



The Circuit Rider

December 2024



“How about instead of giving you everything that you think you want for Christmas, I give you everything you need?”

Welcome to another month on the calendar. In November we had the opportunity to give God thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. And now, with December’s arrival, it’s time we received, with joy, the holiday where God’s tells us, *“You’re welcome.”* It’s the season of our dear Savior’s birth. ‘Tis the season to be grateful!

As Advent begins and we prepare for the arrival of the Christ-child, I am reminded of what Pope John Paul II offered to the world when he said, *“in Advent we await an event which occurs in history and at the same time transcends it.”*

The birth of the Messiah to a teenage mother and “true” Godly Father was a tangible, historic moment when God entered human history as a real life person, embodying eternal truths about God’s relationship with humanity, thus revealing God’s love, mercy, and plan for salvation.

Jesus birth is not just a historical event that took place 2,000 years ago. It’s an ongoing mystery 2000 years later, and continues to transform lives and offer hope; hope found in the most important commandment Jesus gave us. *“To love God.”* But that’s not where our Lord stopped. He went on to reframe this message by reminding humanity that *“loving your neighbor” is “like” loving God.* Christ then declares, *on these two commandments hang all the law and all the prophets.”*

In Advent we are invited to reflect on this mystery. With the lighting of every Advent candle, we are reminded of the hope, peace, joy, and love we are to re-gift to our friends, neighbors, and to God’s own self.

It is a season to consider how we can be a “Light to the world” as we offer justice to the widow, the prisoner, the orphan, the stranger and the immigrant.

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

God Came Near.....2

December Events....3-4

Church Council.....5-6

Finance/Souper.....7

Children/Youth.....8-9

Women of Faith.....10

New Members/Baptism.....11

Miscellaneous.....12

Milestones.....13

Calendar.....14

Soul Purpose cont.

It's Advent, a season to embrace every word of the Beatitudes Jesus gave in his very first sermon when he offered, *"Blessed be the poor, the meek, the merciful, and the pure in heart."*

Jesus didn't come to teach us how to critique the words of the server in the restaurant that says, *"Happy Holidays"* rather than *"Merry Christmas"*, giving us an excuse to stiff them on the tip. Jesus took an opposite view, teaching us to not only give the server our shirt (\$5), but our coat too (\$25).

We're here to show the world how to live and love graciously, expansively, without exception and without reservation.

For the month of December, and into 2025, make a vow to do your best to transform the historical birth of Jesus into an ongoing mystery of life which everyone will wish to add to their Christmas list this Advent season.

Love to you all!!!

Pastor Terry

GOD CAME NEAR

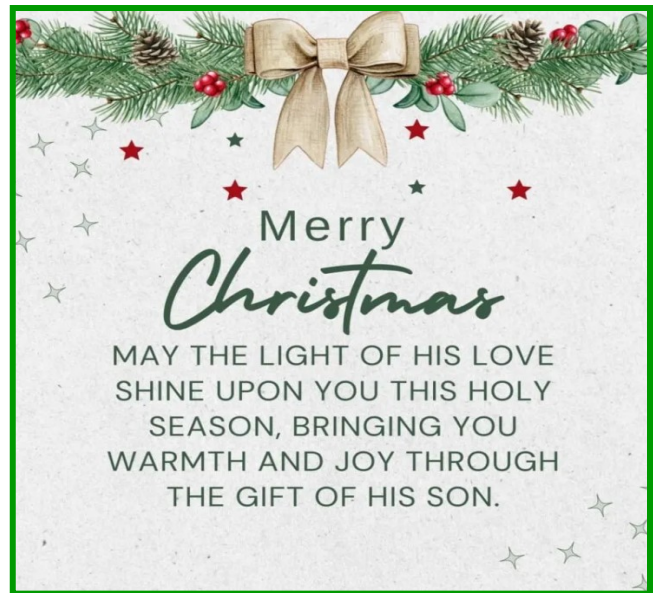
Mary looks into the face of her baby. At this point in history, she is the one human who understands who God is and what He is doing. Mary knows she is holding God and remembers the words of the angel, "His kingdom will never end."

