

Chapel Chatter

Wide Open Hearts! Wide Open Doors!



“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.”

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Christmas Sermons)

Advent often seems to be a season that is anticipated with joy by those preparing worship and dread by those who do not understand why we do this crazy four week journey toward Christmas. I love how Dietrich Bonhoeffer describes this season as something to celebrate. It is a time to celebrate because we are still in the midst of God’s work here on earth anticipating and preparing for God to bring the work of Kingdom creating into completion. Celebrating Advent means we continue to have faith in the future promised by God.

Advent preparations often focus on the birth of our savior Jesus, yet it is also a time to reflect on how we are living and preparing for the time Jesus will come again in glory. It is the reason Advent begins with the prophets who remind us to continue to hope for the coming of our King and to engage in the work the Prince of Peace has placed before us. The third week we turn towards the cradle as we experience the joy of the gift God is giving us and that fourth week it is a time to celebrate God’s faithful love for us as love came down at Christmas in a manger in Bethlehem. It is only after the birth of Christ do we turn to the star of the East and the share in the story of the wise men bringing forth gifts that are fit for a king.

In years past this celebration has begun with a hanging of the greens as part of our worship liturgy. This year will be a little different as we gather. Elements of that tradition will be evident in the worship, yet our advent candle over the four weeks will offer us an opportunity to listen to the wisdom of the scriptures through the voices of our children, youth, and adults.

As the calendar brings us closer to that glorious day of Christ’s birth, may our worship remind us that we can look forward to something greater still. Christ came so that the world might be saved. My prayer for us this year in our full calendars and full lives is that we take time to empty ourselves and allow joy, allow love, allow God to fill us with hope, peace, joy and love.

Praying with you,
Pastor Carolyn



UMM

Meet on third Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast.



UMW

Meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m.



BASIC UMYF

Our youth have a flexible schedule - check the news section for this month’s activities

Advent and Christmas Worship Opportunities

December 3 - 1st Sunday in Advent - Celebrating Hope
 7:00 p.m. - Advent Prayer Service for those who lost Pets



December 10 - 2nd Sunday in Advent - Celebrating Peace

December 17 - 3rd Sunday in Advent - Celebrating Joy
 8:00 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast
 11:00 a.m. - Cantata



December 21 - 7:00 p.m. - The Longest Night - Because sometimes Christmas is hard

December 24 - 4th Sunday in Advent - Celebrating Love

8:30 a.m. - Awakenings

11:00 a.m. - Worship

8:00 p.m. - Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion



December 31 - New Year's Eve

8:30 a.m. - Awakenings

11:00 a.m. - Worship

7:00 p.m. - Watch Night Worship



Kitchen Conversations-2

The work is never complete when it comes to kitchens because the kitchen is always in use.

1. Stove and Oven - When using the stove and oven, all pilots on the stove must be lit. If you are uncertain about how to operate



the stove and oven, ask a Trustee or a United Methodist Man to assist you.

2. You will find some hotplates for serving entrees on the tables on top of the microwave.

3. When cleaning after use, be gentle with the painted surfaces.

Shift Small Group



During the month of December the Shift Small Group will be joining in the Advent Study, Because of Bethlehem. Study guides have been purchased and are available. Meetings will be at the home of Beth and George Heaton beginning December 3 at 4:00 p.m.

BASIC UMYF

LOCK-IN December 1-2. We will begin gathering at 7:30 p.m. It is best if you have some dinner before coming. Bring snacks to share. Breakfast will be provided in the morning. Needed: Adult volunteers, sleeping bags, change of clothes, and ideas for 2018.

No meeting December 3

Dollar Tree Christmas Party - December 10 - last meeting in 2017. We are having an exchange game. Please bring either something from home that you are "regifting" or go to the Dollar Tree (cannot spend more than \$2.00). It is a dinner party and will begin at 5:30 p.m. Menu will be Italian. Come out and join the fun - if you bring a friend, bring 2 gifts.

BASIC will resume meeting on January 14. 2018 plans currently include the Heritage District Mission Day, Souper Bowl Sunday to raise funds for the Mission Day, and our annual Steak Dinner and Cake Auction.

Changing the World through our Change

ACTS - Area Christians Together in Service -

provides a food pantry and meal ministry to the residents of Henderson/Vance County.

