



**JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES**  
are due  
**Monday,  
December 12**  
*Please note this  
earlier deadline so  
we may complete  
the newsletter  
prior to the  
holiday!*  
Please email  
articles to  
[fishrus8@morrisbb.net](mailto:fishrus8@morrisbb.net)  
Don't have email?  
Please place  
articles  
in the Newsletter  
mailbox at the  
church. You can  
send them any  
time prior to the  
deadline.  
Thank you!

# Pulpit and Pew

Our Mission is To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Volume 21, Issue 12

December 2011

## Being United Methodist Too!



### One

It's called "Rivalry Saturday" in college football. It's the day we who love college football look forward to all year. Or, we dread it all year long. It depends who we think will win. You know the games: UNC and Duke, UGA and Georgia Tech, Clemson and USC, Virginia and Virginia Tech, Florida and FSU, and yes, Alabama against my Auburn Tigers, among others. As I'm writing this, the games are on and the passion of the fans is intense.

Why does college football stir such passion from the fans? Why does the deepest passion and most heated games occur from schools that are the closest together? I don't know the answers to those questions but I can't help but think that this dilemma reveals something about our humanness and our struggle to rise above it.

The Bible tells us Jesus had a hard time with the home folks. There is a quote from the Gospels that says, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own hometown." In another place in scripture, Jesus is healing people and blessing them, but when he comes home, because of the lack of faith of the hometown folks, Jesus could do very little there.

The Apostle Paul found that the toughest audience he had was with the hometown Jews. They were the ones who would not receive the good news of Jesus Christ that Paul preached. He ended up being called "Missionary to the Gentiles" because in the end they were the ones who were willing to believe that the message Paul preached of Jesus as Messiah was good news.

Rivalries in football add a lot of spice and sentiment to the game. When it comes to the work of Jesus Christ and the spread of the Gospel, there is no room for rivalry or competition. There is only one side and that side is on the Lord's. Any other side is a losing cause.

So, all you Tar Heels, Blue Devils, Tigers and Tiders, Gamecocks and Gators, there is one team that never loses! On this team, we all belong and we all win! May Jesus Christ be praised!

Grace and Peace,

Paul B. Thompson

### *From the desk of Reverend Paige Ann Miller. . .*



Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus. "Have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?'" -Matthew 21:12-16

I remember it like it was yesterday. The sun sank deep below the horizon, and the darkness settled in pleasantly despite the cold. In a sweep as gradual and beautiful as sunset, houses and yards began to glow with Christmas lights. With a secret smile, I aimed the car for home at the end of a long evening of after-school activities, anxious to hear what the children would say when they saw our house lit up for Christmas for the first time this year.

While they were at school, I had placed a white candle in each window, and from the right angle they would be able to see the white lights of our Christmas tree from the street. They would be so happy, so proud of their mom's decorating prowess. I could not *wait* to get home!

I should explain that the kids and I had gotten into the habit of playing a silly game on our way home. As soon as we saw our house, I would say, "Boy, that sure is a pretty house! I wish we lived *there!*" One or more of the children would usually chime in, "Me, too! I *love* that house!" On this night, I practically sang my part of this call and response as we rounded the corner and our house came into view. They, however, had fallen completely silent.

I paused in front of our house, smiling expectantly over my shoulder into the backseat; noting to my surprise that they weren't even looking at our house! Every one of them was ogling the house next door; and, as I followed their enraptured gaze, I couldn't blame them. My neighbors had always taken "festive" to a whole different level, and I could see this year would be no exception.

The brightly lit scene, straight out of the classic Christmas special, "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer," played out from their roof to the street. It stands out as one of the most generous utilizations of decorative lighting I have ever seen on private property. Still, I had worked hard all day, and I wanted to hear how impressed they were with my effort!

"So, kids...?" I prompted, trying not to sound too needy. "What do you think of *our* house?" At that point, his face awash with the multicolored glow from our neighbor's yard, my youngest child burst into tears.

"I...wish...we...lived...in THAT...house," he sobbed. The other two offered unenthusiastic reassurances that our house looked ok, too, and that they didn't want to move.

Speechless and disappointed, I pulled into the garage and turned off the car. I really couldn't blame them, though. I felt the same way when my parents retired the giant, bubble lights on our Christmas tree and replaced them with boring old white lights. I wondered when I changed, and why, now that I have the freedom to put up the colorful Christmas display of my childhood dreams, I find that I prefer the white lights after all.

