



# WESTOVER UMC

December 2019



## From the Pastor

Dear Westover Friends and Family,

Advent is upon us, and Christmas will be here soon. It is challenging to give the season of Advent the proper respect it is due. Advent is a time of preparation which is often overlooked even in the church because of the commercialization of Christmas which seems to start earlier and earlier every year. I noticed that Pastor Claire tried to hold the tension of Advent for as long as she could, and I will try too. The church is one place where we can find freedom and peace from the secular holiday and celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. And this is one time when we will observe the holy-day and not the holiday. We will have fun, but we will also try to fill our minds and hearts with what it means for God incarnate to be with us. We will also take a special offering to help hurricane victims in Eastern North Carolina in their recovery efforts through supporting our Conference Youth Storm Fund. I can think of no greater way of celebrating Christ's birth than to do good for others. We hope to see you at one of the many worship and fellowship opportunities this month.

May the peace and love of Christ be yours always.

Pastor Sung 1-845-206-3914

**No Meetings are scheduled for December. Enjoy your Holy Days!**



## Calling All Singers!!

You are all needed to help build and grow our wonderful Choir and Praise Team! We need female singers mostly, but all who can sing, even a little bit - you will be a blessing to our congregation and to the Lord! We're a fun group, and we love what we do - you will too!

Here's an offer for you... dip your toes in the musical waters this Thanksgiving through Christmas, and see how much you'll enjoy it. The choir meets every Wednesday night at 7PM in the choir room upstairs, and the Praise Team has a more flexible rehearsal schedule. Please help us build a bold and beautiful Choir and Praise Team at Westover. Don't you want to be a part of that?

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Smith, our Director of Music Ministries at (919) 244-0459 or email him at [smithjazz@nc.rr.com](mailto:smithjazz@nc.rr.com).

### LIVE STREAMING:

We are **live streaming** the Westover UMC 11am church worship service through Facebook Live on the Westover UMC Facebook page. Join us at 11am or watch the video of the service during the week at your convenience.

Westover UMC is now using **GoogleGroups** to send out email announcements about the church. If you wish to be on the distribution list, please email Becky at the church office at [WestoverUMC@gmail.com](mailto:WestoverUMC@gmail.com) to get added.



**Dec. 22, 11am, Lessons and Carols Service:** Come hear the Scriptures leading to the birth of Jesus Christ and sing beloved Christmas hymns. Readers desired, especially young people.

**Dec. 29,** there will be one service at **10am** which will be a **Brunch and Worship service** in the Fellowship Hall.

If your family or a group of you want to read and **light the Advent wreath** this year, please speak to Pastor Sung. We are looking for people for both services.

## **United Methodist Women**

There will be NO meeting for UMW in December. We gave out two Special Recognition Pins on November 17th. This year we gave the pins to Jennifer Proffitt and Phyllis Danskin. They have given so much to Westover UMC, and we really appreciate all they have done. Hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season!!

Blessings,

**Margie Liggins**

**President of UMW**

**mesha314@msn.com**

## **Methodist Men**

Our November meeting set a record for attendance this year. Thanks to those who braved the cold weather and took time to attend. We will not meet in December, but will resume our regular meetings in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

**Tommy Highsmith**

**President UMM**

## **Administrative Council**

**Happy December!** What a great time of year as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Parents night out: Dec. 7 5:30 – 7:30 There will be children's activities and a light supper.

Angel tree: Nov 17- Dec 8

Interact: New toys By Dec. 15

Zach tree: Dec. 12

Weekend of Dec. 13: Caroling Date and time TBD

The next Administrative Council meeting will be in January at which the 2020 budget will be discussed. *Please send Verna Wentz your budget requests by Dec. 31.* We welcome Clara Worsley as the 2020 Chair of the Administrative Board!

Also, the training meeting for the roles of the committee will be Jan 26 at 2:30 at Ebenezer UMC located at 6020 Rock Quarry Rd. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

*If you are not a part of a ministry at Westover, you are welcomed and encouraged to become involved. Here are a few upcoming opportunities.*

**Angel Tree beginning in November**

**Bag Lunches: Last Saturday of each month  
Choir/Usher/Nursery helper**

Blessings to all.

**Phyllis Danskin**

**phyllisdanskin@gmail.com**

The church is looking for **volunteers** to count the offering after the 11am Service on Sundays. If you are able to count, keep information confidential, and are available, please speak to Ted Cashion or Jona Medlin.

