

The Hill's Chapel House Call December 2011



Boy Scouts / Cub Scouts



Pack 83 had a Scouting for Food Project on Saturday, November 19, 2011. Troop 83 brought in 1,100 lbs and Pack 83 brought in 2,800 lbs. All collections will go to support ELCM.

Community Garden News

Turnips and Greens are now ready for picking! The garden is open to everyone at no cost. Thank you Gary Duckworth for all your hard work!

While They Were Sleeping

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their troubles or sharing a good joke?

How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set his great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.

God’s work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if he’s there or if he cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, often while we’re sleeping or going about our ordinary routines.



Thank You

Dear HCUMC Family, Thank you all for the cards, kind words and prayers throughout this difficult journey of the passing of both our mother and father. Thank you also for the memorial gift to the building fund for the church in their memory. Sincerely, Liz Kendrick, El Maynard, Bill Fox, (The Children)

Dear Hill's Chapel United Methodist Church, Thank you for the donation to Salem United Methodist Church in memory of Mrs. Velma Nixon. Sincerely, Joy Isenhour

Dear Hill's Chapel UMC, Thank you so much for the care package I received in the mail. Your generosity, kindness, and prayers are greatly appreciated. Love Always, Brooke Singleton

Dear Church Family, Thanks for all your support during my illness. And for Val's visits and prayers and for Eric's visit to the hospital. In checking all my arteries, they were clear. So my problem is the heart valve. The procedure gave me temporary relief but in the meantime they found a hole in my artery. This was sealed with glue on Friday and after four pints of blood I was released. In this process, our area was one of the first approved for the robot valve replacement. I am now undergoing tests to see if I can have this. Also, thanks for the wonderful fruit basket. And pray that I will be able to accept the valve replacement procedure. Love, Guy McIntosh

Memorials

In Memory Of	Donor's Name	Designated
Barbara Cobb	Lynn Willoughby	Budget
Barbara Jean Cooke	Elaine Stilwell	Cemetery Trust Fund
Barbara Jean Cooke	Geneva Dellinger	Cemetery Trust Fund
Corbin Matthew Tuttle	Don & Susan Grice	Cemetery Fund
Corbin Matthew Tuttle	Judy & Hillis Seay	Sanctuary Fund
Bob Willoughby	Lynn Willoughby	Budget
Kevin Woolwine	Lynn Willoughby	Budget
In Honor Of	Donor's Name	Designated
Guy McIntosh	Don & Susan Grice	Cemetery Fund



FOSTER CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Mission/Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Christmas Party for foster children, their foster families, and their social workers, on Monday, December 19, at 5:00. We'll have pizza, crafts, and games, as well as a visit from Santa. We expect around 50-60 guests, so will need help setting up, welcoming them, and assisting the younger children with their crafts. If you'd like to assist in any way, please contact the office @ 704-827-9511. This is a great way to honor the birth of the Christ child--by taking care of children who so desperately need our help!



Youth Fundraiser

Christmas Celebration - Hill's Chapel UMC
Sunday, December 11, 2011
5:00pm



- Soup and sandwich fundraiser for the youth summer mission trip
- Performances by children and youth
- Fellowship and music

Please mark your calendars and join us for a great night!

SAFE SANCTUARIES UPDATE: December 2011

Recently the news headlines have been full of reports of persons in positions of responsibility—coaches—accused of abusing children. This has prompted some churches to check on area offenders, and led to an arrest a few weeks ago of an offender who was attending a church in Gastonia—and had been for 10 years. There is a NC law prohibiting sex offenders from being within 300 feet of places where children might congregate, including churches.

That law, however, is being challenged, and will likely be overturned as too vague and restrictive of the right of all to worship. Enforcement throughout the state varies widely during this time of appeal. It will likely go to the Supreme Court.

The dilemma exists: how to protect our children while affirming the need of the offender for God's redeeming love. The Western North Carolina Conference is working with the General Conference to specifically address this issue. Each church is encouraged to examine their Safe Sanctuary Policies and adopt a policy on registered sex offenders. At our November meeting, the Administrative Council adopted a policy (adapted from the model policy offered through the Lake Norman District).

The salient points include:

1. When a person within the congregation becomes a convicted sex offender, grace and care must be extended to the convicted individual as well as any family members associated with the church. Under the Minister's direction, a covenant group should be formed to support and nurture both the convicted individual and the family.

2. When a convicted sex offender, not previously connected to the congregation, wishes to connect with the church, the Minister should meet with the individual as quickly as possible. The conversation should be welcoming but honest, stressing the need to protect the individual as well as the children. Information should be gathered about the nature of the offense and an understanding of probation restrictions.