Maybe, in my quest for simplicity and elegance, in my desire to maintain a shred of peace in a season that has become commercialized and gaudy, I have forgotten how to decorate for the biggest birthday party of the year. The children reminded me that, in their eyes, Jesus isn't an elegant figure in a china manger scene. He's a friend whose birthday is coming up, and there should be nothing quiet or understated about planning His party!

I know this text from Matthew seems out of place in the midst of this season of anticipation and celebration. Earlier in this chapter, Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem; but at this point and in our hindsight we sense the coming sadness, the time when the shadow of the cross would prevail, if only for a moment. But, as we know, you cannot have a shadow without light, and there is a treasure in this Scripture that made me scrounge through the attic for colored lights that year.

How we find Jesus surrounded by a crowd that is now familiar to us. If we look closely, I think we might even see ourselves somewhere in this crowd. The money changers and their customers are in the courtyard, cleaning up the mess left after Jesus' angry episode. Closer to Jesus, we find the blind and the lame seeking healing. And huddled together with open eyes and closed hearts are the chief priests and the scribes, men who have seen and heard enough to know that Jesus is stealing all of their glory and threatening their way of life. The disciples are doing their best, I'm sure, to make sense of it all.

But a closer look reveals one last group of people. They aren't sick. They don't want anything from Jesus. They are not in the crowd to criticize or even to learn. Their voices rise above the chaos, drowning out the mumbled grumbings of the Jewish leaders and mingling with the desperate pleas of the sick. These are the voices of children. And, of all things, they are shouting at the top of their lungs, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" They are praising Jesus with everything they've got, as loudly as they can.

If that's not the picture of what my children would have their house say at Christmas, I don't know what is! HOSANNA, our yard would shout from the porch to the street. JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!, the house would scream in vibrant, flashing color. Forget understated. This whole season is a party, and the world is invited!

The next day, as I worked with my children to string some colorful lights along the railing of our deck, I committed myself to adding a little more color to my life that season and for every Christmas to come. I still prefer steady, white lights. But the children reminded me of something I had forgotten. They reminded me that there is no amount of Christmas spirit that is too colorful or over-the-top if it is a genuine expression of the peace, love, joy and hope in your heart.



The Methodist Men had our last meeting of 2011 on Thursday, November 17th. We presented MRLEC with a check in the amount of \$4,492.47 representing the net profits of the Golf Tournament held earlier this year. Craig Kirkpatrick asked to be replaced as vice president and Roger Benfield was elected to take his place. Craig, we thank you for 5 years as vice president, you have provided us with good leadership. We started the preliminary planning steps for a Juvenile Justice panel program for January 19th which will be open to the entire church. More on this later. Will McClung has done a great job setting up the schedule for the Christmas tree lot that will begin the Friday after Thanksgiving and go until a few days before Christmas. If you can help by taking a 2-hour or 4-hour time slot to help with the lot, we would greatly appreciate it. We will need a lot of help. You can reach Will at 674-6636. For any other information on the Methodist Men's Group you can call Jim Chapman at 890-0460 or (c) 329-1466.

*John Hubbs, Secretary*

## Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Green
- 2 Megan Miller
- 3 Linda Paulus
- 5 Steve Cason
- 5 Nancy Garrett
- 5 Robert Pate
- 6 Deron Crisp
- 8 Kevin Bates
- 8 Zeb Stroup
- 9 Phyllis Smith
- 10 Suzanne Ellis
- 11 Jonathan Beck
- 11 Joyce Gorgas
- 12 Brian Albea
- 12 Don Westmoreland
- 14 Mike Shaner
- 15 Scott Burnette
- 15 John Dunn
- 16 Dustin Cooper
- 16 Karen Shirlin
- 18 Carroll Laughter
- 19 Scott Hamilton
- 20 John Burnette
- 21 Carol Dwyer
- 21 Ramona Bryson
- 22 Sally Lance
- 23 Brendan Poeta
- 23 Kelly Deese
- 24 Tanya Bryson
- 25 Joe Arrington
- 25 Estelle Whiteside
- 26 Ken Calhoun
- 26 Duane Oyster
- 27 Chad Bandy
- 28 Emily Maltby
- 28 Natalie Ciaramitaro
- 28 Erin Stroup
- 28 Jamie Staton
- 28 Gina Long
- 30 David Parris
- 31 Nancy Conolly



## United Methodist Women

On November 16, we delivered Thanksgiving bags to our members who are not able to get out to come to church. Each home Sow Sew, Jay and I visited received us with smiles of appreciation and love. Melba M. and Joe G. will be returning to church in the near future, but the Gladen's are both having trouble walking and aren't feeling well. Keep all of them in your prayers. Thank you and God for all the items we had for their gift bags.