The baby looks nothing like a king. His face is wrinkled and red. His cry is that of a helpless infant. He is absolutely dependent on Mary.

Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat.

Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter.

*From "Grace for the Moment"
by Max Lucado*



EVENTS IN DECEMBER



**December 1st
after church**



The Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata, *Heralding Angels*, on Sunday, Dec. 8th during the morning worship service. The music and narration will focus on the messenger angels announcing the birth of the Christ Child. Join us for the "Noels" of the angels!



LIVE NATIVITY

**Dec. 10th & 12th
5:00-7:00 PM**

CHILDREN'S SCUBA CHRISTMAS SHOW

**December 15th
11:30 AM
Fellowship Hall**



Join us for our
Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 8th
anytime between 3 and 5 pm

Terry & Jane Williams' Home
4642 Mintz Street, Shallotte



CAROLING @ CAMP UMC with Phil Giallombardo

December 15th @ 6:00 PM

Phil Giallombardo is an amazing musical talent and pianist with a long career as a professional entertainer. This concert, which will also include some sing along of Christmas Carols, is a fund raiser for the homeless in Brunswick County. There is no charge to attend but an offering will be collected for that purpose.



CAMP CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS



Each year, our Christmas Offering gives us the opportunity to do something extra special by blessing ministries within our community.

This year, Camp will have two special offering opportunities that will benefit our local community. The first will be a free will offering collected at our evening of Carols with Phil Giallombardo on December 15th. This offering will be given to Street Reach and The Lord's Pantry.

The second opportunity is Camp's Christmas Offering which will be donated to our Friday Night Meals program.

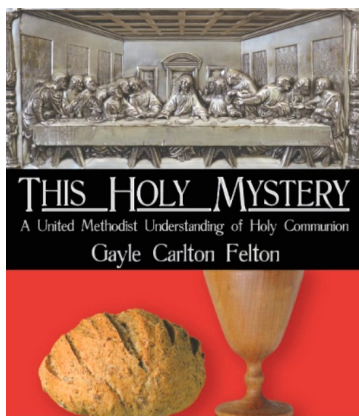
Please prayerfully consider giving generously in support of these local ministries.



Wow! We have the best Church in all of Brunswick County. This is the first time that our Altar Guild has raised money with the purchase of "Honor Ornaments", and let me just say, IT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL!! To all of you that participated in "any way", just know that the good Lord has a smile on HIS face. Thank you all from this ministry. Sue Wells



December 24th at 5:00 PM



COMING IN JANUARY

Sign up now for our first Wednesday Night Bible study that will begin on Jan 8th. There will be two class times: will 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM. There will be a meal at 5:30 PM. The study will be on the book is "The Holy Mystery". (A Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion) by Gayle Felton. See Tamy to order a book. Cost of is Book \$10.00.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

Lay Leader: Dr. Jill Green (26)
Church Council Chair: Tom Evans (25)
Senior Pastor: Rev. Terry Williams
SPRC Chair: Tom Coda (25)
Trustee Chair: Ronnie Markum (25)
Finance Chair::Harold Beaty (25)
Lay Member to Annual Conference:
Linda Callender (25)
Pastoral Advisor: Tal Madison
Financial Secretary: Rae Matthew
Recording Secretary: Jill Bryant
Membership Secretary (Ex-officio): Eileen Markum

President United Methodist Men: :Howard Varnam
(annual election)
Presidents Women of Faith: Laura Beaty & Jill Bryant
(annual election)
Young Adult Representative-Anna Anderson
Nurture Ministries Chair-Shay Godwin (25)
International Outreach Ministry Chair:: Ray
McKinnon (26)
Local Outreach Missions-Barbara and Howard
Varnam (26)
Witness/Worship Chair-Ramona Parker (25)
Evangelism Chair-Hart Merriman-(26)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Regina Britton (25)

Becky Hewett (26)

Taylor Thompson (27)

LAY LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair, Rev. Terry Williams

Class of 2025

Susan Ballard
Julie Madison
Glenn Wall

Class of 2026

Susan Forrester
Dave LaBianca
Kasey McGougan

Class of 2027

Jeremy Chambley
Kathy Kyzer
Donna Varnam

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC)