Currently ACTS is raising funds for a capital campaign for their new

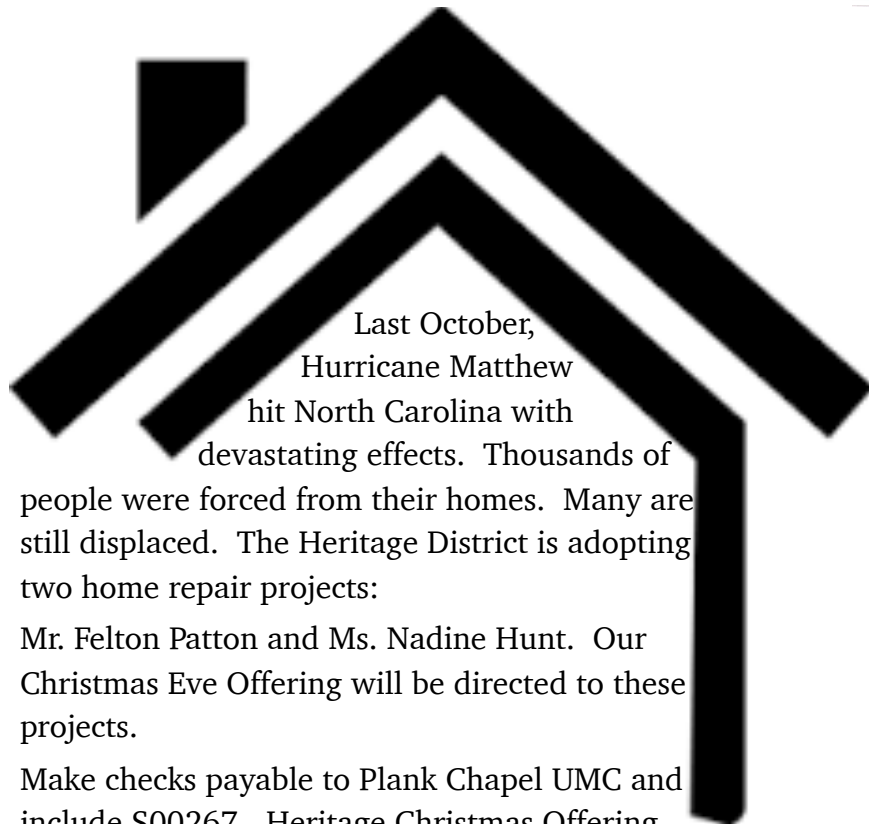


The United Methodist Women are collecting Box Tops for Zeb Vance - look for the Box Top label on products and cut off the label and bring it to the church. Each label is \$.10.

Ten cents adds up fast!

location - renovations and upgrades to better serve the population.





Last October, Hurricane Matthew hit North Carolina with devastating effects. Thousands of people were forced from their homes. Many are still displaced. The Heritage District is adopting two home repair projects: Mr. Felton Patton and Ms. Nadine Hunt. Our Christmas Eve Offering will be directed to these projects. Make checks payable to Plank Chapel UMC and include S00267 - Heritage Christmas Offering To make an online donations: nccumc.org/disaster



United Methodist Men

We would like to thank the church for the work each of you did to make the November BBQ a success. Please join us Sunday, December 17 @ 8:00 a.m. for a celebration Pancake Breakfast.



Keeping Holy Time Bible Study

In December we will continue through Paul's letters. We meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Our study is shared and we include in our time, prayers for the community. Join us in December.

**Food Pantry Sundays -
December 3 and 17**



Bring peanut butter, soups, pasta and pasta sauce, canned meats, and other nonperishable items

**Outward Witness Cmte
CPOH Shelter Meals - November 28 and
December 26**

Winter Weather Advisory

As winter sets in there may be Sundays that offer challenges. We will get word out through Facebook, email, and the phone tree. Pastor Carolyn calls Faye Woodlief who begins making calls. If you feel unsafe traveling that Sunday, please stay home. If you are wondering, please call 252-438-6080 and ask.

Looking Ahead to 2018 - Where is God leading?

Advent is the time of waiting and preparing. My prayer is that we use this time to listen and look for where God is showing up and calling us to follow. As we enter into 2018 two important dates should go on your calendar.

January 7 is our Dinner and Dialog night - this night begins at 6:00 p.m. with table conversations around questions like: why is it important to have faith, who told you about Jesus, what about Jesus gives you peace, what moments in worship connect you to God, how does worship connect you to the community, how would the community be different if Plank Chapel's doors were closed, how important is the time and day of worship for connecting us to God and community, what gifts and talents are already at Plank Chapel, how do those gifts and talents reveal God's plan for us, what are the characteristics of a good leader, and where have you seen God this year?

