzer. The NC Conference supports this need and this request. The AdMinistry Team approved that donation.

In preparation for the annual Charge Conference, the AdMinistry Team decided to maintain the 2023 salary and benefit package for Pastor Terry for 2024.

Tom Evans
AdMin Chair

CAMP'S 2024 AdMinistry TEAM

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

AdMin Team Chairperson: Tom Evans (2024)
Lay Leader: Dr. Jill Greene (2025)
Pastor: Rev. Terry Williams
SPRC Team Leader: Tom Coda (2025)
Trustee Team Leader: Ronnie Markum (2024)
Finance Team Leader: Harold Beaty (2025)
Treasurer: Code & Associates (ex-officio)
Finance Secretary: Rae Matthews

Retired Clergy Advisor: Rev. Tal Madison
Young Adult Representative: Dr. Anna Anderson
Youth Representative: Jax McGougan
President of UMM: Howard Varnam
Women of Faith: Laura Beaty & Lynda Eagle
Lay Member of Annual Conference:
Linda Callender

ADVISORY TEAMS

SPRC

Tom Coda
Denise Concelmo
Bettye Wolny
Ashley Chambley
Kelly Barefoot

TRUSTEES

Ronnie Markum
Jeff Cernugel
Howard Varnam
Shannon Revell
Tommi Hendricks

FINANCE

Harold Beaty
Jack Rector
Wiley Ballard
Cindy Maynard
Al Parker
Poli Barefoot

LAY LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Terry Williams
Glenn Wall (2024)
Susan Ballard (2024)
Julie Madison (2024)
Dave LiBianca (2025)
Susan Forester (2025)
Kasey McGougan (2025)
Jeremy Chambley (2026)
Kathy Kyzer (2026)
Donna Varnam (2026)

MINISTRY AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Welcome & Worship

Ramona Parker (2024)

Nurture

Shay Goodwin (2024)

Outreach

Emergency Response & International

Ray McKinnon (2025)

Local

Barbara & Howard
Varnam (2024)

Evangelism

Hart Merriman (2025)

NOTE: AdMinistry Team meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. ALL church members are invited to attend. There is an agenda item for comments from the church members

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Oh what a joyous time December is! Advent season is one of my favorite times of the year as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus. Our children had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast on November 15th, where we practiced our manners, and spent time in fellowship together.

We want to invite you to our **Christmas Star Program** on **December 17th @ 3:00 PM** in the YFC. It will be a magical afternoon as our children share the Christmas Story.



Our children will be busy this December!

Christmas Parade: December 2nd in Shallotte

Christmas Cantata: December 10th @ 10:00 AM in the Camp UMC Sanctuary. **Children will sing during the Call to Worship.**

Children's Star Program: December 17th @ 3:00 PM in the YFC

Christmas Caroling: December 20th from 5:30-7:00 PM @ Camp UMC.

We will Christmas Carol to various shut-ins at the church. This will be our final Camp Kids gathering for 2023.

Christmas Eve Services: December 24th @ 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM.

Childcare will be available for both services.

We look forward to a wonderful Advent Season with our church family! If you are interested in learning more about our children's ministry, or are interested in volunteering, please reach out to ahunter.cumc@gmail.com.

Peace and love Camp family,

Allison Hunter
Director of Children's Ministry

YOUTH

We had 11 youth and 4 adults attend pilgrimage in November! Art and Barb Jacques, James Morse and Dean Anderson were the chaperones. The group enjoyed a message by Landis Barber who had ties to Camp UMC! He is the son of one of our church members, Lou Byrd, and a wonderful dynamic Christian speaker. The weekend retreat included singing, bowling, swimming, and joining in a banner parade. Huge thanks to Kelly Barefoot for her work on the banner!



We continue to meet weekly on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00 PM. We went shopping for shoes and school supplies to help youth at Waccamaw school. It was great to see the youth shop for people their age in need!



We are excited to continue our weekly meetings and have a Christmas party on December 17th! In January we plan to go to Lake Junaluska for another youth retreat! Thank you for your support of our youth in prayers, helping with our trips and providing meals.

Anna Anderson
Young Adult Representative

Cookie Walk

After a few years hiatus, the Basket Weavers launched the Cookie Walk and Craft Fair again, on Saturday, November 18th. Church members and vendors worked together to make it a success. Through their combined efforts we were able to raise \$3,000.00. We would like to give a huge shout out to the Trustees for having the fellowship hall ready for our use, to all of our vendors, our bakers and our crafters. Each of you played an integral part in our success. We can't wait to do it again next November!