Class of 2025

Chair, Tom Coda
Kelly Barefoot
Steve Jarvis

Class of 2026

Ashley Chambley
Denise Concelmo
Doug Jones

Class of 2027

Dean Anderson
Katie Mae Garner
Bonnie Verzella

Rev. Terry Williams Senior Pastor, Tom Evans, Chair, Church Council, Dr. Jill Green, Lay Leader

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

Class of 2025

Chair, Ronnie Markum
Poli Barefoot
Deana Milliken

Class of 2026

Tommi Hendricks
Laura Beaty
Howard Varnam

Class of 2027

David Inman
Zach McGougan
Jimmy Volosin

Rev. Terry Williams Senior Pastor, Tom Evans, Chair, Church Council, Dr. Jill Green, Lay Leader

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Class of 2025

Chair, Harold Beaty
Sara McCullough
Al Parker

Class of 2026

Cindy Maynard
Wiley Ballard
Jack Rector

Class of 2027

Doug Hunter
Bob Morris
Kaylan Edwards

Rev. Terry Williams Senior Pastor Tom Evans, Chair, Church Council, Dr. Jill Green, Lay Leader, Rae Matthews, Financial Secretary (Ex-officio), Ronnie Markum, Trustee Chair, Tom Coda, SPRC Chair, Linda Callender, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Recent Decisions by the Church Council

During its most recent meeting, the Church Council decided to implement a significant reform of the Church Budget process beginning in calendar year 2025. Following a recommendation from the recently completed Church Audit, and a proposal from the Finance Committee, the Council voted to reduce the number of Restricted Funds included in the Budget.

The purpose of Restricted Funds is to assure that when an offering is given for a specific purpose, such as for music or children's ministry, it is used as directed. The problem with restricted funds is that they add significant complexity to the accounting process and to budget execution. Camp currently has 25 restricted funds, and each one has a balance, income and spending that must be tracked. Dollars directed to those funds cannot be used for our most significant expenses, including for salaries, the electric bill, insurance, or repairs and maintenance of the buildings. All those expenses must be paid from unrestricted offerings and interest income. It is also difficult to always accurately debit the correct account as bills are paid, often by credit card. This is because, for several types of spending, There are both restricted funds and line-item funds in the general budget.

In addition, as our Accounting Firm tracks income and spending against our budget they cannot (at the price we pay them) include restricted fund income in our books. Every month they provide detailed income and spending data which understates the income received. They report on all spending, but only on unrestricted income. That leaves us with the misleading appearance of a substantial deficit in our balance sheet which is, in truth, substantially offset by income to restricted funds. For example, at the end of October they reported a \$65,000 deficit. That amount did not include about \$50,000 in income to restricted funds.

This decision does not eliminate all restricted funds. It takes 11 current restricted funds and combines those dollars with existing line items in the Church Budget. People may still direct portions of their offerings to these 11 funds and those dollars will be added to the line item as directed. Every month our Accountant produces what is called the budget versus actual report. We provide them with a Summary of Offerings Report, and for 2025 we will create a new section in that report called Budget Line Offerings, where offerings directed to those 11 specific purposes will be reflected. Our accountant will use that report to provide a balance for each of those line items after netting the income and spending for that category.

The 11 Restricted Funds being moved into budget line items are: The Alter Guild, Bereavement, Children's Ministry, Ladies on the Bus, Missions, Music, Methodist Men, Small Group Studies, UMCOR, Wonderful Wednesdays and Youth Ministries. This change will not eliminate the complexity of dealing with restricted funds but is a significant simplification.

Tom Evans
Chair of the Church Council

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Summary of Financial Results YTD through October 2024.

Revenue & Expenses (10 months)

Offerings =	\$ 430,246.96
+Other Revenue	19,171.04
-Expenses	\$(514,865.34)

I am pleased to report that our YTD budget deficit through Oct has decreased by \$12,737.34 since the end of Sept. Our YTD giving to church Restricted Funds such as Friday Night Meals, Food Pantry, etc. is \$63,318.52 through Oct. This amount is not reflected in #'s above, since it is "outside" of the church budget. We continue to have Reserves in the bank to cover our deficit. We are in solid financial shape.