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!**

- 1 DEBORAH COX
- 2 MARK BROOKS  
BETH TUDOR HAYES
- 4 RICHARD RAMBEAUT
- 5 JEFFREY DANIEL  
TAYO ADEBIYI
- 7 JIMMY COGGINS
- 8 ASHLEY FISHER
- 9 TOMMY HIGHSMITH
- 10 TOYIN ADEBIYI  
JANICE CARTER
- 12 FAYE BATTIS
- 13 CLARA WILSON  
RIDGE LEDBETTEF
- 16 ANN RENEGAR  
JOSH JOHNSON  
REV. BOB GUE  
ROBERT MCGEE
- 20 TREY WATKINS
- 22 SHARRON GIBSON
- 24 JUDY MCGHEE
- 27 AYEN KSOR
- 29 DONNA DANIELS
- 31 CATHERINE CLYBURN  
TYLER WATKINS



### **2019 Fair Booth**

An accurate account of our 2019 Fair Booth cannot be provided at this time due to discrepancies in our expenses that must be verified. A report should be available in the January Newsletter. In the meantime I would like to thank all those who had a part in making this year a success; not as good as last year but still a success. Thanks for your support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Tommy Highsmith Fair Booth Committee**

If you have had a **change of address**, phone number, and/or email address, please be sure to inform the church office. Thank you.



### **Trustees:**

After discussing the options for improving our facilities with other church members, the Trustees have come to the conclusion that the Fellowship Hall gets the most comments about needing to be improved. So we plan to get some bids on removing the current ceiling and updating the HVAC system, etc. Our Music Director, Bruce is also getting bids on upgrading the sound system for both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall so we expect to incorporate that work into the overall physical improvement of the Fellowship Hall. We are considering having a 'paint party' to paint the walls of the Fellowship Hall right away since it may be several months before the major work begins. This would involve the Trustees and hopefully any church member who cares to help !

The Trustees do not plan to meet in December !

**Phil Epley, Trustee Chair**

### **Prayer Concerns**

#### **Acute Care Needs:**

**Bill Jones** **Nettie Shafer, Walter**

**Highsmith, Carl Ray, Greg & Kim Miller & Family**

#### **Long-term Concerns:**

**Mag Highsmith, Doris Ray, Dot Avery, Mary Alice Black,** Dawn Miller, Wayne Allen, Edward Thompson, Hanna Markham, Marie Powell, Helen Wyble

#### **Homebound/Assisted Living/Nursing Care**

**Viola Ward, Jean Massengill, Nancy Tew, Helen Sloan, Everett Jones, Bob Gue, Faye Batts,** Bob & Polly Hendrix

#### **Death:**

**Flora Dean** (11-8-19)



### **Childcare for Sundays:**

Our church has a **Safe Sanctuary policy** that requires 2 non-related adults to be present in a room when children are present. If you can help with the early service as a **volunteer**, please speak to Pastor Sung. Kelly will be providing nursery care from the early service to Sunday School and through the end of the 11am service.

We need **volunteers** in the 11am Service to lead Children's Church. If you can play CD's, read Children's Bible Stories and help children to color, we would love for you to please sign up. Please speak to Phyllis Danskin (phyllisdanskin@gmail.com).

**Nursery care** is provided for infants and toddlers from the 8:45am Service to the end of the 11am Service.

### **Outreach**

Our Mission for the holidays is the Angel Tree. We will have 25 children this year, and we hope all who help with this Mission, know that they are appreciated for making the holidays happy for many children. The Angel Tree will be up from November 17th to December 8th.

Blessings to all.

**Margie Liggins**

**Chair of Outreach**

[mesh314@msn.com](mailto:mesh314@msn.com)



### **Bag Lunch Mission**

On October 26, our regular sandwich-making group (Margie, Sue, Jackie, Pat, Lou and I) made 120 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; Pat, Lou and I went to Oak City Cares to distribute the sandwiches, Cheez-it's, cookies, little bags of "fruit-gummies", juice, apples, oranges, candy, bottles of water, also a napkin and it all goes into a new "t-shirt" bag. The group that serves a hot meal was on the schedule for 11:30, so we, with the help of a guest, were able to serve approximately 130-135 people in 45 minutes. Some people can't have peanut butter, or don't have enough teeth to eat an apple.

Today, November 12, is rainy, temperatures going down to about 23° tonight, possibly some sleet; think of how blessed we are, a roof over our heads, heat, hot water, protection from the weather, all the food and hot drinks that we want, a comfortable bed, blankets, warm clothing. Many people in Raleigh do not have what most of us take for granted.

