



A Celebration of Faith

The Messenger

Edenton United Methodist Church

December 2009

Thoughts from our Pastor

Tidings of great joy . . .

With the approach of Christmas comes a sense of anticipation for Christ's glorious return, and an awareness that in the gift of God's Son we have all been touched by God's grace. It is grace from a loving Father who identifies with us in our joys and sorrows, our pain and suffering, and in the fullness of our humanity. He became *one of us*. The angel said:

"Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord."

—Luke 2:10-11

With the words listed above the angels heralded the greatest, most significant event in human history- the birth of a Savior, Christ, the Lord. Much that is important for us is in those three words: **Savior, Christ, Lord**.

Jesus, son of Mary and Son of God, is our **Savior**. He came to save us from the burden of our sins and to bring us close to God, to open to us the kingdom of heaven. He came to show us the way to live in wholeness in God and to restore us to favor with God. Jesus showed us how to live with each other, how to love and serve one another, as his followers. He called us to be his *disciples*, a privilege that carries with it the duty to love others with Christ-like love.

Jesus, son of Mary, Son of God, is the **Christ** who was foretold in the sacred holy Scriptures of the Hebrew Nation. We affirm this by faith, that Jesus is the *Anointed One* whose coming was prophesied as a promise of God many years before the night when the angels heralded his birth. We believe that He is the one spoken of by the prophet Isaiah: *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* [Isaiah 9:6]

Jesus, son of Mary, Son of the Father, is **Lord** of all. The earliest Christian affirmation of faith was the statement, "Jesus is Lord." To say that Jesus is Lord means that in every way Jesus is *the priority in your life*; He is the *center* of your being; He is the *source* of your strength, your hopes, and your desires. Jesus the Lord must come *first* in your life; when you give Him that place of honor, He blesses, sanctifies, and perfects you in His love.

We are reminded that Jesus is "the reason for the season." Truly, for without Him, we would have nothing to celebrate, nothing to give, nothing to receive. Thanks be to God for His great love come down for us at Christmas!

Charles

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are nearing the end of a challenging financial year. The signs are hopeful that your giving will match our needs, and that we will be able to fulfill all of our obligations. We still need your faithful stewardship! As we enter the Advent/Christmas Season, please consider what more you can do to assist the mission and operation of Edenton United Methodist Church. Your special contribution will allow us to meet all of our obligations.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

Rolfe Schroeder, Chair
Stewardship Committee

BUGET NEEDED	\$446,923
JAN—NOVEMBER	
COLLECTED	\$344,468
THROUGH	
NOVEMBER	
TOTAL SHORT-	\$102,455

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

DECEMBER 16

5:30 PM

On Wednesday, December 16th, at 5:30 pm we will have a delicious dinner to raise money for our church apportionments. The menu consists of park tenderloin, green beans, baked potatoes, coleslaw and assorted desserts.

We will be entertained by our church "Joy Choir". Come and join in the fellowship and help with the cause.

The Messenger

Please leave your items for the January issue by **Sunday, December 27th** in the Messenger Mailbox in the church office.

Thoughts from Associate Pastor

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of our youth in the past few months as they have raised funds for their trips and activities. You made it possible for them to be a part of this year's Conference Pilgrimage event in Fayetteville. I was very proud to be a part of the Edenton UMUC Youth Group which was represented by 32 youth and 4 adults. Our youth did a phenomenal job with a music video which was presented on Saturday night. Wes rocked with the house band! Donovan stood before over 6,000 youth and spoke of God's healing and transforming grace in his life. Thank you for helping to make that possible.

Last Sunday evening the UMYF made and delivered Thanksgiving fruit baskets to members of our church and community. It was wonderful to see the faces of surprise when the youth knocked on doors to deliver a basket of cheer and love. "I can't believe you remembered me", was one woman's remark. "Jesus does", one youth replied. The conversation in the car centered on the fact that something as simple as a basket of bananas and grapes can be as powerful as prayer and many times is the answer to prayer.

On December 20, the UMYF will be hosting a Christmas Party at the Skilled Nursing Facility. We are again hoping to serve the love of Christ with a cookie and a cup of chocolate. It doesn't require a lot of money or time to be a witness for Jesus Christ. It just takes the realization that it is not about you. It's not about making yourself happy or comfortable. It's not about building yourself up or preserving your own name. It's about Him. It's about giving away everything that God has given you. "For God so loved the world that He gave... His only Son..." (John 3:16, emphasis mine). If God gave to us freely, then we ought to freely give as well.

As we enter this Advent season, I encourage you to consider your motives for giving. Every gift we give should be given with Christ in mind. Every gift we receive should be received with Christ in mind. It's all about him. It's all about his love and his grace. It's all about allowing him to be at the heart of everything we do.