Harold Beaty, Chair
Finance Committee



WOW!!! SOUPER Sunday was a SOUPER success! We collected \$1,925.00 from soup sales and donation. Thanks to everyone (especially Kelly Barefoot, Shay Goodwin and Kim Galloway) for organizing this project. \$1,000.00 will be sent to Methodist Home for Children and the remainder will be used for our circle's other mission projects.

Lynda Eagle



Some of the workers. Sue Wells, Shay Goodwin and Kelly Barefoot.



Happy shoppers

CHILDREN and YOUTH MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday December 15th

11:30 am in the YFC

The children have been working hard getting ready for their Christmas Show! Get ready to make a splash this Christmas through Scuba Christmas! This one-of-a-kind children's Christmas program puts the "sea" in the Christmas season. Incorporating favorite Bible Memory Buddies and music from Group's Scuba VBS, Scuba Christmas will reignite the energy and delight of VBS at Christmastime, too!

This past month, several of our children and youth participated in the Brunswick County All-County Chorus. Nova Chambley and Kiera Peralta performed with the Elementary School Combined Chorus, Annabel Holland and Lilith Peralta performed with the Middle School Combined Chorus, and Taydon Graf performed with the High School Combined Chorus. It was a great evening of music and we are so proud and blessed to have some any talented members of our children and youth programs.



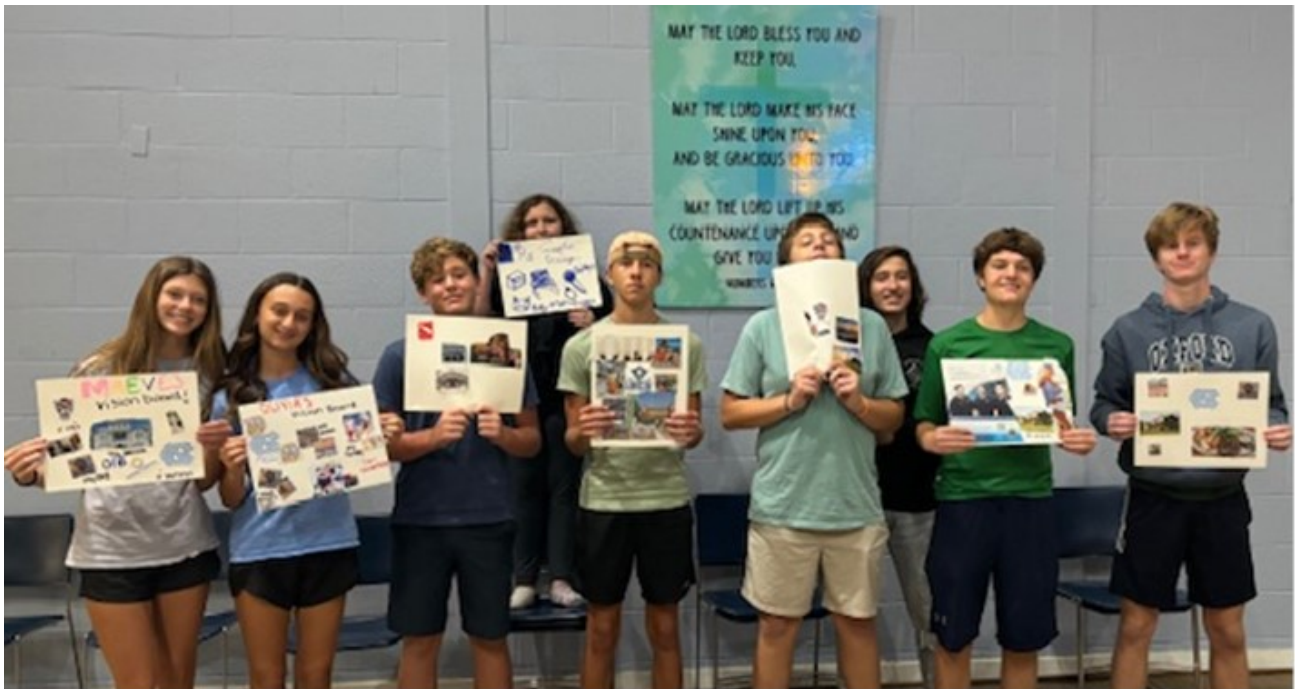
CHILDREN and YOUTH MINISTRY

The children have been learning more about special parts of Worship during Camp Kids on Wednesday. This month, they learned about Baptism and Communion. They were able to come up during a Baptism and watch up close as Pastor Terry welcomed baby Ashton into the church!!

