



THE CENTRAL ISSUE

CENTRAL UMC SHELBY IS A SAFE SANCTUARIES CHURCH

Our MISSION: To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God,
GROW in their faith, and SERVE in the church and world.

December 20, 2017
Volume 26, No. 51

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Mark L. Barden, Senior Pastor
Fawn Mikel, Director of Discipleship & Outreach
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries
Nick Richart, Director of Youth Ministries
Libby Alexander, Organist
Gina Blanton, Director of Communications
Dianne Whisnant, Financial Secretary
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director
Alan Hughes, Facilities Manager
Dan Treharne, Director of Worship Media
Stacy Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor

Christmas Greetings and an Invitation from the Senior Pastor

As we enter this holy season of the year, I realize just how blessed I am by God's blessings. For me, it is a time of thanksgiving and reconfirmation of my faith in God who loved humanity so much that the Divine became incarnate in human flesh to truly show us the way of life. This congregation is one of the gifts I cherish this year. Your warm embrace and support of me as your pastor, the sharing of your love in tangible ways and the enthusiasm you share in fulfilling the mission of the church has touched me deeply. Thank you for your acceptance of The Bardens into your church family.

One simple way we wish to say "thank you" is to invite you to an open house at the parsonage at 903 Duke St. on Saturday, Dec. 22, from 4 to 7 p.m. Just drop in as you are. Take a break from shopping and the hustle of the season to enjoy refreshments and fellowship with your parsonage family. This is just one small way we can hopefully add joy to your celebration of Christ's birth.

May God give each of you the most amazing Christmas you have ever experienced. And, in the immortal words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us every one!"

With warm love and Christmas blessings,

Mark



A Gift for You: Devotionals for the 12 Days of Christmas

To enrich your Christmas season, a devotional booklet for the 12 Days of Christmas has been prepared, which will be available to you on Christmas Eve as a gift of the season from the church staff. Sometimes we forget Christmas is not just one day, but a season of twelve days from sunset Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) through Epiphany (Jan. 6). The twelfth day of Christmas, Epiphany, an even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ and Christ's baptism. Today, it commemorates the visiting of the Christ Child by the Magi (Wise Men) with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

So, the celebration doesn't end on December 25. It continues on for 12 days. May God bless you during this special time of year. For creative ideas to celebrate the Christmas season, go to

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/celebrate-the-season-12-ideas-for-the-12-days-of-christmas>.



We are excited to announce the addition of Savanna Craig to the Central UMC staff as our part-time Children's Ministry Coordinator. Some of you may have met her at the ADVENTure to Christmas as she assisted in creating Advent wreaths. If so you probably realized fairly quickly that Savanna is outgoing, fun and loves children!

Savanna grew up in Waynesville, graduating from Gardner-Webb University with a Bachelor of Science in psychology. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Divinity at GWU. Savanna comes with great experience in children's ministry and an eagerness to help children grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Please feel free to welcome Savanna to the CUMC family as she begins regular, scheduled hours in January. May we assist Savanna as she enters God's calling and helps us fulfill our own calling to nurture and empower God's children.

**December 24-30, 2017
Calendar of Events**

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Advent)
8:30am Praise Ensemble
9:00am TRIBES
9:00am Sunday School for all Ages
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Wesley Class (All Adults Welcome)
5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service
11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday—Merry Christmas!

9:00am Church Office Closed
11:00am No Prayer Team

Tuesday

Counseling Center closed
9:00am Church Office Closed
11:30am Hot Lunch Program (PAC)
7:15pm NO Central Ringers Practice

Wednesday

9:00am Church Office opens
10:30am Staff Meeting
6:00pm NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:15pm NO Praise Ensemble Rehearsal

Thursday

Counseling Center closed
9:00am Church Office opens

Friday

9:00am Church Office opens

Saturday

11:30am Hot Lunch Program (PAC)