I have been teaching the Middle School Youth Christian Education Class at 11 am for the past several months. Our slogan for the New Year is "Whatever." We want to do whatever it takes to be a witness of God's love. We want to use whatever we have to change the lives of God's people, whatever their circumstances maybe, whatever the cost. Keep your eyes open, these youth are out to change the world!

Wishing you a Blessed and Holy Advent Season,

Pastor Susie

HEALING AT THE MANGER:

A WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS RETREAT

All ladies of the church are invited to be a part of a one day Christmas journey to the manger. On Saturday January 23 from 10-3, we will explore the Christmas story and discover our part in it. The promise of a Messiah is a promise of hope and salvation. It is a promise of restoration and healing. As we journey to the manger in celebration of the birth of Christ, we will look closely at our need for a Savior. What in us is lost, broken and living in darkness? Why are we in need of a Redeemer and Healer?

"Healing at the Manger" is a part of Pastor Susie's ordination project. Parts of the event will be video taped for a presentation. If you would like to participate in this day of reflection please call the church office to register.

THIS AND THAT

"PEACE LIKE A RIVER?"-Would you like a copy of the Youth's Music Video. They are available for a donation to Zoe Ministry. Please contact Pastor Susie or call the church office to reserve your copy.

A NEW BIBLE Study is being offered on Tuesday evenings. Pastor Susie is leading a study of the gospel of Luke. Come join this great adventure.

Pastor Charles continues his exploration of The Book of the Revelation on Thursday mornings a 9

am. You are welcome to be part of this challenging study.

The Witness Committee will host a "Welcome Dinner" for teachers of Chowan County on Tuesday, December 15. We are expecting about 24 teachers, 7 of which will be new teachers. We are so glad to have the opportunity to let our new teachers, as well as our experienced teachers, know they are appreciated by our church and the community.



United Methodist Women Women's Division

The United Methodist Women's (UMW) Christmas party will be Thursday, December 17, at 7 PM at the home of a member. Bring your favorite dessert, cookies, or other "goodies" to share. If you would like to carpool, meet on the Fellowship Hall side of the church at 6:30 PM to travel to Merry Hill. All EUMC women are invited for an evening of fellowship.

Dates for your calendar:

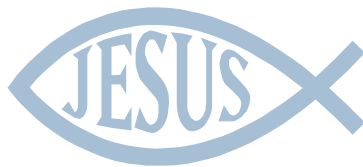
Jan. 10, 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. - Baby shower

Jan. 30 - District Mission Study at Bethany UMC, Wanchese

Feb. 20 - South Region Meeting at EUMC - **We are hosting!**

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

I hope you will plan to be a part of these youth events. If you have any questions please call 312-0546.



Dec. 6 Youth Band Rehearsal 4 pm Meeting at 5 pm

Dec. 9 UMYF Fund Raiser Dinner 5:30

Dec. 5 Holly Ball- Mt. Olivet UMC Church in Manteo This is a special night of fun, fellowship,

dance and food. All youth of the district are invited to attend this event. Formal attire is not required but suggested to help capture the evening's theme of "A Night with the Stars- A Red Carpet Affair". The cost is \$10 per person. We will leave the church at 4:30 pm and return home approx. 10:30 pm.

December 13- Community Youth Christmas Caroling 4:30

We are to meet at the Baptist Church at 4:30 for an afternoon of caroling and fun. We will leave EUMC at 4:15.

Dec. 20 Christmas Party at Skilled Nursing 5 pm

We will carry a Christmas Party next door to the residents of the skilled nursing facility.

More information will be given at the meetings.

***Dec. 29 Ice Skating at Chilled Ponds in Chesapeake, Va. ***(Yep, that's a Tuesday)

Meet at the church at 10 am. We will head to Chesapeake, have lunch at the Mall, and then enjoy an afternoon of ice skating. Skating is \$8 per person. You will need money for lunch. We will be home by 5:00 pm. Please bring a permission slip. Sign up in the Youth Room.

Mark your calendar for February 12-14. The Elizabeth City District Youth Beach Retreat will be held at the Ramada Inn in Nags Head. More info is coming.

WITNESS & VISITATION COMMITTEE NEWS

We held a "Young Adult Social" at the church on October 25 with plenty of food, games and candy. Sixteen adults and twenty-four children attended the event. It was a big success, and the men are considering making volleyball competition a quarterly event. Please keep posted on the next social to be planned around early spring.

Visit the church website at <http://www.edentonumc.org>.
The website has the latest information and activities.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The season of Advent has begun. All classes will study the fulfillment of God's promise to send the Messiah. Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season. This is a good time to study the scriptures and experience the traditions of our Christian faith.

