

# CHAPEL CHATTER



*To all who are lonely and need a friend, to all who are sick and seek Christ's healing power, to all who sin and need a Savior, this church opens wide its doors, and in the name of Christ our Savior, bids you welcome.*

## Advent - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

When we are asked to wait, it seems like a minute is an hour and an hour lasts for eternity. Advent is the season of waiting, waiting for the coming of Christ. As we wait for him to come again, we remember long ago when the world waited with bated breath for the coming of the Christ child.

The hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is one of my favorite Advent hymns. Its minor key and plaintive melody embody the longing I have for the coming of the Prince of Peace. This time of year opens us to the gift of the baby in the manger and awakens our memories to His message of peace, hope, joy, and love. Those four words on our Advent Wreath are not simply words but the gifts we receive in the gift of the Babe of Bethlehem. As we remember His birth story, it is being told over the news bites of today's world where it is difficult to find places of peace and our hope is tarnished by the world's despair. Joy and love are replaced by fear, anger, and hate if we give into the message of the world.

My prayer for us this Advent is that we take every opportunity to worship the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, Emmanuel, God with us. May our spirits be bolstered as we remember the story of his coming and his birth and may our hopes be strengthened as we recall that he promised to come again in glory!

Tradition helps us remember and as we immerse ourselves in the rich traditions of the Advent season we re-member as the body of Christ. At Plank Chapel we have a few of my favorite Advent traditions. It begins the 29th of November with the Hanging of the Greens, telling why we decorate our sanctuary during this season. Then we have the mailbox in the back of the church so that we can share Christmas greetings with one another. Make or buy your cards, write notes of thanksgiving and place them in the box for pick up after worship.



Senior Circle enjoying lunch in Clarksville

Each year our altar is adorned with poinsettias and the rich red color reminds me of the blood poured out for the world. The choir always shares special music during this time to touch us in our hearts. Caroling from house to house reconnecting us to our brothers and sisters in Christ as we sing out the story of His birth.

My two favorite traditions are Christmas Eve candlelight with holy communion and New Year's Eve Watch Night Worship. Both these evening worship services remind me that the darkness will never overcome the power of God's love light! Such love He has for us to come to us in the brokenness of the world as a helpless baby. "Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee..."

Praying with you,  
Pastor Carolyn

## Advent and Christmas Schedule

November 29

11:00 am Hanging of the Greens Worship  
followed by luncheon

December 13

3:00 pm

Christmas Caroling in the Community  
All ages welcome to come and sing  
Cocoa and Warm Cider  
Following in the Fellowship Hall

December 20

9:00 am

UMM Hosting  
Annual Pancake Breakfast  
All Welcome to come and share  
as the UMM offer this meal in gratitude  
to Plank Chapel

December 24

8:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 31

7:00 pm

Watch Night Worship

# BASIC UMYF

# youth group SCHEDULE

Our December schedule has us on the move with exciting opportunities for fellowship and discipleship. We will finalize our plans for the winter: lockins, ski trips, steak dinner, and a mission project for 2016.

Meeting dates, locations, and times:  
November 29 - Spring Valley - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm (1st half hour is the business meeting)  
December 13 - Mount Carmel - 4:30 pm  
December 27 - Plank Chapel - 4:30 pm



As we look at our December schedules - these dates and locations may change.

Remember to check out the group page on Facebook for updates, posts of interest, and some great pictures of BASIC fun!

Sunday - December 20th is the Lesson and Carols worship - looking for youth who will be readers!



# IN MISSION WITH

## Local Mission Opportunities

**Ruin Creek Animal Rescue Needs:** Cold weather is coming and the animals in the shelters will be cold and hungry. Consider donating nonclumping cat litter, blankets, towels, puppy pads. The shelter is always in need of volunteers. The Shelter is open 8:30-4 most weekdays. Funding for veterinarian visits for abandoned animals in need of care is always needed.

**Greater Ransom Way of the Cross Temple Food Pantry:** Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10 am - 12 pm. Volunteers serve from 8 am - 12 pm.

