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Published in the Interest of
CHRIST - CHURCH - COMMUNITY
www.wbpresbyterian.org

VOLUME 51, No. 12

December 2014

My Christmas List...

Here we go again. It's that time of year where we are busy preparing to celebrate Christmas. The daily grind of ordinary tasks is compounded by the hustle and bustle of greeting cards, holiday food, lights and gift shopping. In the midst of all these demands, could you be satisfied with just one thing? I realize that we're being told to celebrate getting more and more - more gadgets, gizmos and games. But, can you imagine that there was only one item on your Christmas list. What would it be? Good health? A new job? Peace and justice throughout the world?

The Psalmist longs for just one thing - to be completely in the glorious presence of God. "One thing I asked of the Lord - to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life" (Psalm 27:4). Certainly, he knows that there are countless benefits from abiding in the Lord. He knows that there is love, healing, hope, joy and protection under the shadow of God's wings. I believe that if we pursued the Lord the way we chase so many other things, we would be less consumed with the thought of having more, more, more and instead experience peace in the One who completely satisfies our deepest needs.

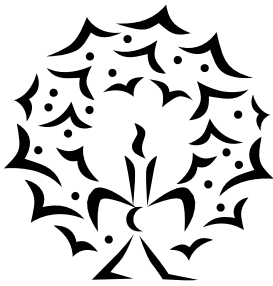
In the name of the One who was, and is and is to come,
Bruce



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 p.m.

Please join us as we mark the Advent season with a meaningful worship service, Hanging of the Greens. We will prepare the sanctuary and fellowship hall for this special season through music, readings, and placement of the greens and poinsettias. A reception in the fellowship hall will follow the service. Each family is asked to provide finger-food for the celebration. You may bring your food item to the kitchen before the service. Please invite neighbors and friends to join us as we celebrate! **A nursery will be provided for children through age four.**



Share the Joy of Advent at WBPC!

Help with church decorations not included in the Hanging of Greens service. Join us in the sanctuary Saturday morning, December 6, from 9-11 a.m., for a jolly time of decorating with church friends.

—Worship Committee

@TheTable Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 14, 5PM, Fellowship Hall

@TheTable will provide a special worship experience for the entire family. It's an intergenerational event with participation by all ages. Children and parents are invited to be angels, shepherds, sheep, or kings. You may dress in your own costume or come at 4:15 and we will provide you with a costume. No auditions, no rehearsals, no fuss, just a WBPC Christmas tradition.



Be a Christmas Angel for Children

Once again, the Board of Directors for Aventura West Children's Mentoring is providing you with the opportunity to be a Christmas angel for one of the children (grades 1st-5th) in their program. Please take a child's name from the Christmas swag hanging in the narthex beginning Sunday, November 23. Return **wrapped** gifts with the angel tag on the outside to the narthex by Sunday, December 7. Suggestions for gifts would be educational games, toys, and supplies. Suggested price range is \$20-\$25.



Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service

Wednesday, December 24

5:00PM in the sanctuary

(Infant nursery provided)

WIHN Week is November 30-December 7

Our next WIHN week is fast approaching and will be the week of November 30—December 7, and WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please consider helping as an evening host, overnight host, driver, meal preparer or set-up person. You may sign up online at <http://wbpresbyterian.com> or on the sign up board which is located in the narthex.



How I Would Like to Share the Joy of Advent at WBPC:

_____ Decorate - Saturday, Dec. 6, 9-11AM

_____ Lay read on Christmas Eve

_____ Water poinsettias (2-3 times)

_____ Tidy sanctuary after Christmas Eve service

_____ Remove decorations - Saturday, Jan 3., 9AM-12PM

Name: _____ e-mail: _____

Please tear out and place in offering plate or deliver to office. Thank you!

Neighborhood Caroling

Monday, December 22, 6:00 p.m.

Join in a Christmas caroling stroll through the neighborhood surrounding WBPC. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. This is for the young and the young-at-heart of all ages. A delicious soup supper begins at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. No need to bring a dish this year. But, reservations are necessary so we will have enough for all. At 7:00 p.m., we'll head out for caroling. Wear your walking shoes. Song sheets will be available. Bring a flashlight, and you'll not miss any of the lyrics. We'll serenade some of our nearby church members and afterwards return to the church to warm-up with cookies and cider. There will be different caroling routes, some walking and some driving.

Reservations are necessary. Sign up begins November 30. For more info, contact Janet Cherry 919-851-4713 x16, or music@wbpresbyterian.org.

Schedule a Christmas Carolers Visit

Would you like a visit by WBPC Christmas carolers on Monday, December 22?

Visits will be between 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Contact Janet Cherry at music@wbpresbyterian.org or 919-851-4713 x16 by December 15.

Additional Choir Rehearsals in December

Sunday, December 7

- 4:00 p.m. Chancel Ringers (sanctuary)
- 4:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (music room)
- 5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens service begins

Sunday December 14

- 9:00 a.m. Chancel Ringers (sanctuary)
- Chancel Ringers play prelude in morning worship

Wednesday, December 24

- 4:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (music room)
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service begins

Thank You to our Many Musicians

Throughout the year, we are blessed and inspired by the musical talents of so many of our church members. Especially at Advent and Christmas our musicians work extremely hard to prepare and share their gifts. I am always so appreciative of their time and efforts. When you see any of the good Christian folk who participate in our choirs, please give them your thanks and appreciation as well.