3. The Minister should then contact the parole officer to verify parole restrictions. The individual and the church should enter into a specific covenant for the duration of the parole period.

4. The church will covenant to:

*Provide a Support Group, where one or more persons will accompany the Individual while in the church, at all times (including in the rest room).

*Volunteer work will be limited to adult activities.

*Rooms where children and youth programs are occurring should not be entered, even with the covenant friend.

The individual will covenant to:

*Uphold the mission of the church and their design to provide safe sanctuary for all children, and will follow the rest room, children, and youth room guidelines.

*Cooperate by giving needed information as requested and accept full benefit of the covenant group.

If the covenant is not kept, the individual will not be permitted to be in attendance on church property. Spiritual guidance can still be extended to the individual by both the Minister and the covenant group at another location.

Hill's Chapel will continue to keep updated on this issue and to keep the congregation informed as to our policies. It's up to all of us, though, to watch out for our children and youth and to make sure that the risk of sexual or physical abuse is kept to the lowest point possible during all onsite and offsite church activities.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**Hill's Chapel FLC
Hwy 16
Saturday, December 3rd
9:00 am**

Breakfast, free picture and crafts

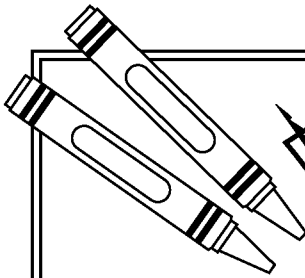
Open to all ages accompanied by an adult

Reservations are not required

**For Questions Contact:
Hill's Chapel Church office @ 704-827-9511**

*****NOTE*****

A DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE MAILED



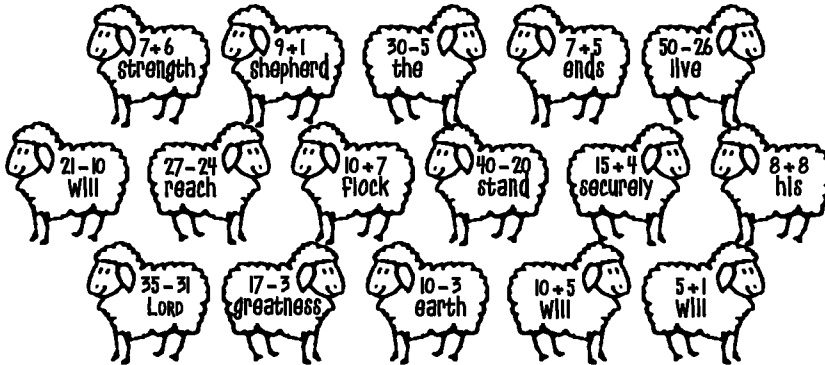
PUZZLE



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 and 20 his 10 17

in the 13 of the 4 And they 11 24

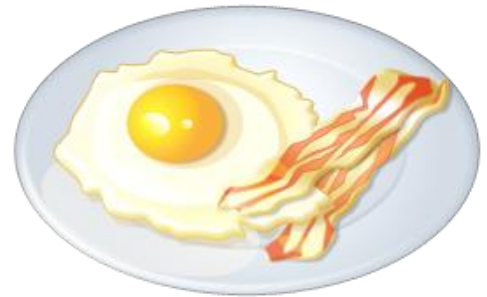
19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

M I C A H 5 : 4 , N I V

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

Community Breakfast



Sponsored by the United Methodist Men
Saturday, December 10th 8am – 10am

**** Join us for food and fellowship!!****

Hill's Chapel UMC Family Life Center

Cost - \$5 per person





Please support the Catawba Springs

Elementary Book Bag program!!

We will be sending approximately 24 book bags full of food home each weekend with children who are hungry.

Your support makes the program a success.

Give by either donating money and designating your check to go in the Book Bag account or by bringing in foods listed below.

Thank you – and a hungry child thanks you, too!!

Peanut butter, small cereals, toaster pastries, canned fruits and vegetables, canned and boxed pastas, tuna, canned meats, snack crackers, cake mixes

PLEASE – NO GLASS ITEMS



Join us for some Big Band Music

Hill's Chapel Family Life Center

Friday, December 9, 2011

11:00 am

Enjoy some big band standards,
a little Christmas music and a lunch
provided by the UMW

Financial Snapshot

As of October 31, 2011

Lori Gaston, Treasurer

General Fund:

Contributions received		187,656.40
Expenses paid out:		
Conference Apportionment	(17,110.20)	
Missions/Ministry	(17,986.45)	
Operations/Maintenance	(54,982.38)	
Personnel	(113,829.06)	
	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>(203,908.09)</u>
	2011 general fund surplus/(deficit)	<u><u>(16,251.69)</u></u>