Tommi Hendricks

ERT Training At Camp

Camp sponsored an Early Response Training (ERT) class on Saturday October 28th. There were 4 participants, three Camp members and a retired minister from another UMC district. A variety of topics were covered including roof tarping, cleaning out damaged homes and spiritual and emotional support.



ERT's are not a first-response group of emergency workers, nor are they recovery, rebuild, or repair teams. They fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to help to prevent further damage while providing a caring Christian presence.

At the conclusion of the training, each participant received an ERT shirt, hat and certification card. Now these participants have been trained and can assist disaster survivors and to provide spiritual and emotional support.

Becky McKinnon

United Women in Faith

Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle will meet for a Christmas Brunch on Tuesday, December 12th, at 11:00 AM (*note time change from regular meeting time*) at the home of Jill and Franz Bryant, 1438 Dunes Blvd SW, Ocean Isle Beach, (*The Retreat near Lowes.*). Each person is asked to bring a gift (approximately \$15) for the Dirty Santa Game. Food will be provided by the Bryants and Lynda Eagle.



On December 3rd, the Women of Faith will host this virtual event by Kristi McLelland.

Refreshments:

2:30-3:00 PM

Program:

3:00-5:00 PM.

Questions: contact Laura Beaty at 336-403-5311 or laurazbeaty@gmail.com.

SOUPER SUNDAY

by Lynda Eagle

What an awesome day the Susanna Wesley Circle had on Sunday, October 29th.. After expenses, we will be sending a check for \$2,000 to Methodist Home for Children!! How awesome is that??? I want to thank each of you for your contribution - soup, dessert, muffins, crackers, etc. A BIG thank you to Sue Wells (who chaired this event) and her awesome committee (Barbara Varnam, Donna Varnam, Julie Madison, Becky Hewett and Kelly Barefoot).



Hippies, Praise and Worship Music – What?

By Ray McKinnon



In the movie “The Jesus Revolution”, we were introduced to a band named “Love Song”. After a little digging, here’s what I found. This hippie band “Love Song” changed music. They are credited with a whole new genre of music, later to be called contemporary Christian music. This “Jesus Music” came at the right time in our nation’s history. The 60’s to early 70’s were a time of turmoil and lost hope for many young people. The message in their music is clear, trust in God, and give thanks! Christian music shapes us. It gives us energy and motivation.

When we’re worried, it helps soothe us, it encourages us, and when we’re feeling defeated, it gives us hope! Praise Music teaches us the gospel.

One of my favorite Christian songs is “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” by Hillsong. The lyrics tell the story as recounted in the book of Matthew 14:22-33. When Peter took his eyes off the Lord, his lack of trust caused him to sink in the water. And then, Jesus is there to help him. Does this sound familiar to you? Perhaps, this was God’s plan all along! Born during the Jesus movement, with this new praise music, God calls us to sing praise to the Lord and to sing in his presence. Music that honors God. Music that transforms us on the inside and we’re filled with the Holy Spirit.

Yep, those hippies got it right!

(Excerpts from “The Jesus Revolution”)
Ray McKinnon,



CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE

December 10th at 10:00 AM

The Christmas cantata, CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE, will be presented by the Chancel Choir. The music will include familiar Christmas carols and conclude with the famous O Holy Night, by Adolphe Adam. The choir will be accompanied by Becky Nissen, harpist, and Estaban Pope, trumpeter.

The Kids Singers will call all to worship with the focus on the nativity as they sing, Knock, Knock, Knock Went Joseph.

Please join us on December 10th for this special Christmas service.

Wes and Betsy Ward

Christmas Open House

The church family is invited to an open house at the home of Pastor Terry & Jane.

When

Friday, December 15th

Time

3:00-7:00 PM

Where

4642 Mintz Street, Shallotte.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME.

A Kitchen for Christmas

Thanks to the hard work of the Trustees, the church AdMinistry Team has approved the final plans for the renovation of the church kitchen. New cabinets have been ordered and we now expect to have them all installed and the kitchen back in service by Christmastime. This renovation project required lots of effort and investment of our time, money, and talent. We needed new drainage, the repair of a water main break, electrical work to bring the kitchen up to code, new appliances, and, of course, new cabinets. We also had the kitchen and fellowship hall painted, new molding installed, and the floors professionally cleaned (the painting and cleaning costs were paid by the Basket Weavers, and we thank them for their donation).

