

The Shallowford Steeple

Lewisville United Methodist Church, Lewisville, NC

December 5, 2007

Attention, Angel Tree “Angels!”
Please return all wrapped gifts,
gloves, and hats under the trees at
church by Sunday, December 16.
**Please make sure and attach
angel gift tags.** Thanks so much!



LIVE NATIVITY

Saturday, December 15: Live Nativity at LUMC on the church lawn sponsored by our youth! Presentations at 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm. Light refreshments in west end lobby following each performance!

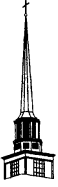
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Sunday, December 16
6:30 pm**



Children of all ages (from 1 to 100) are invited to participate in a Christmas pageant about the birth of Baby Jesus. The evening will include Christmas carols, acting, and lots of good fellowship.

The Shallowford Steeple



Lewisville United Methodist Church
6290 Shallowford Road
P. O. Box 305
Lewisville, NC 27023
Phones: 945-3203/945-4419
Fax (Church): 945-0925
Website: www.lewisvilleumc.org
Church E-mail: tonijonessec@alltel.net

Address Service Requested

Pre-Sorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lewisville, NC 27023
Permit No. 1

DATED MATERIAL

Ministry and Staff of the Church

District Superintendent
J. Hurley Thomas, III
Pastor
Keith Bingham
Director of Christian Education
June Hayes
Music Director
Debby Trivett
Youth Director
Jesse Arnett
Missionary to Cambodia
Esther Gitobu
Chairperson of Administrative Board
John Wells
Chairperson of Council on Ministries
Margy Smith
Lay Leader
Jim Fridy
School Care Director
Kim Jackson
Preschool Director
Marcia Sexton
Secretary
Toni Jones

**Gift for the month of December for Crisis Control:
Potato Flakes**

**LCAP gift for the month of December:
Laundry Detergent**



**Tuesday, December 11th, is the
deadline for news to be
submitted for the December
19th issue of The Steeple.**

Onegroup news & events

Sunday, December 9: The youth will be taking part in the Lewisville Christmas Parade! Parade participants need to meet in the west end lobby no later than 1:45 PM. Youth will return to the church at approximately 4:30 PM.

Saturday, December 15: The youth will perform the Live Nativity on the front lawn of the church. Performance times will be 4:30 PM, 5:30 PM, and 7:00 PM. There will be refreshments in the west end lobby following each performance, and dinner will be provided between the 5:30 and 7:00 performances. Youth should plan on arriving at the west end lobby one hour prior to the performance they are taking part in. Contact Jesse if you would like to participate but haven't signed up yet. Hope to see you all there!

Sunday, December 16: Youth Christmas Party! Join us in the youth room from 4:00-6:00 PM as we celebrate Christmas with a fun evening together! Bring a drink or snack to share. Also, bring a gift to exchange if you would like. The limit on the gift is \$5.

Sunday, December 23: No UMYF – bring your family and come be a part of the family Christmas caroling at 5:00 PM!

Sunday, December 30: No UMYF

Sunday, January 6: Regular UMYF

Sunday, January 13: Regular UMYF

Friday, January 18 through Monday, January 21: All senior high students are invited to come get away for a weekend for the Senior High Ski Retreat! We will again be staying at the Arnett family cabin in West Jefferson and skiing at Beech Mountain. It will be a weekend full of great fun and spiritual refreshment. Fliers and permission slips will be in the mail soon!

Last Synago and Release of 2007! Wednesday, December 12 will be the last night for Synago and Release before Christmas break. Come join us in the youth room from 7:00-8:30 PM. Synago is a student-led Bible study for senior high students, and Release is a weeknight fellowship evening for junior high students. Don't miss it!

IMPORTANT – Date change for Junior High Ski Trip!! Due to a schedule conflict, the Junior High Ski Trip has been changed to February 22-23. Mark your calendars for this new weekend and be on the lookout for more details coming soon!