The Christmas party this year on December 12, at 6PM, will be hosted by the Maggie Jones Circle. We will have a very short meeting to vote and install a new President and Vice-president for our Mills River Unit. We will have a covered dish dinner in the Fellowship Hall. We ask each lady to bring a dish and an inexpensive gift (\$5.00) to exchange, we will have entertainment and a chance for the 2011 Secret Pals to reveal themselves to each other. We will also be exchanging names for "Secret Pals" for 2012. Entertainment will be provided by the music department of Fletcher Academy.

Thank you to our church for all your support! Monies are spent for missions locally and internationally. Each circle focuses on their individual mission as well as the missions our unit supports.

This year it seems there are an increased number of our unit members who are having health problems. Please keep us in your prayers. Helen Beck lost her husband to a fast acting cancer, so remember her in your prayers.

An EAP (evidence of answered prayers) for this year was the new circle formed by our young mothers. Also, Averie, Anna and Levi McCall have a new baby boy. Anna, co-chair of the Susan B. Thompson circle, has been missed by her circle.

We have a new circle forming in January 2012 that will meet at 10 AM on the third Tuesday of each month. We also still hope to reach the empty-nest, working moms with a circle in the near future. UMW is a really worthwhile mission program. I am turning the reins over in January to a new president, but I will remain very much involved helping our church unit and our new president.

**Ladies of MRUMC, there is a group of the MRUMW that needs you!!**

*-Anna Awald*



*We would like to thank our church family for so warmly welcoming our newest addition. All the thoughts, prayers, meals, and gifts were very much appreciated as we celebrated the arrival of baby Reid. We feel so blessed to have all of you as part of our lives and we look forward to introducing Reid to his MRUMC family.*

*Many thanks,*

*Anna, Eli, Averie, and Reid McCall*

A Big **THANK YOU** to all who helped make Thanksgiving dinner possible for the clients of the Fishes & Loaves food pantry! You have helped make sure families have a happy, hearty dinner with their loved ones on this day that we share our many blessings. **THANK YOU** too for all who drive, shop, sort, pack boxes, schedule, assist clients and contribute to this program. You are doing God's work and bidding.

Dear Church Family,

MRUMC Staff feels so appreciated, nurtured and loved by our church family all of the time, but especially during our recent Staff Appreciation Month! Many, many thanks for all of the hugs, treats, gifts, cards of appreciation and the lovely Staff Appreciation Luncheon! We are blessed to work with a church family who is so loving and caring!

Thank you!!

MRUMC Staff



A big thank you to all who helped put 113 Thanksgiving dinners on the tables of our Fishes & Loaves pantry clients. You have made it possible for these families to gather, break bread and give thanks.

The Jennie Corpening Circle would like to thank everyone who donated gently used books for our book sale November 12. Your donations will have far-reaching benefits in helping needy people and organizations that serve the hungry and needy. With the money made, we were able to donate \$300 to each of these 3 organizations; MRLEC, Fishes & Loaves and Hope UMC Welcome Table. The books that did not sell were donated and delivered to 8 organizations outside our church. The Bibles went to the Prison Ministry, 8 boxes went to schools in our church area, 2 boxes of Children's books to the abuse shelter at Main Stay, Black Mountain Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center received several boxes, Salvation Army, Council on Aging, and Goodwill received several car loads. MRLEC was invited to take all they wanted to home bound friends and nursing centers at no cost. The JC Circle could not have had such a successful fund raiser without your overwhelming generosity and we thank you. Linda Westmoreland

I want to thank my Mills River UMC family for your support of my seminary education! I received another check this week. What a blessing. It's amazing the timing God has. I'm looking forward to completing my degree this month—Nov 30th will be my last seminary class and exams! I return home to Mills River in December! The next steps in my ordination process are meeting with the District Committee on Ministry in December, then meeting with the Conference Board of Ministry in March. I'm looking forward to (hopefully) being a provisional elder in June!