One of the huge tasks, which was handled by the Methodist Men (along with some young volunteers from the Christian Recovery Center,) was the demolition of the old cabinets that had been ruined by the flooding we experienced in the spring/summer. Their efforts helped keep costs down, and we thank them as well.

We have very good news to report about the problems we had with flooding this year. Since the drainage was repaired and the water main break was fixed, we have not had any more water in the kitchen, fellowship hall or the storage rooms beneath the Church offices (formerly the food pantry area.) We continue to review how rainwater is directed by the existing gutters and downspouts on the new building to assure proper flow and dispersion.

The total cost of all that is being done to renovate the kitchen and improve the fellowship hall will be about \$55,000. As a result of our the very successful August yard sale, a special donation, dollars available in the building fund, and a reimbursement from our insurance company, the cost is fully covered with a generous cushion of more than \$20,000 that the Trustees will retain in their restricted fund for future expenditures on building maintenance.

There are some features included in the renovation which are worthy of note:

Fellowship Hall

Cabinet for linens will be 24 feet.

Kitchen

A larger ice maker

A large microwave oven

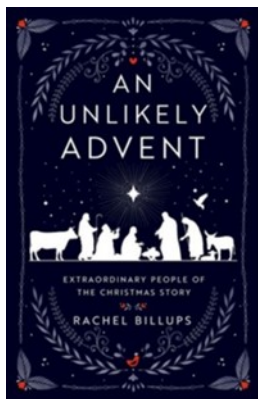
Two 25-cubic foot refrigerators

Two four-burner stoves with ovens large enough
for the trays for the Friday Night meals

A Bunn commercial coffee maker

The Trustees want to thank everyone who contributed to this renovation through their contributions to the yard sale, donations, and their hours of volunteer labor. We are planning a ribbon cutting and a grand opening of our newly renovated kitchen in January, stay tuned.

Tom Evans
AdMin Chair



Hooray! The Seekers Sunday School Class is back home in the Fellowship Hall. We are starting a new Advent Study, "An Unlikely Advent", on Sunday, December 3rd. All are welcome. See you at 9:00 AM.

Hart Merriman

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION IDEAS

Give one compliment a day. You never know—it just might make that person feel a whole lot better.

Go a whole day without checking your email.

Do Random Acts of Kindness

Volunteer. Not only is volunteering good for your own mental and physical health, but you're doing something kind and selfless for others.

Stop multitasking. Multitasking can lead to memory problems, it reduces our brain's grey matter, it hurts productivity and efficiency, and it can even increase stress, anxiety and depression. Focus on one thing at a time.

Stay in touch with the people who matter. Even a quick call, text or email can make a world of difference.

Remove negativity or anything that makes you feel lousy. Negativity spreads, and it *will* impact you. This includes people who complain a lot.

Parade

COMING UP IN
JANUARY

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church is hosting virtual trainings on **January 7, 2024**, for all who serve in their local congregation in any of the following roles and committees:

Lay Leaders
Nominations

Admin Team
Finance

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations
Trustees

If you serve as the chair of one of these committees you are encouraged to take this training. Any other church members interested in learning about one or more these roles are also welcome to participate.

COMING UP IN JANUARY

NEW CLASS

In January Rev. Tal Madison will lead us in a study of the issue of **LGBTQ and Scripture** through the lens of scripture. In this study we will look at the six passages that people of all opinions agree speak overtly to this topic.

The goal of this study is twofold: 1) to help us see why thoughtful, faith followers of Jesus read these same passages and draw differing interpretations from them and 2) to give you tools to formulate your own view.

The study will consist of 5 one-hour sessions . Classes will be on Wednesdays, starting on January 10th and concluding on Feb 7th, There will be a morning session at 10:00 AM and an evening session at 6:00 PM.

Beer & Hymns

Camp UMC and Seaside UMC will co-host our first Beer & Hymns event on Sunday January 21st at 4:00 PM at Makai Brewery on Highway 17 in Shallotte.

