



# FAITH @ FIRST

*McKenzie First United Methodist Church exists to worship God and enable open-minded people to discover the freedom of God's grace through Jesus Christ.*

November 24, 2010

## A WORD from the PASTOR

This coming Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, is the first Sunday of Advent. For Christians the season of Advent is a spiritual preparation time before Christmas.

In Western Christianity, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ. During this time, Christians observe a season of prayer and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope and joy.

Many Christians celebrate Advent for three reasons:

1. Thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby,
2. And, also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit,
3. Then finally many Christians celebrate advent in preparation and anticipation of Christ's final coming at the end of time.

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.

This belief provides a basis for God's Kingdom and for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times". This means we are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people.

Therefore, during Advent we Christians celebrate God's in-breaking into history in the Incarnation. And we anticipate a future consummation of history, for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption".

This calls the Church to confess its own responsibility, as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself.\*

\*The Voice Institute

*Peace,  
Larry*

Sunday, Nov. 28: Hanging of the Greens



## Angel Tree

It's again time for our Christmas Angel Tree. FUMC elves will have it set up Sunday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. Pick one (or more), and children will thank you. Our angels this year will represent students in need who attend McKenzie Elementary School. Gifts are due back to the church by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Sunday Night-Lights

Anyone interested in learning how and operating the sound system for Sunday Night Lights please talk with Fred. It requires approximately a 2.5 hour commitment from 5:45-8:15 p.m. Sundays every week for both the services and practice sessions.

### Member Christmas Cards

Be sure to take advantage of our **church post office** for your **Christmas cards** to fellow members. There is a box outside the church office to put them in; be sure the name is clearly written on the envelope. Mullins Sub-Group and the Middle School youth have joined forces to save you postage. Diane Harvey has made beautiful "gifts" with pockets for cards that we will have hanging in the lobby and the youth will be sorting the cards into the pockets. Please check your pocket each Sunday from Dec. 5 until Dec. 19 to get your cards. They will also be **delivering** to our members that are **homebound and in assisted living facilities**, so please be sure to include them on your list.



**It's not too late** to turn in your estimate of giving card for 2011 if you haven't already. Blank ones are available on the Narthex table. These cards help us to plan the operating budget.

**Please pray for...** Family of Johnny Cooper; Al & Meredith Lampley; Oscar & Sarah Owen; Johnny, Trudy, Rosemary Radford; Lynn Dorris; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Carla, Walter & Bubba Waddle; Peggy Chappell; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vickie Foster; James Taylor; Joan Putman; Doris Story; Mary Elizabeth Barnhart; Peggy Barnhart; First Place 4 Health Participants; Karen May; Barbara Shiney; Debbie Riley; Roberta Newman; Casey Lynch; Joyce Mount; Darlene Martinez; Becky Herron & Buttercup; Bro. Riley & family; The whole world and all who live on it; Michael Giles; Courtney Worlds; J. T. Riley; Sandy Hutt; Bob & Jane Duvall; Those facing the holiday season without their loved ones; Thomas Roditis; Ken Butler; Lossie Beers; Don David; Charlotte McGuiness; Bill & Betty Featherstone; Sam Featherstone; Bev Nord; Brandon Langley; Betty Annis; Dr. Carl Freeman; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Bob & Jo Newton; Lucy Hickman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Sybil King; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Lola Alexander; Jim Purcell; Al Ownby; Ina Faye Hall & family; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Our troops overseas and at home.

**The next week at our church**

**Sunday, November 28**

Hanging of the Greens  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class  
 10:50 a.m. Worship Service  
 5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health  
 6:00 p.m. Peals of Praise handbell practice  
 7:00 p.m. Praise Band practice

**Tuesday, November 30**

Mountain Mission Pick-up

**Wednesday, December 1**

11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel  
 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study  
 5:00 p.m. ages 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas practice  
 5:30 p.m. C & Y Christmas project  
 6:00 p.m. FLOW meal  
 Menu: Hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.  
 6:15 p.m. Middle school age Christmas practice  
 6:30 p.m. C & Y classes  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK**

**ACOLYTES** – Timothy Dillon  
**LITURGIST** – Fred Sistler  
**NURSERY** – Amanda Oakley, Emily Archer  
**GREETERS** – Larry & Dianne Anderson  
**USHERS** – Jerry Archer; chairperson,  
 Mike Laughrey, Joe Williams

**November 27 Meals on Wheels Angels**

Cooks: Fred & Audrey Sistler  
 Delivery: Jill Holland, Glenn Sacks

**December 1 FLOW Kitchen Angels**

Crew Leader: Clark Brown; Bill & Margaret Stoner, Betsy Campbell, Joan & Hoot Gibson, Bettie Scates, Sandi McMahan, Pam & Eddie Freeman, Brenda Berryman, Elaine Brown, Debbie Riley

**November United Neighbors needed items:**  
 deodorant; soup

**Telephone numbers to reach the pastor: office 352-2456; home 352-2730; cell 731-617-0142. Please don't hesitate to call if you have a need.**

**FUMC Staff**



**J. Larry Riley, Pastor**  
**John Pugh, Pastor Emeritus**  
**Fred Sistler, Director of Ministries**  
**Charlene Jones, Director of Music**  
**Sandra McMahan, Organist, Handbell Director**  
**Donna Bruce & Gina King, C & Y Directors**  
**Kathy Patterson, Administrative Assistant**

**CHILDREN & YOUTH news**

Our **Middle School Youth** spent this past Sunday afternoon cleaning a church members yard as part of their community service projects. Thank you to Lexie Bolin, Anna Anderson, Austin Paschall, Larson King, Gus Glass, Timothy Dillon, and Tanner, Deja, Kayla and Chelsea from our Wednesday night group. Great job!

**Dec. 3rd & 4th** - Christmas ornament sale at Mistletoe Market (Alexander Hall). Handmade by the Wed. night youth.

**Dec. 12th** - Youth will be performing with Sunday Night Lights. It will be a fantastic performance you won't want to miss.

**Dec. 15th** - Family Game Night - Fun Christmas games (with prizes!) planned for all. Come and enjoy a potluck dinner beginning at 5:30, games start at 6:00. This is the last FLOW for 2010.

**Jan. 5th** - FLOW returns

**Methodist Mountain Mission**

The next Mountain Mission pick-up date is next Tuesday, November 30. Urgent needs this time are Christmas toys, household items, good usable furniture, underwear, socks, and shoes. Of course, all other items are gratefully accepted as well.



Can you believe it? Another year is about to draw to a close. There are a few things for December's calendar that you will want to make note of.

**Advent** begins this coming Sunday with Hanging of the Greens. This special service will get us in the spirit of things to come.

Bring your **Christmas cards** for fellow members here until December 19<sup>th</sup>, and check your "pocket" for cards from others each week.

Wednesday morning **Prayer in the Chapel** is at 11 a.m. each week.

If you signed up to eat at Patti's, that's **Dec. 11**.

**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** is *Sunday Night Lights*, and our children and youth will be taking part in this service.

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** – last FLOW of the year, pot luck meal and family fun time.

Angel Tree gifts are due back here **Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Our annual Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata will be **Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service.** If you've never experienced this one, you don't know what you are missing. It is the perfect beginning to Christmas Day.

**December 25<sup>th</sup> – Happy Birthday Jesus!**

**Tribute Cookbooks are great gifts!**

The cost is just \$12.00 each, so pull out your Christmas list and take care of your shopping. Also available is a bargain package of the (old) Heritage Cookbook and the (new) Tribute Cookbook for \$20.00.