—Janet Cherry

Breakfast: Sunday, December 14



The Men of the Church will prepare and serve breakfast on December 14. (As they do every month on the 2nd Sunday of the month). Breakfast begins at 8:45 a.m.; join in the Advent fun and don't miss the most important meal of the day! Thank you Men of the Church!

Any & All Presbyterian Ladies!

Join us for our annual **Christmas Luncheon**. We will meet Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. on December 9 for food and merry fellowship at the **Relish Cafe**, 5625 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh.

Please call or email Marcia Bennett to reserve a seat: 919-851-3992 or sen1969@hotmail.com



Friday, December 19

D&S South Hills

11:30AM

Social Justice Forum

Sundays, 4:00 p.m. (3:30 for action) - On December 7, 14, and 21, we will be celebrating Advent. (No class on December 28). In January, we will return to a study of Israel/Palestine. Join us in the church library.

Winter Wednesday Night Live Begins!

Join your church family for fun and fellowship on Wednesday evenings. The winter session of Wednesday Night Live begins on January 14. All programs are designed to be inter-generational and fun. Invite your neighbors and friends and plan to be present!

Wonderful Winter Programs:

- January 14: Two Truths and One Lie
- January 21: AWCN / Banners / Backpack Buddies
- January 28: Apex High Guitar Band
- February 4: Building Bird Houses
- February 11: Prayer Sticks
- February 18: Ash Wednesday Service
- February 25: Bingo
- March 4: Chili Cook-Off
- March 11: Hip Hop Dancers
- March 18: Open Mic Night

Check out our website www.wbpresbyterian.org to find updated information about programs and meals.

Happy Birthday

Clarine Lynn	1
Shelby Townsend	2
Frank Bennett	4
Grace Odum	6
Charlotte Cassel	8
Kiersten Hall	8
Andy Kotnik	11
Connor Bayne	12
Nathan Cummings	13
Jo Gilmore	15
Ronny Pittman	16
Moriah Hall	18
Art Chard	19
Noah Milchuck	19
Carolyn Esbenshade	23
Edith Crawford	27
Elizabeth McClellan Allen	27
Teri Padgett	27
Lexi Craven	28
Randy Thomson	28
Jeanne Alderson	29

Mark Your Calendars

On Sunday, November 30, WBPC will enjoy an intergenerational Sunday School in the morning. The Parlor Class and the afternoon Sunday School for youth will meet as usual.

On Sunday, December 28, there will be only one worship service. It will be at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. Sunday School will not meet in the morning or in the afternoon.

On Sunday, January 4, both worship services and all Sunday School classes will meet as usual.

Children's Chapel Schedule

December 7 (No Children's Chapel)

December 14

The Story of Exekiel
 Storyteller: Phyllis Fann
 Greeter: Evan Barnette

December 21

Daniel and the Lion's Den
 Storyteller: Judy Shelton
 Greeter: Grace Odum

December 28

The Shepherds and The Magi
 Storyteller: Carol Parker
 Greeter: Katherine Anh Clapp

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Joyce Barbour, Louise Beck, Pat Byers, Kaye Byrd, Daisy Lowery, Gwen Orilio, John and Mary Jane Roberts, Dot and Jimmie Smith, Geneva Thigpen

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Ben Glasgow (brother of Lori Grippio), Ruthanne Munro, Lauren Snyder (granddaughter of LouGene and Jim Hemphill), Tommy Williams (brother of Joyce Emerson)

ABBOTSWOOD: Margaret Pittman

UNIHEALTH/THE OAKS: Betsy Roberts

BRIGHTON GARDENS: Jo Gilmore

SUNRISE REHAB: Dot Gebbie, Richard Lentz

*Sympathy extended to the family of **Eva Reopelle** upon her death on Wednesday, November 5.*



Thank you!

WBPC, We appreciate all the support our family has received in the way of cards, visits, phone calls, prayers, and delicious food following my recent surgery and recuperation. My family and I find comfort and strength in our faith and church family.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Susie and Bob Reynolds

Time Is Short, A Million Things To Get Done!

Actually, you have a million and one things to do before Christmas gets here. Please add one more item to your holiday "to do" list. Purchase an item or two for the Urban Ministry Food Bags. Canned beans, carrots, tomatoes, fruit, applesauce, grits, rice, grits, dried beans or milk, mac and cheese, canned meat cereal or some peanut butter. Whatever you donate off this list will be appreciated and will help to feed a hungry person in your area. Drop off your items any time outside the Fellowship Hall or in the narthex. It feels good to check off something on your "to do" list. Merry Christmas.

Betty's Final Month of Sabbatical is January 2015

Over the last year Betty has been taking time out for a 3-month sabbatical. She took one month last January, a second month in July, and will take her third and final month this coming January. Betty is exceedingly grateful to the Finance/Administration/Personnel Committee, the Session, and the congregation for recognizing the importance and gift of sabbatical. She has found this time to be tremendously helpful in renewing her energy after serving as pastor of WBPC for almost 10 years. Information regarding pastoral care oversight during the month of January will be forthcoming.