There is a grand tradition in the Christian church of bringing together hymn-singing and pub culture. In the nineteenth century William Booth's Salvation Army put Christian words to popular music sung in pubs and taverns. In recent years this great tradition has had a renaissance within churches throughout the U.S. and beyond.

Plan to come, lift up your voice, enjoy a beverage of your choice as we fellowship together with our friends and neighbors.

MARTIN LUTHER ★ KING JR. DAY ★

Bryana Clover, Founder and CEO of Bryana Clover LCC has been confirmed as our MLK Day speaker on Monday, January 15th with worship at 12 noon followed by lunch in the .YFC following. In addition, Bryana will be signing books (for sale) after the event and joining us for lunch. Pastors from the Greater Shallotte Ministerial Association will be participating in this interfaith worship service

On Tuesday January 16th the Harbor District will be sponsoring a 1/2 day seminar in the Fellowship Hall of Camp UMC in Shallotte as it relates to our anti-racism work in the conference. The event will begin at 9:30am and conclude by 1:00 PM. Bryana Clover will be leading us in this time together. This gathering is for pastors and laity interested in how we might continue in our work together in our communities.



Bryana Clover

Bryana Clover is a published co-author and a race equity educator and facilitator for both individuals and organizations. She has a history of working in various strategic marketing roles within the Corporate sector, where she gained the skill and passion for facilitating brave conversations that turn complex problems into actionable solutions. Bryana helps forward-thinking organizations create brave spaces to have tough conversations about race and inclusivity without causing harm or overwhelming people.



December



Mike & Beth Michelakis	6 (37)
Jeff & Cindy Maynard	17 (40)
Terry & Melody Stephens	18 (29)
Hugh & Sara McCullough	23 (38)
Jeanne & Thomas Frederick	27 (54)
Doug & Sheryl Jones	27 (56)
James & Kaylan Morse	31 (4)

1 Kelly Barefoot	19 Douglas Hunter
3 Monica Gilotty	19 Ronnie Joe Markum
3 Susan Holland	20 Andy Verzella
4 Curtis Bolden	21 Rae Matthews
4 Elizabeth (Bettye) Wolny	22 Helen Hendricks
5 Hattie Greene	22 Cheryl Hetzel
6 James Morse	23 Chris Ballou
8 Gwen Simmons	23 Nova Chambley
8 Donna Varnam	23 Kathy Meissner
10 Anna Anderson	25 Mason Anderson
11 Laura Beaty	26 Al Parker
11 Barb Jacques	26 Tina Marie Sifford
11 Steven Jarvis	28 Doug Brown
12 Deana Milliken	28 Gary Concelmo
13 Beverly Carlisle	29 Michael Sidelinger
13 Annabel Holland	31 Jackie Gibson
14 Dave Gilotty	31 D.B. Grantham
14 Jane Williams	31 Pat Hurst
16 Zack McGougan	31 Jack Kyzer



Dec 3rd
Dec. 10th
Dec. 12th +14th
Dec. 15th
Dec. 17th
Dec. 24th
Dec. 25th
Dec. 31st

Hanging of the Greens
Christmas Cantata (Adult Choir)
Live Nativity
Open House @ Williams
Children's Christmas Play
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve

After 10:00 AM Service
10:00 AM Service
6:00--8:00 PM
3-00-7:00 PM
3:00 PM YFC





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5:30 Youth		Bulletin Deadline 9:30 Prayer Shaw 1:30 Basket Weavers	5:00 WW Fellowship 5:30 Camp Kids 5:30 Kid Singers 5:55 Adult Choir 7:30 Bell Choir	10:00 Ladies on the Bus	3:30 Friday Night Meals	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 CAMP'S FOOD PANTRY DAY
3 Hanging of the Greens 2:30-5:00 Women of Faith Advent	4 4:00 SALT Planning	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 Christmas Cantata	11 4:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Joy Circle	12 10:00 Susanna Wesley 6:00-8:00 Live Nativity 6:00 Trustees Meeting	13	14 11:00 MMOM Christmas Program 5:00 Ladies Night Out 6:00-8:00 Live Nativity 6:30 AdMinistry Team	15 3:00-7:00 Open House @ Williams	16
17 3:00 Childrens Christmas Play 5:30-7:00 Youth Christmas Party	18 5:00 SALT Activity	19	20 Camp Kids Christmas Caroling 5:30	21	22	13
24 10:00 Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 Christmas Eve Service 31	25 	26	27	28	29	30