There are classes for all age levels—nursery, Pre-K thru Senior High on Sunday mornings. There are four adult classes: the Holmes class, Men's bible Study, Pairs and Spares and Seekers at 10 am and the Wesley class at 11 am.

All are welcome!



**American
RedCross**

This coming January, our church will begin sponsorship of Red Cross Blood Drives in our Family Life Center. Blood drives are held every other month; the next one is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5.

This is an excellent ministry, providing blood for people with cancer, premature infants, as well as hundreds of others in our community. Every day the Red Cross needs to collect 600-700 units to keep up with local needs.

Volunteers will be needed. If you can help, contact the church.

THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

One of the things that I have always appreciated about churches has been the location of final resting places or cemeteries nearby. Often in my ministry, there has been a little plot of land on the church grounds where one could go and see the stones marking the graves of old family members gone to be with Jesus. For the people of those churches, this was a very real sign of the communion of the saints.

Our Board of Trustees is revealing plans to use the inner courtyard enclosed by our building as a place that will become a memorial garden. One thing we are considering is to remove the graves from our Oakum Street property, and bring those remains to a place in the courtyard. The second thing we are considering is the creation of a columbarium, an above-ground place for the deposit of cremated remains. More and more people are considering cremation as an option at the end of their lives. This would be a place of prayer, a place of peace, a place to remember our loved ones for generations to come.

The Trustees would like to have input from you as a member of the congregation. Several people have already expressed great enthusiasm for this project. We will post examples of columbaria on the bulletin boards around the church. A place here at the church for those remains would be for us a very real sign of the communion of the saints.

So drop me a line in the mail, Pastor Charles, P.O. Box 37, Edenton, NC 27932, send me an e-mail edentonchurch1@embarqmail.com, call me on the phone 482-3269, or speak with one of our Trustees. Thank you in advance for your input!

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

DECEMBER 13TH

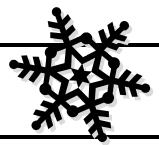
The need at the Edenton/Chowan Food Pantry continues to grow as unemployment is high in Chowan County. In November, the pantry served 255 families. Christmas baskets will be given out on December 18th. To fill these baskets, the Food Pantry needs EUMC to donate **DRIED POTATOES**. Also needed are canned green beans, yams, and cranberry sauce. Your assistance is greatly needed.


METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men invite the entire congregation to breakfast on Sunday, December 20 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for fellowship along with eggs, sausage, biscuits, pancakes and more! This is our Christmas gift to the people of the church. Come join us!



DECEMBER 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 *10 am Exercise *11:15 am Prayer Shawl *12 pm AA *6:30 pm Language Bridges Classes *7 pm Bible Study	2 *12 pm AA *5:30 pm Wednesday Night Dinner *6:15 pm Christian Ed Class *7:30 pm Choir Practice *8pm AA	3 *9 am Bible Study *10 am Exercise *11 am Weight Watchers *11:15 am Prayer Shawl *12 pm AA *1:30 pm Joy Choir	4 *10 am Soaking Prayer *12:30 pm AA 9:30 pm 5th Quarter	5 *10 am AA
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9 am Men's Bible Class Breakfast *4:30 pm Celebrations Team Practice *5 pm Symphonies of Praise & UMYF	7 *7 pm Albemarle Chorale Practice *8 pm AA *8 pm Al-anon	8 8 am Iredell House Wreath Making	9 5:30 pm UMYF Fund Raiser Dinner	10 7 pm Albemarle Chorale Concert	11	12
13 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY 4:30 pm Community Youth Christmas Caroling	14	15 12 pm Lunch Bunch 4 pm New Teacher's Dinner	16 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Dinner fund raiser	17 7 pm UMW Christmas Party	18 7 pm Healing Prayer Service	19
20 NO 9 AM SERVICE 9 am Methodist Men's Church-wide Christmas Breakfast	21	22	23 Church Office Closed	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service Church Office Closed	25 Church Office Closed 	26
27	28	29 Youth Ice Skating @ Chilled Ponds	30	31 Church Office Closed	* denotes same time each week	

THANK YOU

Language Bridges thanks the anonymous donor for their much appreciated generosity. Thanks, Lucille.

NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MENUS

Come join the fellowship as we bread together and enjoy each others company. Dinner is served at 5:30 and you are invited!



Dec. 2 Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and rolls

Dec. 9 Baked Ziti, salad, garlic bread -UMYF Fund Raiser

Dec. 16 JACK'S FAMOUS MARINATED PORK LION DINNER-
(fundraiser for church apportionments)

Dec. 23 No Dinner

Dec. 30 Soup and Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

You won't want to miss Jack's Marinated Pork Lion Dinner! Be sure to make a reservation by calling the church office.