In the meantime I'm working hard to finish well and am looking for my next opportunity to learn and serve! Thank you! Meg Sweeney

**Missions Corner**

As we approach the Christmas Season, we think of spending time with our friends and families. But our missionaries can not be with their families. However, we can offer them our love, support and encouragement during this time. I challenge our congregation to send our missionary families a note or card to encourage them during the holiday season. Please reach out to them to let them know how much their work is appreciated and spread some Christmas cheer.

**Stephen and Traci Edworthy—traciedworthy@yahoo.com or stephenedworthy@yahoo.com or Stephen and Traci Edworthy, Ul. Wesele 47/18, 30-127 Krakow, Poland**

**Kevin Smith—kevinssmith01@yahoo.com or Kevin Smith, P.O. Box 203, Savoonga, AK 99769**

**The Mariano Family c/o Larryoslund@gmail.com**

**The Lillian Hall Circle**

will not meet in December, but will attend the UMW Christmas Party on Monday Dec.12, 2011, at 6pm. At our Oct. meeting, Carol Weast presented our program. She talked with us about Fishes & Loaves. Left over aprons from the Bazaar were brought to the meeting by Marlene Hubbs & she sold the four aprons at the meeting. She (Marlene) donated the \$40.00 to Fishes & Loaves. Thanks

**The Susan B. Thompson Circle**

will be selling Photo Cards in the Narthex after services starting November 27th. Cards will be one for \$2 or three for \$5. These make great Christmas gifts, thank-you notes, and even birthday cards! Come see the great photography art cards for sale! This is our first fundraiser and we are so excited about it! Money made from the cards will go towards our circle, missions, and our cause (Mainstay). Thank you for supporting us in this endeavor! Please see a circle member if you have any questions.

**Third Tuesday at Ten - New UMW Circle!**

If a morning circle is of interest to you, Delores Meadows is offering to lead a circle the Third Tuesday at Ten at her house. The first meeting is January 17th at 10:00AM.



**INVITATION  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DECEMBER 12TH**



The official date for the Ladies Christmas Party is Monday evening, December 12th at 6:00pm. Please mark your calendars and join us for the party to be hosted by the Maggie Jones Circle. All ladies of the church are welcome. You do not have to be a member of a Circle. Please bring a friend if you'd like. They'd be most welcome. We will have a covered dish dinner in the Fellowship Hall and each lady is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Also if you'd like to participate in a gift exchange, bring an inexpensive gift. We will be finding out who that "Secret Pal" was and exchanging names for another "Secret Pal" for 2012. We will have a short meeting to elect next year's officers. A great program is planned so please come join us on the evening of DECEMBER 12TH.

**Come and join God's children**

celebrating Jesus's birth at the "Feast of the Lamb" on Christmas Day. We will be serving a Christmas meal immediately following the morning church service. The meal is FREE and open to anyone in the community wanting to share in the fellowship with music, games, and goodie bags for children. Please RSVP to 891-7788.

Any help cleaning up from this meal would be greatly appreciated! If you are available after the meal to help clean up, please let us know!



**E-NEWSLETTER**

A HUGE thank you to everyone reading the newsletter electronically!! We welcome feedback! If you received a hard copy this month and are willing to read it electronically, please contact the church office at 828-891-7788 or [erica\\_mrumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:erica_mrumc@bellsouth.net) with your email address!

**The United Methodist Men's Christmas tree sales are underway!!**

The lot will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through



Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. The sale will continue until all trees are sold. Normally this takes about 3 weeks. Please be thinking about times that you could volunteer to help with sales. Please consider a 2 or 4 hour shift. A sign-up sheet is available. We hope you will purchase your family's Christmas tree from us and help us support the many missions of Mills River United Methodist Church. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Will McClung at 891-7582 or 674-6636 or [willmccclung@att.net](mailto:willmccclung@att.net). Thanks!



**The Primetimers**

The Primetimers will be traveling to Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska on Tuesday, Dec.13, 2011.

We will leave the church parking lot at 9am so we can stop by the Cokesbury Book Store & do a little shopping before heading up the hill to eat lunch. Reservations are required. If you would like to go give Evelyn a call at 891-3743.