**ACTS:** Open daily, serving mid day meal as well as a having a food pantry available

**Cokesbury UMC Food Pantry:**  
Open 1st and 3rd Wednesday.

**Community Partners of Hope:** Are looking for volunteers to serve as supervisors (2 different shifts, check in shift begins at 5:30 pm and runs until 9:30 pm and overnight shift from 9:30 pm until 7:30 am) as well as volunteers to prepare meals. Last year we prepared meals once a month for all 5 months. Contact Susan Sears if you would like to be part of the meal preparation and delivery.

Meal Schedule for the Shelter this winter:  
Friday, November 6 - BBQ dinner plates  
Tuesday, December 22  
Tuesday, January 26  
Tuesday, February 23  
Tuesday, March 8

There are always more dates open if you want to do more! Contact Susan Sears.

### Community in Prayer

For... Amy Beers, Brandi Dickerson, Alice Finch, Hilma Smith, David Driver, Faye Young, Frances Fuller, Bryson Jackson, Stephen Bowers, Geneva Hawley, Jane Owen, Gerald Woodlief  
For...healing and reconciliation      For...those facing medical procedures      For...those grieving  
For...those without food, jobs and shelter      For...the lost and afraid      For...Henderson, Vance County  
For...Plank Chapel, our leaders, our teachers, our volunteers, our children, our youth, our aging  
For...Our military, families, and veterans      For...all in harms way      For...peace in our nation  
For...peace in the world

**Change to Change the World - December's bucket money goes to  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina®  
4601 Six Forks Rd., Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27609  
info@rmhcofnc.org**

# IN HIS SERVICE

## **December Ushers**

Thomas Beckham, Mac Wilson  
Todd Wilson, Ben Brown

## **Flowers**

6 - Frances Roberts  
13 - Poinsettias  
20 - Poinsettias  
27 - Poinsettias

## **Greeters**

6 - DJ Pegram  
13 - Jasper Pegram  
20 - CT Thompson  
27 - Jackie Brown

## **Acolytes**

6 - Taylor Shepardson  
13 - Makayla Beckham  
20 - Jasper Denton  
27 - Matthew Denton

God has called you. he will not fail you.

## **December Altar Guild**

Faye Woodlief

## **Lay Readers**

6 - Donald Rose McGhee - *Luke 1:68-79*  
13 - Pat Edwards - *Isaiah 12:2-6*  
20 - Various  
27 - Sally Coghill - *Colossians 3:12-17*

## **Nursery Workers**

6 - Kim and Laci Oettinger  
13 - Judy Eaves and Arianna Fuller Bell  
20 - Joyce Edwards and Laci Oettinger  
27 - Roxie Kearney and Lizzie Driver

## **Outreach Team**

6 - Carolyn Roy and Karin Driver  
13 - Darlene Ranes and Joyce Edwards  
20 - Faye Woodlief and Judy Wilson  
27 - John and Patricia Rogers


4 Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop Wednesday  
December 2  
10 am

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19

Senior Circle  
Wednesday  
December 16  
10 am

Choir practice is every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. Join in the fun as we sing to the Lord and lead the congregation in worship. New voices are always welcome.

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>■ 10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>■ 4:00 PM Youth Council</li> <li>■ 4:30 PM BASIC YOUTH</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM PPRC Meeting</li> </ul>	30	1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM 4 Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop</li> <li>■ 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>■ 6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM Trustees</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	4	5
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>■ 10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM Worship</li> </ul>	7	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>■ 6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	11	12
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>■ 10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>■ 3:00 PM Christmas Caroling</li> <li>■ 4:30 PM BASIC UMYF</li> </ul>	14	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM Senior Circle</li> <li>■ 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>■ 6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	18	19
20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:00 AM UMM – Pancake Breakfast</li> <li>■ 10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>■ 3:00 PM UMW</li> </ul> 	21	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 6:00 PM Community Partners of Hope Dinner</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>■ 6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	24 <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">Christmas Eve</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> <li>■ 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</li> </ul>	25 <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">Christmas Day</div>	26 <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">Day After Christmas Day</div>
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>■ 10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>■ 4:30 PM BASIC UMYF</li> </ul>	28	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>■ 6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	31 <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">New Year's Eve</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM Watch Night Service</li> </ul>	1 <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">New Year's Day</div>	2

**Special Events:**

- 13 - Christmas Caroling: Meet at Plank Chapel at 3:00 pm
- 20 - Pancakes at 9:00 am
- 24 - Communion Candlelight - 8:00 pm
- 31 - Watch Night - 7:00 pm