2017 Stewardship

10:00am Worship (December 17).....293
Sunday School (December 17).....83
2017 Operating Budget.....\$762,448.60
2017 Monthly Budget Needs.....\$63,537.38
Total Receipts for Month of December....\$46,010.01
Total Receipts for 12/10/17-12/14/17.....\$20,333.00
Total Receipts for 12/17/17-12/21/17.....\$15,836.01

Christmas Dinner for the Hungry



This year CUMC's Hot Lunch Program will serve chili, cornbread, and pie ala mode at noon on Christmas Day. We still need volunteers to help us serve that day and

others on Saturday, the 23rd at 2 p.m. to help us fill Goodie Bags to hand out that day (Aldersgate has provided socks and gloves for each bag!). Please call 704-480-6082 (Barbara/Dick) to volunteer. Thank you.

Serving Sunday, December 24, 2017



The Guppies

Sunday School and Worship:
Amy Lookabill

Nursery Volunteer

The Stars

Sunday School and Worship:
Linda Zachary

Collection Counters:

Beverly Putnam and Jim Morgan

Collection Counters for 12/31/2017:

Beverly Putnam and Brad Richardson

Collection Counters for 1/7/2018:

Jim Morgan and Mitch Hensley

Sunday School Assistant:

Janet Edwards

Sunday School Assistant for 12/31/2017:

Jim Lutz

Children's Sermon for 12/24/2017:

Rev. Fawn Mikel

Children's Sermon for 12/31/2017:

Caroline Laney

- December 24 Gary Staymate
- December 24 Charles Peeler
- December 25 Bob Gidney
- December 26 Cathy Rempson
- December 27 Lou Whisnant
- December 27 Rex Whicker
- December 27 Kelsey Whicker
- December 28 Gracie Schmutz
- December 29 Mary McLarty
- December 29 Laurie Hendrick
- December 29 Jay Morgan
- December 30 Jane Mauney
- December 30 Ruth Blackwood
- December 30 Bill Arey
- December 30 Tucker Craig
- December 30 Ellen Keeley



December Birthdays

We hope that you and your family will spend



December 21st, 7 pm - Service of Light and Darkness in the Fellowship Hall

December 23rd, 4-7 pm - Parsonage Open House

December 24th, 10 am - Fourth Sunday of Advent Service

December 24th, 5 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24th, 11 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 31st, 10 am - Lessons and Carols will be shared as we celebrate Christmas!

January 7th, 9-9:45 am - Worship Workshop celebrating Epiphany!

January 7th, 10 am - Epiphany Service

January 10th, noon - Kid's Place Epiphany Service in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited.

Inclement Weather Policy

The following notifications will take place in regards to Sunday services, events, meetings and church office hours.

****WCNC TV will be the TV station to check for church updates.**

****Our website Cumshelby.org and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cumshelby/, will also have updated information.**

****Those that get the newsletter by email will receive an email.**

****If you have questions or need to contact the staff during such weather please email centralumc12@gmail.com**

We encourage you to contact anyone who may not have access to the above resources and notify them of any updates. Please keep your safety paramount when making a decision about traveling to church in bad weather.



Church Office Holiday Schedule

Please note the following changes to the church office schedule for the upcoming weeks:

December 22, 25 and 26—closed for Christmas Holiday

December 27—there will be NO newsletter.

January 1—closed for New Year's Holiday.

Thank you for your understanding. Happy Holidays!

Advent Quiz

How much do you know about the season of Advent? Try your hand at the following questions.

1. On the third Sunday in Advent, some churches light a pink candle in the Advent wreath. Why?

- A. Pink (or rose) is a color of joy.
- B. Pink signifies Mary.
- C. It represents the positive outlook we have in Christ.
- D. The rose color symbolizes Jesus' childhood.
- E. The rosebud is a sign of new birth.

2. Do you know how the Advent calendar began?

- A. Chalk lines were drawn on the door to mark the days.
- B. Religious families hung pictures on the wall, one for each day.
- C. A candle was lit for each of the 24 days in December.
- D. A mother fixed candies on a cardboard calendar for her son.
- E. All of the above

3. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word "Emmanuel"?