January 13 is a morning of planning. Chairpersons of the various committees and teams will meet and plan out 2018. The events that are ready to go on our calendar include: Souper Bowl Sunday luncheon, Ash Wednesday worship, Steak Dinner and Cake Auction, Lenten Bible Study, World Day of Prayer, Alzheimer's NC Walk, and Holy Week and Easter Worship services. These events bring us through April. What are events we want to see in 2018? How do you want to be part of their planning or organizing? How do we take the answers from Dinner and Dialog and integrate them into our planning?

What do we do now?

Weekly: Sunday School, worship, choir practice, faith and fitness, BASIC youth, Keeping Holy Time Bible Study

Monthly: UMM, UMW, The Gathering Place (1st Wed), Senior Circle (3rd Wed), SHIFT Small Group Study

What is missing? Where?

Community Connections: Community Partners of Hope, Kerr Lake Ministries Day Camp, Zeb Vance Elementary School, Cokesbury UMC Food Pantry. Is this where we are called?



Plank Chapel UMC Blood Drive

**Held in the Fellowship Hall
3047 Bobbitt Road
Kittrell, NC 27544**

**Saturday, December 16, 2017
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM**

To schedule your life saving appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: Plank

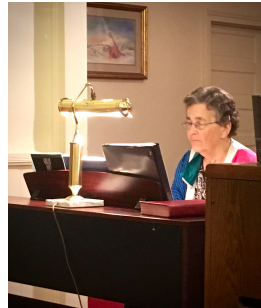
For questions, please contact Jasper Denton at (252) 492-1919 or jasperdenton@gmail.com

For eligibility questions, call 1-866-236-3276.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

November in Pictures



IN HIS SERVICE

BECAUSE OF
Bethlehem



December Ushers

Jamie Abbott, LC Medlin,
Jasper Denton, Ryan Rowland

December Altar Guild

Judy Wilson

December Greeters

TBA

Flowers

3 - Advent Arrangement
10 - Poinsettias & Judy Wilson
17 - Poinsettias
24 - Poinsettias
31 - Poinsettias

Acolytes

3 - Matthew Denton
10 - Laci Oettinger
17 - Jasper Denton
24 - Avery Thomas
31 - Austyn Abbott

Lay Readers

3 - Gwen Ritchey - Isaiah 64:1-9
10 - Lorraine Abbott - 2 Peter 3:8-15
17 - Darlene and Mike Raney
24 - Sally Coghill - Luke 1:46-55
31 - Tim Smith - Isaiah 61:10- 62:3

Nursery Workers

3 - Kim and Laci Oettinger
10 - Lora Young and Midge Smith
17 - Roxie Kearney and Heather Medlin
24 - Joyce Edwards and Laci Oettinger
31 - Roxie Kearney and Karin Driver

An Advent Bible Study by Max Lucado.

Because of Bethlehem features stories both insightful and whimsical. On every page, Max Lucado's words will encourage, captivate and inspire you, but most importantly, they'll point you towards the One worth celebrating. We will meet at the home of Beth and George Heaton on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. There are study guides to go along with our time together.

Community in Prayer

For... Jackie Brown, Kim Yates,
Peggy Hernandez, Angie Hayes,
Joe Weaver, Janet Bobbitt, Richard
Coghill, Ruth Hailey, Hattie Raney,
Dave Driver, Skeeter Pearce,
Tilly Hughes, Jamie Kearney, Kay
House, Faye Young, Brandi Dickerson,
Alice Finch, David Driver, Jane Owen,
George Heaton






For...healing and reconciliation
For...those facing medical procedures
For...those grieving
For...those without food, jobs, shelter
For...the lost and afraid
For...Our local cities and counties
For...Plank Chapel
For...Our military, families, and
veterans For...all in harms way
For...peace in our nation
For...peace in the world

UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY
November 28th

CONNECT YOUR PASSION
WITH GOD'S MISSION

Food Pantry Sundays
December 3 and 17

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM CPOH Dinner 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Lock-In 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... Lock-In
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Advent Study 7:00 PM Advent Prayers for those who lost pets in 2017 - A Time to Remember 	4	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM The Gathering Place 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	8	9
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Advent Study 5:30 PM BASIC Youth 	11	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Red Cross Blood Drive  <p>3:30 p.m. - Parsonage Open House</p>
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMW 4:00 PM Advent Study 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting 	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Senior Circle 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 7:00 PM Longest Night Worship Service 	22	23
24 <p>Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Advent Study 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight 	25 <p>Christmas Day</p>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM CPOH Dinner 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	29	30
31 <p>New Year's Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Watch Night Service 	1 <p>New Year's Day</p>	2	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM The Gathering Place 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 	5	6

You are Invited - Open House
 Leo and I welcome you to a time of celebration
 1785 Kittrell Road
 December 16
 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Our time to say thank you for opening your homes to us