Capital Funds:

Sanctuary fund	132,471.34
Building fund	<u>50,054.01</u>
Total	<u><u>182,525.35</u></u>

Please pray about giving and listen to God's guidance as we draw near the end of 2011. With the help of each member of this congregation, we can fund all of the missions, ministries and operations of Hill's Chapel.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

06 – Don and Frances Kiser
07 – Wayne and Christine Rogers
19 – Dean and Sheila Dellinger

21 – Ronnie and Norma Morrison
23 – David and Patty Crow
30 – Andy and Annette Wilkes



02 – Wes King
02 – Stacey Zenoski
03 – Brian White
04 – Debbie Edwards
04 – David Rue
04 – Michael Rue
05 – Keith Hager
06 – Patty Crow
06 – Christopher Morrison
07 – Jason Dellinger
10 – Parker Hills
11 – Ashley Grace York
13 – Sheila W. Dellinger
13 – Kayla Goff
13 – Anna Zenoski
14 – Gloria Riehl
15 – Dariel Dellinger, Jr.

15 – Kathy Walker
16 – Grayson Dickson
17 – Bradley Tuttle
18 – Kevin Rhyne
18 – Kelly Carter
20 – Jason Banis
21 – Jean Dellinger
21 – Justin Grice
21 – Kelly Rue
22 – Jane Myers
23 – Mary Edgison
26 – Zachary Banis
26 – Heath Edwards
27 – Sidney Jones
27 – Chloe Myers
28 – Neely Reid
30 – Barbara Farrow

Willing Workers

9:00am Nursery

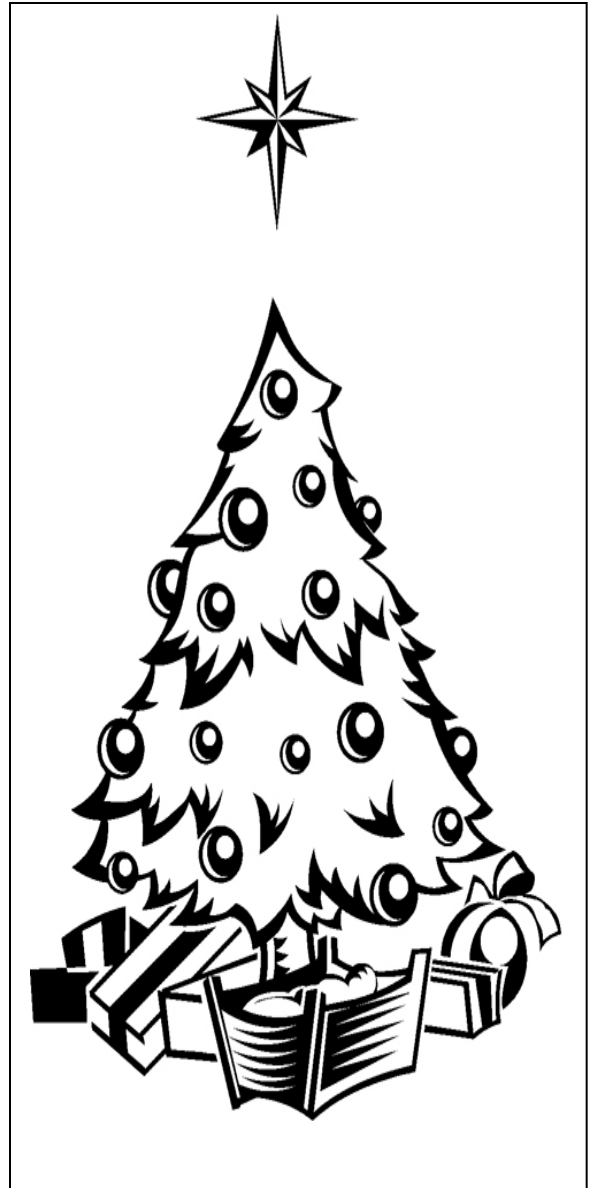
- 04 – Pam Fisher
- 11 – Barbara & Molly Farrow
- 18 – Tim & Christy Love
- 25 – Patty & Maddie Crow

9:00am Children's Message

- 04 – Lori Gaston
- 11 – John Gaston
- 18 – Amber Tuttle
- 25 – Pastor Val

9:00am Children's Church

- 04 – Beth Dwyer
- 11 – Amber Tuttle/Spencer Gaston
- 18 – Bailey Wilkes
- 25 – TBD



*Please note volunteers are still needed.

THE SEASON OF GIVING . . .