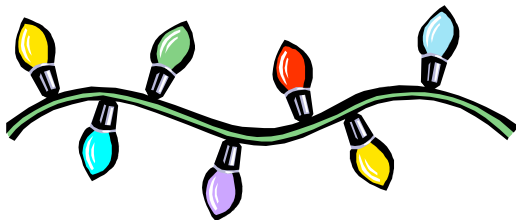
Time to start thinking about Carolina Cross Connection 2008! We will be going to CCC June 29th - July 5th. The trip is open to all youth currently in 9th grade or older. The cost for this amazing week is only \$125! Money should be turned in to Jesse no later than Sunday, December 16th. If you've been to CCC before, you *know* you want to go again, and if you haven't, then find out what it's all about this summer! Let Jesse know if you have any questions.

UMW NEWS

UMW CIRCLE MEETINGS:

- ° **The UMW Morning Circle** will meet at the church at 10:45 am on Monday, Dec. 10, to go to Bleu Restaurant for their Christmas lunch.
- ° **UMW Circle 1** will meet on Monday, Dec. 10, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for their Christmas dinner.
- ° **The Melba Forbis Friendship Circle** will have its annual Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 11, at 7 pm at Big Shotz in Clemmons. Call Dawn Langevin at 766-4435 for more information; she will be making reservations.

PECANS HAVE ARRIVED! Fresh pecans are available for purchase. Cost is \$8.00 per 1-lb. bag, pieces or halves. Call (945-3203) or come by the church office.

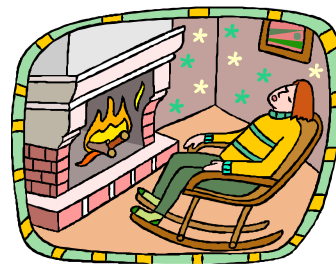


COLLEGE CHRISTMAS GATHERING! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Wednesday, December 19th
6:30 pm in Asbury Hall

RSVP by December 16th to 945-3203 (church) or
e-mail jrchayes@alltel.net.

**NO SNAK, CRAFT, AND
YAK IN DECEMBER.
See you in January!**



**Here's how you can
help keep our
neighbors warm
this winter!**

Contributions to **Share the Warmth** will be matched by Duke Energy Foundation, dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$50 per individual, from **November 1, 2007 through March 15, 2008**. The funds will be forwarded to Crisis Control Ministry and Sunnyside Ministry to pay the heating bills of families with emergency needs. Make each individual's check payable to Duke Energy Share the Warmth Program. Mail to: Duke Energy Share the Warmth, P.O. Box 35469, Charlotte, NC 28254

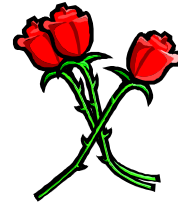
**Designate on the check "For Forsyth County".*

Please remember that your gift is only eligible for Share the Warmth matching funds from November through March. This program is sponsored by Duke Energy Shareholders and is not paid for by Duke Energy customers. Thank you for your tax-deductible contribution!

STEWARDSHIP

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

As members, we uphold the Church with our promise to give of our presence, gifts, prayers, and service.

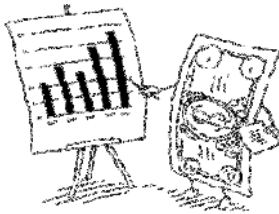


Promises to Keep: Presence

Nov. 25	Sunday School: 163
	Worship: 233
Dec. 2	Sunday School: 165
	Worship: 289

Promises to Keep: Gifts

Nov. 25	General Budget	\$ 4,848.80
	Hunger Fund	\$ 8.00
	Sound System	\$ 2,111.00
Dec. 2	General Budget	\$10,879.01
	Hunger Fund	\$ 6.00
	Cemetery Fund	\$ 25.00



Stewardship Update

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

General Budget Gifts:

In memory of **William Robbins** by Roger and Brenda R. Hockaday;

In memory of **Rev. Warren Norman**, Dean Norman's father, by Mitch and Terri Monroe, Herman and Millie Orrell, and Tim and Brenda Proctor;

In memory of **Voyle Conrad** by Ruth, Kenny, and Jim Conrad and Kaye Patterson;

In honor of **Bo and Beth Houff** by Tim and Brenda Proctor;

Building Fund Gifts:

In memory of **Buck Buchanan** by Mark and Valerie Alexander;

In memory of **Rev. Warren Norman**, Dean Norman's father, by Gordon and Cindy Bingham, Harriet and Gilmer Binkley, Jim and Martha Hampton, Sue and Mitchell Johnson, Bob and Donna Stebbins, and the November WHO Committee;

Staff Christmas Gift:

In memory of **Richard Portis** by Brooke Haymore.

LUMC BUILDING FUND

Contributions in November:

Nov. 4	\$2,930.00
Nov. 11	\$1,545.00
Nov. 18	\$1,360.00
Nov. 25	\$3,060.00

Loan Payment

Principal	\$ 7,000.00
Interest	\$ 2,819.50
Loan Balance	\$444,000.00

Balance in MM Account: \$10,747.66

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah.....out of you will come for Me One Who will be ruler over Israel, (Micah 5:2), so wrote the prophet Micah some 750 years before Jesus' birth took place. Have you ever waited for a prayer to be answered? Have you waited 750 years? Does your circumstance seem impossible? Think about the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth. The young woman God chose to be His mother didn't even live in Bethlehem. Solution? Put a bug in the ruler's ear; have him call for a census. Mary and Joseph are on their way. The rest is history! Perhaps you're in an obscure place, waiting to be used by God. Your wait is not in vain. God isn't through yet, and He has a plan for you, too!



You may have heard of the Grinch. You know, “*The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.*” Well, there are a lot of “Grinches” out there seeking to steal our Christmas. There’s the “**Time Grinch.**” Each year, the season seems to get busier and we are having less time to get in all those things we like to do during the season. Maybe we need to prioritize more and ask if we “have” to do it all. We also might need to “take” time to do more important things with family, church.

There’s also the **Secular Grinch.** The shopping season seemed to start in early November. They used to wait until at least Thanksgiving. The secular celebration of Christmas misses the whole point. Yes, they want us to buy gifts so that the economy will improve, but they don’t know about the first Christmas gift, a baby born in a manger. The Secular Grinch steals the real meaning of Christmas and makes it an economic event. If we don’t make an effort to keep the “reason for the season” alive, then the Secular Grinch will defeat us.

There’s also the **Circumstance Grinch.** Time and time again this fellow nearly wrecks Christmas for many people. How can a person “celebrate” Christmas when their life is filled with the loss of a job, health issues, the death of a loved one, personal finances, falling stock market or some tragedy or accident? Christmas is the time when we see the greatest number of suicides and depression, for the Circumstance Grinch is working overtime. Many fail to see that what they need during times of difficult circumstances is exactly what Christmas is all about. God coming to live among us, experiencing life as we do and then ultimately dying and rising for us. This means that God will always be there for us in any circumstance.

As your Pastor, I would encourage you to keep your focus during this holiday season, not letting the “Grinches” steal your Christmas. Fend off the thieves who seek to steal the joy of our celebration of God’s coming to earth.

Keith

OUR CHURCH FAMILY.....



Congratulations to Andy and Paige Johnson on the birth of a daughter, Taylor Paige Johnson, on November 20. Proud grandparents are Bob Johnson and Penny Craft Lynch. Proud great-grandparents are Floyd and Polly Craft.

“Lewisville UM Church Members,

Thank you for all of the prayers said for me during my hospital stay and afterwards. They meant so much.

Also, thank you for all of the cards and words of encouragement.