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Worship Services</u> 8:15, 9:33, 10:55 am <u>Adult Sunday School</u> 9:45 and 10:45 am <u>Youth Sunday School</u> 9:30 and 10:30 am</p>				<p>1 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10:00 Youth Choir Practice</p>
<p>4 4:00 Jr Youth Caroling/Dinner 6:01 Community 6:01 7:00 Youth Choir 7:45 Sr. High Chorus</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 5:30 Youth Sing at Hope UMC Welcome Table</p>	<p>7 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Prayer/Share 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>8 10:00 MRLEC Bingo! 1:00 Visitation</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 10:00 Youth Choir Practice</p>
<p>11 <b>Youth Cantata</b> <b>(9:33 and 10:55)</b> 3:00 Youth and Jr. Youth Labor of Love at Storehouse</p>	<p>12 6:00 UMW Christmas Party  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></p>	<p>13 9:00 Primetimers 1:00 Mission Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14 6:15 Prayer/Share 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>15 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation 6:30 Worship Comm 6:30 UMM Meeting</p>	<p>16 7:00 Cantata at Hope</p>	<p>17 7:00 Cantata</p>
<p>18 <b>Cantata(10:55)</b> Jr. Youth Christmas Party Youth Christmas Party</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 1:00 Maggie Jones Circle</p>	<p>21 6:15 Prayer/Share 7:15 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>22 No MRLEC</p>	<p>23 <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p>24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 6:00 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 <b>Christmas</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:15 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>29 No MRLEC</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 <b>New Years Eve</b></p>

# Children's Ministry



Shannon Barber  
828-808-6377  
sbarbermrumc@bellsouth.net



Guide, Respect, Appreciate, Celebrate, and Embrace As we prepare Children for their walk with Jesus so that they may shine His word into the World!

## Children's Ministry Update for December 2011

### What Have Your Children Been Up to Lately?

Since the end of October the Children have been very busy reaching out to others through the Trunk or Treat, special crafts for shut-ins and collecting care package items for the Edworthy family in Poland and for an orphanage there as well.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who participated and decorated a trunk at the Trunk or Treat and/or provided a cake for the cake walk. This year the cake walk raised \$101.00 dollars for the Back Pack Ministry. A special thank you to the Brittain family for the Hayride, to Ray and Ramona Bryson for hotdogs and drinks, Jeraline Phillips for the pictures, and Kim Maltby for organizing the cake walk.

We had a great time at our Thanksgiving Feast. There were about 70 people that joined us for lunch with a special prayer written by the 2nd-5th grade class, a poem reading by Anna Ippolito, and a special story from our very own Pilgrim, Lynn Bryson. Thank you all for providing a dish and special thanks for our Turkey prepared by Eric Rathburn. You all are such a blessing to the Children's Ministry!

### December Events:

**December 4th:** Family Fun Caroling to shut-ins in Mills River Area. We will eat dinner when we return. (4-6:00pm)



**December 11th:** Labor of Love with the youth for the Storehouse. Meet at the church at 3 and return by 6:30. We will eat dinner in town.

**December 18th:** Jr. Youth Christmas Party at Lori and Brian Anderson's home. Everyone bring an appetizer to share and a Christmas ornament (\$5.00 and under).

Please join us for a special time on December 24th during the Christmas Eve Service at 6:00. *My family and I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas.*



"Run For God - The 5K Challenge" is both a Bible study and a training program. The book teaches individuals how to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ while also illustrating the parallels between an endurance sport and the endurance that faith requires. This study is for everyone! In fact, it is designed for those who have never run. Working together, students are not only prepared for a race at the end of the course, but for a closer relationship with a loving God who wants to see us run for Him! And for beginning runners, the encouragement received is certain to improve race performance! If you are interested in this 12 week bible study, to begin in 2012, contact Shannon Barber via email at sbarbermrumc@bellsouth.net

## Youth Ministry Update

Rev. Paige Ann S. Miller, Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor  
Cell-424-0703 millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net

### Upcoming Dates: S.U.R.G.E. Youth in December

- December 4, 6pm – 601 Worship
- December 11, 3-6:30pm – Labor of Love (Storehouse)
- December 18, 5-7pm – Youth Karaoke Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
- December 25 – NO S.U.R.G.E. — Merry Christmas!