As the Christmas season is upon us—and the end of the tax year approaches—some folks have asked if there are special needs or ministries of the church that would benefit from extra funding.

One fund needing replenishing is the Good Samaritan Fund. People frequently stop in, needing assistance above or beyond what ELCM can provide. Some are from the church, others from Lincoln or Gaston County. We can usually help immediately with food, if necessary. They might need assistance with a utility bill, or rent. Frequently, there are small children who might need formula or diapers. Gas for the car can be an issue. Direct donations to this fund, or gift cards for gas, Food Lion, or Wal-Mart, would be greatly appreciated.

Several times during the year we'll get a special request from DSS for a foster child—maybe for senior expenses, or something school-related. We have a designated foster children fund.

Catawba Springs Elementary also is an ongoing ministry. Not only do we utilize funds for the bookbags, but we also are notified of special needs of families there that we try to meet.

And of course there are ongoing budget needs right here at the church. If you'd like to give a designated gift to the budget (above your regular giving), you could choose a one-time or ongoing donation for a particular line item. Some monthly expenses include:

Apportionments

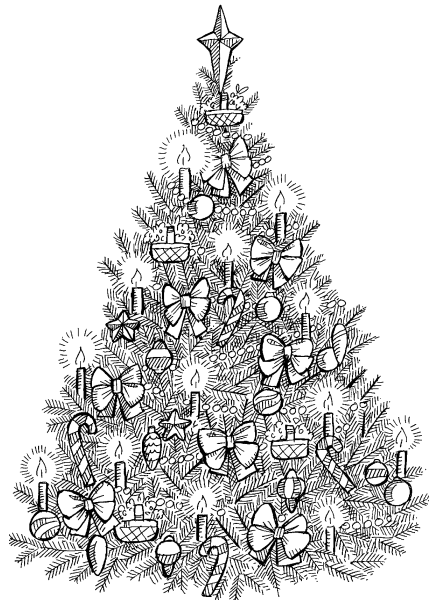
Conference Benevolences:	\$355/month
Congregational Development:	34.50
District Mission:	34.50
District Special Project:	31.00
General Church Ministries	895.00

Mission/Ministry

Children's Program	104
Youth Program	104
ELCM	125
Missions	292
Music Supplies	50
Older Adult	190

Operating/Maintenance

Electricity	1375
Cemetery Maintenance	500
Church Maintenance	2083
Kitchen Supplies	90



Please know that all of your gifts to the mission and ministry of the church are greatly appreciated!

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

As I write this, November leans toward December. The weather ranges from 70 balmy degrees to 34 in the rain. Each evening, more lights twinkle from the shrubs and trees and windows of the homes in my neighborhood, as one family after another gets to their decorating. Some yards feature a giant inflated Santa or Snoopy or Frosty the Snowman; some yards feature all three. The morning light reveals little heaps of colored vinyl-- unrecognizable, formless. Such is the nature of the season, as we on this pilgrimage towards Christmas ramble between the darkness and the light; between elation and sadness; between excitement and exhaustion.

Christmas awakens in us a yearning that lies dormant most of the time. We long for purpose, for meaning, for calm and peace and joy. We long for all to be right with the world, for all to be well with our souls. And we look at the petty and great feuds in our families, and the hurdles—some of them seeming so insurmountable—in our lives and in the lives of those closest to us. We look through eyes that have seen too much, even if we see only dimly. We sense the senselessness of so much that happens beyond our control. And we yearn. In doing so, we join with all generations, all peoples—back to the time of our ancestors in the faith, the Hebrew people looking for the light, the light that would pierce the darkness.

Poet Ann Weems captured this sense of longing in her poem “In December Darkness.” The poem ends with these lines:

In the December darkness

we peer from our windows

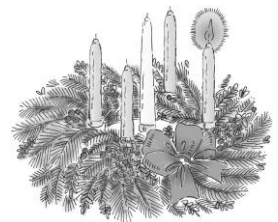
watching for an angel with rainbow wings

to announce the Hope of the World.

That Hope of the World has already come, of course. We live in this knowledge, bask in this blessing. In this Advent time of waiting and watching and yearning, various glimpses of joy and hope and gladness also cross our path, reflecting the reality of the living Christ, already living among us and prompting us to proclaim and witness to the goodness and possibility that permeates our lives.

Perhaps one of our tasks, then, this Advent season, is to become the Christmas Angel ourselves, each of us, and announce and witness to the Hope of the World; to help shine the Light that already does and will continue to pierce through the darkness.

Advent Blessings,
Val



Hill's Chapel United Methodist Church
988 South Highway 16
Stanley, NC 28164