*Love in Christ,
Pat Reynolds”*

Hospital: Jane Peeler, Forsyth Medical Center

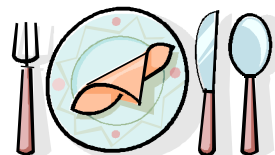
LEWISVILLE IS A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers who provide emotional and spiritual care to persons who are experiencing difficulties in their lives—hospitalization, loss of a loved one, loss of job, or any other crisis situation. This is care in addition to the care the pastor gives. If you are interested in having a Stephen Minister, fill out one of the slips in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate or hand it to the minister or one of the Stephen Leaders, Becky Bingham or Tom Lee.

Come join the Methodist Men for.....

° an inside work day on Saturday, December 8th, at 8:00 am. Help get the church building ready for the Christmas season and all the wonderful services, events and activities.

° our annual church family Christmas breakfast on Sunday morning, December 9th, at 7:30 am in Asbury Hall. As always there is no charge, but donations will be accepted for Men's ministries.



The United Methodist Men wish everyone a very merry and Christ-filled Christmas.

STUDENT SUNDAY SERVICE DECEMBER 30, 10:00 AM

Christmas Offering Envelopes

Christmas offering envelopes will be in your Sunday bulletins on Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 for your contribution to the staff's Christmas gift.
(Staff-Parish Committee)



There will be a Student Sunday Service on Sunday, December 30, at 10:00 am (the only service held that day). If you would like to participate, please call June by December 23rd for a part in the service or e-mail her at jrchayes@alltel.net.

Come join us as we spread some Christmas cheer! We're going caroling on Sunday, December 23rd.



Meet in the old parking lot at 5 pm SHARP. We'll ride on the church van and other vans/suburbans as needed. We'll conclude our evening with soups and desserts in Asbury Hall. If you'd like to join us or would like to help with dinner, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office by noon on December 23rd.

_____ Yes, we'd like to go Christmas caroling. There will be _____ (#) in our group.

_____ I'll bring 2 dozen cookies/dessert.

_____ I'll bring a crockpot of soup/chili, etc.

Name _____

Questions? Call June Hayes, 945-3203.

“SHARING GOD...SHARING OURSELVES”

We are still receiving “Estimate of Giving Cards.” If you have not turned one in yet, we hope you will soon. We are on track to have a record number of persons making an “Estimate of Giving” and also record amounts being reported. Extra cards can be found in various places or call the church office and we’ll send one to you.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lewisville Church, after careful consideration, may deem it wise to delay or cancel services or Sunday School in the event of inclement weather (snow, ice, etc.) We will make every attempt to notify you of our status. We are part of the weather code/ notification procedures for WFMY-2 and WXII-12. We will also try, if the power is on, to put the information on our church answering machine and church web site:

www.lewisvilleumc.org.



END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Federal law requires that all contributions to LUMC must be either in our hands by December 31st or, if mailed, post-marked on or before December 31st in order to qualify the giver for a tax deduction in 2007.

Gifts received which don't meet these requirements will be gratefully accepted and credited to 2008.

LEWISVILLE UMC BUILDING FUND REPORT

At the beginning of 2007, our Building Fund Loan Balance was \$496,000. Over this year (thru November) we have been able to pay down that loan balance by \$52,000 (average of \$4,727 per month), leaving a current loan of \$444,000. We also paid \$33,498 in interest charges (average of \$3,045 per month). Our interest rate is less than the prime rate and thus is variable. The rate for this year has been no higher than 7.6%, but no lower than 7.1%.

We have three years left on the loan note and our payments are “interest only.” If we make the same annual contribution for the next three years, we will be \$272,000 short of paying off the construction loan when the note is due.

Our need is to pay as much on the principal as is possible each month. The more we chisel away at the principal, the lower the interest payment becomes, and therefore there is more we can put toward the principal.