- A. Mighty king
- B. Christ child
- C. God with us
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

Answers on back page—no cheating!

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS
Weekly Update

Sunday
Sunday Morning Tribes 9-10 am
NO UMYF or Middle School or
High School Bible Studies until January.
Have a Happy Holiday!

End of Year Tithes and Offerings

Due to the Holiday schedule this year, all financial giving must be **IN THE OFFICE** by December 27th to ensure it is included in 2017. Any monies received after 12/27 will be recorded for 2018.



200 East Marion St
Shelby, NC 28150

We are excited to offer **training opportunities to our laity**. The first of these opportunities will be the District Leadership Conference, which will be held on

Sunday, January 7, 2018
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
St. Luke's UMC (Hickory)
[52 16th Ave. NW](#)
[Hickory, NC 28601](#)

The following courses are available:

- “The Discipleship of Faith and Generosity”
- “The Mission and Ministry of Staff/Pastor Parish”
- “Do’s and Don’ts of Local Church Finance”
- “Single-Board Governance— It’s About Vision and Leadership”
- “Local Church Historians”
- “Ministry of the Trustees”
- “Children’s Ministry”
- “Building Relationships through Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW) Ministries”
- “In the Beginning”
- “Igniting the Fire of Youth Ministry”
- “Baptism is the Ordination of the Laity”

There is no cost for these courses, but registration is required.

Registration deadline: January 1, 2018

For more information including course descriptions or to register for a course, visit <https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/DistrictLeadershipConference2018> or call the office at 704-487-6336. Transportation will be provided, please meet in the church parking lot at 1 pm. Note that this is an earlier time than was announced previously.



Be sure to check out our
website: www.cumcshelby.org
And our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/

Memorials and Honorariums

Operating:

In Memory of O.C. Connor by Eddie & Jeannie Hamrick
In Memory of Paul Morgan by Eddie & Jeannie Hamrick
In Memory of Bill Palmer by Eddie & Jeannie Hamrick
In Memory of Clyde Eskridge by Eddie & Jeannie Hamrick
In Memory of Rosa Linda Talbert by Phil Rucker and Family
In Memory of Rosa Linda Talbert by Will & Tina Rucker
In Memory of Morgan Logan by CC & Jackie Guy
In Memory of Beth Clark by James & Martha Clark
In Memory of Beth Clark by CC & Jackie Guy
In Memory of Beth Clark by Phil Rucker and Family
In Memory of Beth Clark by Will & Tina Rucker
In Memory of Beth Clark by United Methodist Women
In Memory of Beth Clark by Francanna C. Vaughan
In Memory of William P. Mabry by Jim & Carol Rose and Family

Music Ministry:

In Memory of Rosa Linda Talbert by Jack & Carole Arey
In Memory of Marilyn Logan by Jack & Carole Arey

Piano:

In Memory of Beth Clark by Bill & Jo Marsh
In Memory of Wanda Childress by Bill & Jo Marsh
In Honor of Libby Alexander by Bill & Jo Marsh
In Honor of Danny Buckner by Bill & Jo Marsh
In Honor of Bobby and Ann McDaniel by Bill & Jo Marsh
In Honor of Bill and Marilyn Jack by Bill & Jo Marsh
In Memory of Beth Clark by Paul & Pat Ellison
In Memory of Frank Pineda by Paul & Pat Ellison
In Honor of Bill and Jo Marsh by Bobby & Ann McDaniel

Children’s Ministry:

In Memory of Beth Clark by John & Suzanne Ragin
In Memory of Beth Clark by Shelby High School Class of 1949
In Memory of Beth Clark by Betsy C. Anthony

Literature:

In Honor of the Teachers of the Saints and Sinners Class by Saints and Sinners Class

Good Night Ministry:

In Honor of Scott and Sheila Ellison by Paul & Pat Ellison
In Honor of Sue and Brian Harden by Dick & Barbara Schafer
In Honor of George Schafer and Tony Tallent by Dick & Barbara Schafer

Advent Quiz Answers 1. A 2. E 3. C