We thank you for your support, and please consider bringing some canned or "dried food items" to support Back-Pack Buddies, so the schoolchildren won't go without meals during the many days off from school during the holiday season.

God Bless,

**Janet Giannattasio**

[scandia1963@gmail.com](mailto:scandia1963@gmail.com)



**Zach Tree** will meet again on **December 12<sup>th</sup>** for **Christmas Caroling**. Please join us as we endeavor to bless the group home residents with the love of the season.

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**WESTOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

300 Powell Drive  
RALEIGH NC 27606-1317

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

**U.S. POSTAGE P A I D**

**PERMIT NO. 903**

**RALEIGH, N.C.**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Email: [WestoverUMC@gmail.com](mailto:WestoverUMC@gmail.com)

Web Site: [www.westoverumc.org](http://www.westoverumc.org)

Capital District Email: [www.capitaldistrictnc.org](http://www.capitaldistrictnc.org)

Conference Website: [www.nccumc.org](http://www.nccumc.org)

Rev. Sung Moy, Senior Pastor

[revsungmoy@gmail.com](mailto:revsungmoy@gmail.com)

Bruce Smith, Director of Music

Becky Rogers, Office Secretary

Robert Simmons, Custodian

**SENT WITH A PRAYER FOR:**

Westover United Methodist Church

Sunday Service times:

8:45am in the Fellowship Hall

9:45am Sunday School in the  
Education Building

11:00am in the Sanctuary

**YOU ARE INVITED!**



## **First Fruits of Worship!**

**by Bruce Smith**

*Associate Director of Music Ministries*

### **Christmas Carol Story: “O Holy Night”**

***“Fall on your knees – o hear the angel voices! O night divine!”***

It is only fitting that one of the most beautiful and powerful Christmas carols of all time should have an equally dramatic and impactful story behind it. From its creation in 1847 to its banishment years later, to its symbolic and impactful communication to the world, “O Holy Night” has a fascinating story about a piece of music that would not be withheld from the world.

The story begins in France in 1847 when a local wine commissioner, Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure, a man known for his poetry, was asked to write a poem for the local church’s Christmas mass. The result was his “Cantique de Noel”. His poem moved him so much that Placide sought the musical skills of one of his friends, Adolphe Charles Adams to set this poem to music. Adolphe was Jewish and obviously felt the challenge of writing for a day he did not celebrate and a man he did not recognize as the son of God. But the poem so inspired him that his music pleased both the poet and the Priest. The song was performed for the first time just three weeks later at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and was beloved by the church and the French community that birthed it.

But this is where the story of this carol takes on a new life of its own. Years later, Placide, the poet, left the church and joined the socialist movement. This became widely known and as a result it was discovered that Placide’s musician friend, Adolphe, was Jewish. The church leaders felt betrayed and immediately banned “Cantique de Noel” as unfit for worship services because it lacked musical taste and possessed a “total absence of the spirit of religion”.

But the church leaders could not contain the power of this carol. In the mid 1800’s “Cantique de Noel” was found by a Unitarian minister and was translated into English and was published in his music journal he shared with other musicians in America. This resulted in this carol taking off in America.

The final leg of this amazing carol story occurs in 1906 when the chief chemist for Thomas Edison began making radio transmissions, beginning with Morse Code, then ultimately with human words. Fessenden was determined to speak the words of Christ’s birth to the world. The first words ever spoken over the airwaves that Christmas 1906 were the words from the Gospel of Luke...

***“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Ceasar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed...” Luke 2:1***

The radio audience was spellbound as they heard the good news read over the airwaves. Fessenden was so thrilled with this accomplishment, that he picked up his violin and began to play the first music ever heard over radio. The song he played was “O Holy Night”. And that Christmas in 1906, the song birthed in France became a worldwide Christmas classic.

Sometimes music and words are so compelling that they cannot be withheld from transforming lives. Such is the case with this amazing Christmas Carol. My Christmas wish for you, my church, is that this carol will fill your homes with the power and majesty of God’s hand bringing our Savior into the world that holy night!

***“A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!”***

## **Looking for Pictures**

Do you have any recent pictures of a church event, activity or worship?

Please send them to Bruce Smith at [smithjazz@nc.rr.com](mailto:smithjazz@nc.rr.com).

We are also looking for people to take pictures of future events, worship, etc. to update our website and Facebook page.

Pictures of children will not be posted without a signed release form.



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### **Praise Team rehearsal schedule for December...**

Tue, December 3 - 11AM - Choir Room

Fri, December 13 - 11AM - Choir Room