It's fitting that all these "Sardines" would end up in the kitchen! Fun & Games at S.U.R.G.E. Nov. 13, 2011



*Thanks to all the youth who served at the Hope Welcome Table and who chopped wood for Interfaith Assistance Ministry in November! You made a difference for Christ!!*

Keep up with us on  at the S.U.R.G.E. Mills River Youth Group page!

**Volunteers**

**Nursery**

**December 4**

8:15 Jon & Lori Hart  
 9:33 Diane King, Kim Maltby  
 10:55 Anna & Eli McCall

**December 11**

8:15 Need Volunteer  
 9:33 B Brown/K Deckard  
 10:55 Linda & Erin Miller,  
 Chad and Bess Bandy

**December 18**

8:15 Vicki Dunn  
 9:33 Lydia Gossett & Debbie  
 Wong Chong  
 10:55 J & H Staton

**December 25**

10:55 Cheryl Barnett

**Children's Church**

Dec 4 Kendall Deckard &  
 Mollie Phillips  
 Dec 11 No Children's Church  
 Dec 18 No Children's Church  
 Dec 25 No Children's Church

**Acolytes**

Dec 4 Mary Manning Holmes  
 Dec 11 Andrew Maultby  
 Dec 18 Sawyer Frady  
 Dec 25 Matthew Gladin

**Greeters**

**December 4**

8:15 Kimball's  
 9:33 Bethea's  
 10:55 Smithson's

**December 11**

8:15 Estelle Whiteside  
 9:33 Steppe's  
 10:55 Bob & Pam Pate

**December 18**

8:15 Carolyn Moore  
 9:33 Tim Patterson  
 10:55 Kirkpatrick's

**December 25**

10:55 Need Volunteer!

**Music**

**Greetings to all**

**Chancel Choir**

The MRUMC Chancel Choir together with the Hope UMC Chancel Choir is hard at work on our Christmas Musical "Hope is Born Emmanuel". The musical will be presented at Hope UMC on Friday evening Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00, MRUMC on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:55. This year's musical is a processional of the Invited. It reminds us that Hope is not lost, not out of reach, not gone!

HOPE IS BORN! EMMANUEL

**Jr. and Cherub Choirs**

The Jr. Choir is also working on their portion of "Hope is Born Emmanuel" and will be participating in all three worship services. Also, the Jr. Choir will be playing chimes and singing during our 6:00 Christmas Eve service.

**Hand Bell Choir**

MRUMC is blessed to have a great Hand Bell Choir. They will be playing in worship at 8:15 and 11:00 on November 27<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday in Advent.

The CD "Preludes" was a great experience that has been graciously received by our church and community. After many requests, Kevin and I will begin a 2<sup>nd</sup> CD shortly after the Christmas season. I think we will call it "Worship with Kevin and Steve", but we are open to suggestions.

We are all so blessed with the gifts God continues to bring our way. May we never forget that all our blessings flow from His hands. It is a great honor to be a part of that which God is blessing at Mills River United Methodist Church.

God's Blessings to All  
 Steve Carson



**HOPE IS BORN! EMMANUEL**

This is the time of year when the world gets too busy. There are gifts to buy and wrap, trees to decorate, food to cook, cards to send, parties to plan and lines we have to stand in. Why? It's not our birthday. This is a time for rejoicing, to be thankful for Blessings, for giving and sharing. It is a time of love and hope.

What is hope? For many today hope is a job and money to pay bills and put food on the table. Hope is a warm home and medicine for the sick. Most of us reading this have that security today, but what happens when suddenly all that we have worked for is gone? Where is our hope then?

My Hope, your Hope, the world's Hope came to us thousands of years ago. Hope came when the great magnificent power and Love of God came humbly to the earth He created. He revealed His majestic presence to a young girl. A girl who once found her shelter in the arms of God now shelters the Almighty and holds Him in her arms. She laid God in a feedbox and looked with love at the Hope of the world. The humble shelter of a stable becomes the Holy of Holies. A barn became the place where the whole world came to see Him, from the lowly shepherds to the regal kings of the East. They would all walk across a carpet of straw to enter this Holy Place. They too would look down in the manger and find the Hope they were seeking. On that silent Holy night, an eternal door was opened and every person, rich or poor, was invited to enter. Come and enter into the journey to find HIS LIGHT, HIS LOVE and HIS HOPE.

