



2011

OUR CHURCH NEWS

“O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

From my Heart to yours...

“The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” (O Little Town of Bethlehem)

What are your hopes and fears this Christmas? Do you ever feel tired or discouraged? Do you ever feel alone, forgotten, invisible? Have you ever felt the burden of standing up for what is right and true and pure? Does spiritual exhaustion ever overtake you? Waiting, and looking, and waiting some more, do you ever ask, “What am I waiting for? Is it worth it? Where is the hope?”

Some within the Christian community of Rome must have experienced these same feelings. Otherwise, Paul would not have felt compelled to write as he does towards the end of his letter to this expanding group of people trying to live life in Christ in the most difficult times. In Chapter fifteen, Paul reminds his friends of the promise from the prophet Isaiah, *“The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; and all people will hope in him.”* (12) The promise is fulfilled. Our hope is found in Jesus. Then Paul prays for the church, *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (13)

God encourages people in their waiting. God remains steadfast, even when we may feel ignored or abandoned by others. When God comes, when we respond to God's embrace, we sing! Though we are many, we sing as one, because a song to the glory of God unites our hearts and voices. Life becomes a song to sing.

Charles Wesley must have had something like this in mind as he contemplated the coming of Christ. He wrote “Away with our Fears,” an unusual hymn: *“Away with our fears: The Godhead appears; In Christ reconciled; The Father of mercies in Jesus the child.”*

By coming to us in Christ, God demonstrates steadfast love, encourages, fulfills, triumphs, redeems, elevates. God restores hope and fills us with love. May we find time in the midst of the busyness of the season to deeply look upon the manager and quietly receive God's gift!

“And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.”
(O Little Town of Bethlehem)

Pastor Terry

LET US PRAY

God of steadfastness and encouragement, as we await the coming of Jesus, lift our spirits and restore our hope, through the power of your Spirit, for we put our trust in you. Amen.

Bryson City Presbyterian Church
311 Everett Street P.O. Box 549 Bryson City, NC 28713
Phone: 828-488-2480 bcpc@bcpcusa.org



CHRISTMAS EVE
Moravian Love Feast 6 PM
Lessons, Carols & Candlelight 8 PM

Christmas Day
Lessons & Carols-11:00 am

What is The Moravian Love Feast Tradition?

The holding of Love Feasts in the fashion of the Apostolic Church has come to be one of the most valued traditions of the Moravian Church. The service, which originated in the first gatherings of Christians after Pentecost, was adopted in the Moravian Church in 1727 during a time of great spiritual blessing. The meal consist of a sweet coffee and buns and is shared to express the joy and unity within the fellowship of Christ.

The Christmas Candle Service

The custom of holding Christmas Candle Services and of giving a burning wax taper to everyone present in the sanctuary had its beginnings in 1747. In a Christmas Eve Service held for children, the leader used the light of a candle to teach a spiritual lesson concerning the flame of love in their hearts for Christ! The practice was first used in America during Christmas in 1756. In 1762 Christmas candles were first put to use in North Carolina. Today we continue to stress the light which came into the world, that is to be reflected in our witness and testimony to Him!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Presbyterian Women-Christmas gathering,
December 8, 6:00 pm at Jessie's Greyer's home

Storyteller, Donna Marie Todd, Sunday worship,
December 11- lunch and decorating the church after service.

Children Christmas-December 14, 6:30, Potluck
Supper & Program

Sewing Mission Workshop



December 28th has been chosen as the day the PW will be sewing dresses made from pillow cases. We will start at 10 am and work till 1 pm. Bring a sandwich; child care will be furnished.



OUR CHURCH NEWS

“O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<u>1</u> Michael Letterman (b) Buddy Parton (b) Carolyn & Roger Schneider (a)	<u>2</u> Jon-Patrick Barclay (b)	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> Second Sunday of Advent	<u>5</u> Ann Edison (b)	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> PW Christmas Party 6 pm Jessie Greyer Josh Stevenson (b)	<u>9</u> Frela Beck (b)	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> Thrid Sunday of Advent Story Teller Donna Marie Todd Lunch and Decorate Church	<u>12</u> Session 6:30 PM	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Children Christmas Program Potluck Supper 6:30	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> Jean Douthit	<u>17</u> Greg & Jeannie Salyer (a)
<u>18</u> Forth Sunday of Advent	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Frances & Larry Cline (a)	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Steve Claxton (b)	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Sally Swan (b) CHRISTMAS EVE Moravian Love Feast 6:00 Carols & Candlelight 8:00
<u>25</u> CHRISTMAS DAY Lessons & Carols 11:00 	<u>26</u> JoEllen Cline (b)	<u>27</u> Judy & Ray Barclay (a) Patsy & Keith Hartsfield (a)	<u>28</u> Janet & Jim Martin (a) PW Dress sewing 10:00AM	<u>29</u> Frances Cline (b)	<u>30</u> Debbie Drennan (b) Joe & Peggy Ashley (a)	<u>31</u> Jackson Garrett (b)

The Meaning of "Advent"

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.