As the year ends, consider a special Christmas gift to the Lewisville UMC Building Fund and help us reduce the principal. Thanks to all those who have faithfully contributed to the Building Fund this year. We have enjoyed the new building and it has enhanced our church and provided us new opportunities for ministry.

SHARING IN MINISTRY

GREETERS AND USHERS (8:30 AM SERVICE)

Dec. 9 Ken and Giszelle Jones
Dec. 16 Carol and Les McCormick
Dec. 23 Dusty and Mitzi Swing
Dec. 30 Les and Adam McCormick

GREETERS (11:00 AM SERVICE)

Dec. 9 Frank and Irene Foster (Sanctuary Side)
Margaret Van de Riet and Janet Sizemore
(West Wing)
Dec. 16 Senior High Youth (Sanctuary Side)
Junior High Youth (West Wing)
Dec. 23 Jimmy and Phyllis Moore (Sanctuary Side)
Silesia and Elissa Clark (West Wing)

EVANGELISM VISITATION

Dec. 9 Laura and Don Morris
Dec. 16 Jim and Karen Fridy
Dec. 23 Dean Norman and Ed Smith
Dec. 30 Dean Norman and Ed Smith

WHO COMMITTEE

December WHO Committee

Chairs: Phyllis Moore and Nancy Fisher

Erin Johnson	Dona Stilphen
Julie Owens	Shelly Ferner
Beth Johnson	Karen Slaughter
Mandee Skeen	Patsy Booe
Rita Smith	Jan Jobson
Jane Hoover	Pam Daniel

WHY COMMITTEE

December WHY Committee

Chairs: Daniel Choplin and Trent Messick

Alex Appanaitis	Paul Gough
Geoff Rudy	Gary Gross
Ken Scales	Buck Johnson
Pete Sturdy	Mark McClelland
Jesse Coleman	Jimmie Moore
Clay Vogler	Ray Trosan

Children's Church Schedule

8:30 am Worship Service

Dec. 9 Dan and Angie Choplin
Dec. 16 Jason and Marci Harvey
Dec. 23 No Children's Church
Dec. 30 No Children's Church

Please note: Materials for Children's Church will be in the classroom for you to check out ahead of time as resources for Sunday morning activities. If unavailable to teach, please be responsible for finding your own substitute.

Remember: Children's Church is offered for 4-year-olds through 2nd graders.



8:30 am Nursery Schedule

Dec. 9 Leigh Anne Miller and Amber Edwards
Dec. 16 Jeff Watkins and Sam Rains
Dec. 23 William Farlow and Hannah Houff
Dec. 30 Sharon and Eva Hill

11:00 am Nursery Schedule

Dec. 9 Kristin Melvin and Beth Rudy
Dec. 16 Cheryl and Ginelle Gross
Dec. 23 Shelly and Jeff Ferner
Dec. 30 Terri and Clay Vogler



You're Invited to
Celebrate Christmas
At
Lewisville United Methodist
Church

6290 Shallowford Road
Lewisville, NC

Sunday, December 9: 8:30 am New Beginning Service
11:00 am Worship Service with Special Handbell Music
3:00 pm Lewisville Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 15: Live Nativity at LUMC on the front church lawn sponsored by our youth! Presentations at 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served in the west end lobby following each performance!

Sunday, December 16: 8:30 am New Beginning Service with Special Christmas Dance
11:00 am Christmas Cantata
6:30 pm Children's Christmas Pageant (See announcement.)

Sunday, December 23: 8:30 am New Beginning Christmas Worship Service
11:00 am Traditional Christmas Worship Service
5:00 pm Family Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 24: 5:00 pm Communion and Candlelight Service
7:30 pm Communion and Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 30: 10:00 am Special Worship Service (One worship service only! No Sunday School or nursery today.) College students will be participating as we will celebrate "United Methodist Student Day Worship" this morning. All are welcome! We would like families to join us in worship today!

Sunday, January 6: 8:30 am New Beginning Service
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service