The children have also been working diligently making ornaments for the Craft Fair!!



The youth have been learning about Wesley's Three Simple Rules for Money and discussing their plans for their future. They recently made vision boards and discussed their college, career, and life goals. There were great discussions about what they were looking for in schools and new options and ideas were shared with each other. We were very impressed with the thoughtfulness and goals of this amazing group of youth!!



Danielle Peralta
Children and Youth
Ministry Director



The Harbor District United Women in Faith held their annual meeting on Saturday, November 2, at Seaside UMC with seven members from Camp attending. Our UWF were awarded the special recognition of meeting all of the requirements for being named a MISSION TODAY UNIT.



The final meeting of the Joy Circle's book study on Max Lucado's "Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" will be on Monday, Dec. 9th at 6:00 PM at Laura Beaty's House on OIB. Please bring an appetizer to share.

We will cover the final 2 sections

Please join us (even if you haven't come to the first 2!). Questions? Email Laura Beaty at laurazbeaty@gmail.com or call her at 336-403-5311.

Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle enjoyed a potluck lunch at their November meeting. Our program centered on the World Thank Offering which is one of the five channels of undesignated Mission Giving of United Women in Faith. Like offerings, the success of potlucks is dependent on what each participant brings to the table to share. The opportunity in a potluck is that people can bring their best to the table and when that happens, each participant is able to partake of each other's "best".



The Susanna Wesley Circle will enjoy their annual Christmas Social on Tuesday, December 10th, at 11:00 AM (**NOTE TIME CHANGE**) at the home of Franz and Jill Bryant, 1438 Dunes Blvd. in the RETREAT community beside Lowe's grocery. This will be a BRUNCH and members are asked to bring their favorite "brunch" food, along with a wrapped gift (approximately \$15) for Dirty Santa.

Lynda Eagle

NEW MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER



John Arsenault
2837 Seashore Rd. SW
Supply, NC 28462
910-209-1800
floorsareme60@gmail.com
John is interested in learning
more about Jesus and is
currently attending Wonderful
Wednesdays

Cora Van Middlesworth
P.O. Box 332
Carolina Beach, NC 28428
910-274-1195
coraleevan@gmail.com
She is interested in the choir
and meal prep for Friday
Community Meals and is
currently attending Wonderful
Wednesdays



Ashton Davis Parker
son of Ana and Bert Parker
was baptized in November



Our next quarterly pick up will be
on Saturday, **Dec. 14th** at 9:00 AM.
Plan to meet at:

Big Oak Mobile Home
1309 Hale Swamp Rd.
Supply, NC

If you have questions, call or email
Hart Merriman at (540) 797-4388
or hartandsusan@gmail.com.



WACCAMAW SHOE PROJECT

All 50 pairs of shoes were received and have
been taken to Waccamaw School. Thanks to all
of you who supported this mission. There will be
happy children at the school this Christmas.

Barbara Varnam, Co-chair
Local Missions

CAMP UMC FRIDAY NIGHT MEALS AWARD

Camp UMC Friday Night Community Meals team was recently awarded The Outstanding Community Service Award by the Shallotte Police Department for their consistent and exemplary support of our local department.



Pictured here are leaders of this special outreach ministry, Franz and Jill Bryant and Mary Lee Nance, and volunteer Linda Callender, receiving the special recognition plaque by Shallotte Chief Andy Stanley.

The Lord's Pantry

Another Banner Day for CUMC

On November 2nd, Camp Volunteers served 167 families (14 new). 501 individuals (132 children, 227 adults and 142 seniors). 29 Hispanic bags and 2 Arabic bags were distributed..