Have you hugged a member of the Christian Education Committee today?

Well, you should! Here's why:

In 2014, thanks to CE Committee, Sunday School Teachers, Children's Chapel Leaders and many more amazing volunteers, the following successes were achieved at WBPC:

- Over 20 new people were trained under our SafeChild Policy & many more renewed their covenant to protect the children & youth of our Church
- A new Sunday School class was initiated to provide a Christian Education opportunity for youth attending @TheTable. Classes were introduced at our Rally Day Kick Off Celebration: *New Beginnings*.
- A 4 week Intergenerational Sunday School series called "Faith & The Arts" was developed this summer
- 16 youth were confirmed & became members of WBPC
- New Bible Studies were held by Rev. Bruce Grady & Rev. Robert Owens, including our first online Bible Study
- 3 Intergenerational Sunday School fellowship opportunities were held
- A beautiful Palm Processional was organized on Palm Sunday
- 10 people were trained in our American Heart Association Heartsaver with AED Training classes. Participants ranged from preschool staff to nursery employees, parents, grandparents & church leaders
- A Graduate Recognition Ceremony was organized as part of the Baccalaureate Service
- Our 2nd most well-attended Vacation Bible School in recent years was held, with over 60 children growing with God
- Over 250 Sunday School classes were taught (when totaling all classes available throughout the year)
- 11 youth & 4 adults planned and attended an amazing Mission Trip to New Jersey to help with Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding & Recovery
- Children's Chapel completed its 11th year in May and started the 12th year in September, helping our young members to fulfill their commitment to help our children grow in their knowledge of the Bible, God and the life of Jesus
- Major playground improvements completed in conjunction with Property Committee, including tree pruning & removal
- The Preschool had full enrollment for the first time in many years, and the Preschool Board developed governing by-laws
- Jr High Youth attended Camp Don Lee Retreat
- Youth Co-Directors planned an exciting youth fellowship program on relationships, featuring dynamic speakers, culminating in a beautiful Youth Sunday Service
- Dave Grace received the only "Toyota Together Green Fellowship" that went to a faith community. He organized a network of Sr. High Youth from 3 different faith communities and our own, to complete conservation projects within faith communities & develop youth, faith-based conservation leaders.
- A fun & well-attended Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn was planned by the Youth in conjunction with the Fellowship Committee
- Significant donations of money & food to both Backpack Buddies and the Yahve Jire Playground Fund were collected from Sunday School Classes

What wonderful opportunities we have had the joy to share with you over the past year.

We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did & that you continue to take advantage of the gifts of lifelong learning and fellowship afforded here at Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church.

Meals on Wheels in December!

WBPC's next delivery dates is Monday, Dec. 29, 11AM. Will you join me by taking a route? Call Marcia Bennett, 919-851-3992. It is the 40th anniversary of Wake County Meal's on Wheels and WBPC has been helping probably since the very beginning! They have just delivered their **8 millionth meal!** Thank you all for helping this along all these years! It is a wonderful service!

Year-end Giving

2014 gifts must be hand delivered to the church office or post marked no later than December 31, 2014. Any contributions delivered or postmarked after December 31, and any checks dated January 2015 will be credited to 2015 contributions. Please clearly indicate 2014 or 2015 on the memo line of your check.

WBPC Financial Report

	<u>OCTOBER 2014</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Pledges	\$ 20,685.50	268,678.86
Open	2,163.95	22,772.19
Church School	56.00	808.99
Total Offering	22,905.45	292,260.04
Prior Receipts		106.18
Expenses	<u>34,346.00</u>	<u>306,573.27</u>
Net Total	\$ (11,440.55)	(14,172.05)

Please Help Us Catch Up

Sometimes our operating budget pledges run behind in the fall. We are again in that situation. Please review your recently received statements or contact the church office if you have questions about your status, and if needed, try to catch up on your commitment if at all possible. We greatly appreciate your faithfulness.

Stewardship Update

Your Part is Indispensable! If you have not already submitted a pledge card for our 2014 general budget, we pray you will do so very soon; you can make a world of difference! Summary on General Pledges received thus far: \$317,123 or 81.1% of budget pledge goal.

Christmas Tree Arrival

Christmas trees are arriving and should be picked up in the WBPC parking lot either on Friday, December 5 from 4-6PM or on Saturday, December 6, from 9AM-12PM. Payment should be made at time of pickup. Checks for trees should be made out to WBPC with "Christmas Tree" in the memo line.



The church staff wishes you a very merry Christmas. It is a joy to work among you and we are grateful for the opportunity.

—Betty, Bruce, Janet, Santi, Van, Dave, Mollie, and Bobbi

Church Staff

Betty Connette (x11)

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Dave Grace

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Mollie Tucker

Youth Fellowship

Bobbi Cross (233.9967)

Preschool Director

wbppdirector@gmail.com

Church Office

919-851-4713

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00AM-2:00PM

Office will be closed 12/25, 12/26, and 1/1.