Come friends and strangers alike, for all is invited to worship on bended knee the new born King and cling to this Truth.

Hope is not lost.  
 Hope is not out of reach.  
 Hope is not gone.

Hope is the real gift under your tree. Unwrap it. Can you see it? It is the Son of Man -- Hope of the world and He looks like you and me.

My prayer is that you have indeed found the God of Hope and you are filled with His spirit of Christmas. We can not share this Hope if we have not found it ourselves.

**HOPE IS BORN! EMMANUEL**

## Mills River Life Enrichment Center

### October

*Civil War in WNC* presented by Tom Vernon. The museum was brought to MRLEC by Mr. Vernon's display of artifacts and interesting stories of their purpose.

*Identity Theft* presented by the Henderson County Sheriff's Department was a talk on all the current scams taking place in this area and advice on how to prevent becoming a victim of the scams.

### November

Pat Hammond Greenwald's portrayal of *Callie*, an Appalachian mountain woman, mesmerized the audience.

*Stories from Aunt Nellie's Mountain Home* was presented by Mountain Marionettes who entertained the entire audience.



### Programs for December:

**12/1** West Henderson High School Jazz Band

**12/8** Bingo!

**12/15** *Sounds of Christmas*, presented by the Woodwind Quintet

**12/ 22** NO MRLEC - Merry Christmas!

**12/29** NO MRLEC - Happy New Year!

### Ongoing Events:

In addition to the above programs each week, MRLEC provides Blood Pressure Checks - Chair Exercises @ 9:45am - Magazine Swap - A Nutritious Meal and Fellowship with Others.

### Mission Statement:

The mission of the Mills River Life Enrichment Center is to minister to the mind, body, and spirit of seniors in our churches and community by establishing a Christian based community center offering a place for fellowship, service, and enjoyment.

**All programs begin at 10 am and are held in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Lunch reservations are required for each program. Please call the MRLEC office (828) 808-5581 by noon the Tuesday before each program.**



### Visitation Ministries

If you or someone you know would like a visit from one of our church visitation teams, please call Rev. Paige Ann Miller at 828-424-0703 or e-mail [millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net](mailto:millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net). If you are willing to join a visitation team, we go out on Thursdays from 1-3 pm. You will be blessed, and you will certainly be a blessing!

### Welcome Table Updates

I appeal to everyone to become involved by committing to one Tuesday a month at the Welcome Table starting in December.

Thank you so much to my fellow cooks: Beverly and David Parris, Glenn and Karen Banning and Will and Ruby McClung. Thank you to all my Mills River volunteers (32 plus), the dessert team, and some folks from other churches. I really appreciate all your support!

Thanks again. Carol Weast

**MILLS RIVER  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**Sunday Worship**

8:15 am Traditional  
9:33 am Worship & Praise  
10:55 am Traditional

**Sunday School**

Children: 9:30 am  
10:50 am  
Adult: 9:45 am  
10:45 am

**Wednesday Night  
Services**

6:15 pm Prayer/Worship  
Service in the Chapel

**We're on the Web!**  
[millsriverumc.org](http://millsriverumc.org)

If you would be willing to receive our newsletter electronically instead of in hard copy, please contact the church office at 828-891-7788 or [erica\\_mrumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:erica_mrumc@bellsouth.net).

**Ministry and Staff**

The Rev. Paul B. Thompson . . . . . Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Paige Ann Miller . . . . . Associate Pastor/Youth Director  
Steve Carson . . . . . Director of Music  
Dean Cavanaugh . . . . . Worship Leader  
Shannon Barber . . . . . Children's Ministry  
Ruth Williams . . . . . MRLEC Director  
Kevin Robinson . . . . . Organist  
Erica Woodall . . . . . Administrator  
Gina Long . . . . . Custodian

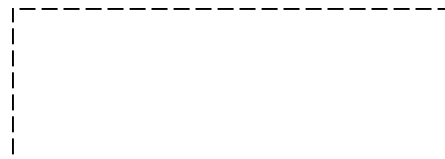
Office Hours: 9 am - 4 pm Mon - Fri  
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Newsletter E-mail: [fishrus8@morrisbb.net](mailto:fishrus8@morrisbb.net)



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