Thank you to every Volunteer who showed up to support The Lords Food Pantry. For the last 2-3 months, the number of needy families increases.

Gary Conselmo, Camp Coordinator for The Lord's Pantry



SALT will meet on December 16th at 5:00 PM Everyone is asked to bring a hors d'oeuvres to share and we will be blessed by the choral notes of Bill Clegg and his fellow crooners. Join us in the YFC for an entertaining evening.



Ladies Night Out will be on Dec. 19th at 5:30 PM in the YFC. Bring appetizers to share and a gift (\$10) for our gift exchange game.



Beth & Mike Michelakis 6 (38)
 Cindy & Jeff Maynard 17 (41)
 Melody & Terry Stephens 18 (30)
 Allison & Wil Smith 23 (21)
 Doug & Sheryl Jones 27 (57)
 Jeanne & Thomas Frederick 27 (55)
 Bob & Lisa Von Sprecken 30 (35)
 James & Kaylan Morse 31 (5)



1 Kelly Barefoot	12 Paula Heuschneider	22 Cheryl Hetzel
3 Monica Gilotty	12 Deana Milliken	23 Nova Chambley
3 Susan Holland	13 Annabel Holland	23 Kathy Meissner
4 Curtis Bolden	14 Dave Gilotty	24 Kristin Medwid
4 Bettye Wolny	14 Jane Williams	24 Lucas Merriam
5 Hattie Greene	16 Zack McGougan	26 Al Parker
6 James Morse	18 Peter Heuschneider	26 Tina Marie Sifford
8 Gwen Simmons	19 Douglas Hunter	28 Gary Concelmo
8 Donna Varnam	19 Ronnie Joe Markum	28 Alex Thompson
10 Susanne Adams	20 Andy Verzella	29 Michael Sidelinger
10 Anna Anderson	21 Brooke Jones	31 Jackie Gibson
11 Laura Beaty	21 Rae Matthews	31 Jack Kyzer
11 Steven Jarvis	22 Helen Hendricks	

DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

Dec 1st	Hanging of the Greens	After 10:00 AM Service
Dec. 8th	Christmas Cantata (Chancel Choir)	10:00 AM Service
Dec. 8th	Open House at Williams	3:00-5:00 PM
Dec. 10th +12th	Live Nativity	6:00--8:00 PM
Dec. 14th	Adopt-a-Highway	9:00 AM
Dec. 15th	Children's Christmas Show	11:30 AM
Dec. 15th	Phil Giallombardo Concert & Carols	6 :00 PM
Dec. 24th	Christmas Eve Service	5:00 PM
Dec. 25th	Christmas Day	
Dec. 31st	New Year's Eve	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 AM SS 9:30 AM Choir 10:00 Worship 10:00 AM Children's Church 5:30 PM Youth Group		Bulletin Deadline 9:30 Prayer Shaw 1:30 Basket Weavers	10:00 Bible Journaling 4:00 Study 5:00 Meal 5:30 Camp Kids 5:45 Adult Choir 6:00 Study 7:30 Bell Choir	Ladies on the Bus	4:30 Friday Night Meals	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Hanging of the Greens Pour Theology 4:00	2 4:00 SALT Planning	3	4	5 6:00 Trustee Mtg.	6	7 CAMP'S FOOD PANTRY DAY
8 Christmas Cantata 3:00-5:00 Open House @ Williams 3-5	9 6:00 Joy Cir.	10 10:00 SW Circle 6:00—8:00 PM Live Nativity	11	12 6:00-8:00 PM Live Nativity 7:00 Finance Mtg	13	14 9:00 Adopt a Highway
15 11:00 Agape 11:30 Childrens Show 6:00 Phil G's Concert & Caroling	16 5:00 SALT Christmas	17	18	19 MMOM Christmas program 11am 5:30 Ladies Night Out 6:30 SPRC Mtg	20	21
22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 Christmas Eve	25 	26	27 NO Meal	28
29	30	31 	JANUARY 1 OFFICE CLOSED			