



Landrum Methodist Church

December 2024

# The Lamplighter

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation."

Trudy's Tidings

## The Road to Bethlehem



Listening to scripture can be like driving a car. As you cruise down the highway, your eye catches a blur of colors. You travel this route often, and have never noticed it before, so next time you pay more attention. You watch closely, then you see it...a lovely little patch of wildflowers, and you wonder how many times you drove by and didn't see them.

It is the same with scripture. There are passages we have read many times. We know the characters, quotes, and what it means. Then we find something we haven't seen before. A single word or a verse that has been there all along jumps off the page and you hear it as if it was the very first time. Few scriptures are more familiar than the Christmas story, and because we know it so well, we miss what it continues to teach us. I slowed down at Advent and paid more attention to "the road". I benefited from the journey.

A Pastor asked me to compile an Advent booklet with meditations from the congregation "How do you come to Christmas?" People provided memories about their youth and celebrations they remembered. For my December birthday, I had received an Amy Grant Christmas CD where she had written this included on the cover jacket.

### The Road to Bethlehem

***That night, Mary found herself in completely unfamiliar territory. She didn't recognize this place or this road, didn't even recognize her own body.***

***Shifting her weight once again on the back of the donkey, she readjusted the bulk of her belly. The rhythm of Joseph's footfall, the endless shuffling of hooves on the dusty road might have been enough to hypnotize her, if it weren't for this overwhelming discomfort. Impossible to sleep, impossible to rest. Impossible to even explain this situation. She had endured the sly glances from the boys in her village, had been pained by the way the girls avoided her, and now, far from home and far from the comfort of her own mother's wisdom and experience, she faces her destiny alone.***

***Over and over, she remembers the words of the angel: "Nothing is impossible with God." She knows. This is no mistake. He called her by name.***

The narrative about a human Mary being transformed into a Holy mother affected me that Advent and has been with me since. She eventually recognized her value. This is what we all need -to know that we have special value. While few of us get to hear that message from an angel, we all need to be reminded of it.

I first came to LUMC with my mother. She mentioned she would like to provide Christmas décor to the church, perhaps a larger tree, greenery etc. When she passed, I followed her request and helped Patricia decorate. Pastor Kevin and I discussed my Journey to Bethlehem inspiration, and I drew silhouettes which would "travel" to the manger during Advent. Epiphany would have the wise men follow. For years, Jaime has ably managed this assignment climbing up each week to move them along their journey. Thank you, Jaime! The display inspires me every Christmas and others compliment it.

I hope that as you travel your road to Bethlehem, Advent brings you peace, joy, hope and love. Trudy

## We pray for:

Mallory Inman – Eye problem  
Lisa Wofford- healing from surgery  
Linda Perkin  
Betsy & Jay (Jody's Neighbors)  
Chris Krebs' sister  
Janelle  
Carl -Glenn Downey's friend  
Pat Parker Barto sister  
Sandra Bilbro Barto DIL Mother  
Rev Martinez & Church family  
Phil Goodrich – back pain  
Kimberly Malone – Breast cancer Kay Spiegel coworker  
Carmen & husband – back surgery  
Betsy & Jay – Jody's neighbors  
Case Family  
Paulette Nodine – loss of son  
Margaret Kelli – cancer treatment  
Steve & Carmen (Carmen's back surgery)  
Gloria Wells -tests



The LUMC Minister and Congregation prays for those who need special prayer or have medical concerns.

We express our heartfelt Christian sympathy to those who have had loved ones pass away.

Please inform the church office of any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer list.

Remember these people in your prayers as well as our church, Pastor, Outreach, Missions, community, and our nation.



Maxine Finch  
102 Corolla Court  
Moore SC 29369

June Rhymer  
810 E. Rutherford St  
Landrum SC 29356

Joe Brown 109  
Edgewood Avenue  
Landrum SC 29356

Mike McAllister

Mary Williamson

Mrs. Wofford (Jaime's Grandmother



### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Robert Black
- 2 Pete Inman
- 3 Joan Clark  
Al Barto
- 4 Veronica Howard
- 6 Jody McPherson
- 7 Trudy Van Voorhis
- 8 Emmalea Plumley
- 9 Lisa Gunter
- 13 Jody Antosia
- 17 Beth Pace
- 19 Dennis Gunter  
Alice Sam
- 21 Marcus Quinn
- 23 Brenda Black
- 28 Wanda Manson
- 30 Jean Ashmore

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Paul Forster & Wanda Starling  
Phil & Rosemary Odom
- 30 Al & Cheryl Barto  
Guy & Lisa Spriggs

# Year-End Giving: A Time to Bless and Reflect

As we approach the end of the year, it's a great opportunity to reflect on the many blessings God has provided and to consider how we can express our gratitude through giving. Year-end giving is not only a way to support the church's mission but also a powerful spiritual practice that deepens our faith and trust in God's provision. It is a moment to give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout the year and to support the work of the church as we prepare for the year ahead. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, we are reminded, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Year-end gifts, whether large or small, can play a significant role in funding ministry programs, supporting missions, and maintaining church operations. By giving thoughtfully, we help strengthen the church and further the message of Christ.

On behalf of the Finance committee, I thank you for your generosity and support not just during these past few months of transition but over much more time than that. Our church has always been able to fund what we needed and wanted to do, and I pray that will continue as our path forward into the new year!

Sincerely,

*Nancy*

Nancy B  
Finance Chair

## Community Meal Volunteers

Photos: Paul Forster



## **Administrative Council Meeting** Sunday, November 10, 2024

Members Present: Rita Plumley, Martha Castro, Glenn and Carla Downey, Cheryl Barto, Ted Andrus, Cheryl and Bill Every, George Ashmore, Bonnie Inman, Wayne Hager, Steve Martinez, Nancy Boatwright, Jaime Wofford, Debby Croft, and Jody McPherson  
Guests: Paul Forster and Pete Inman

Glenn welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared Joy would not be at the meeting and shared her report. Members will be able to purchase hymnals and there continues to be a problem with unlocked doors.

Ted Andrus moved to approve the October minutes as written and George Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The following members gave their reports:

**Cheryl Barto:** Altar Guild is planning for Advent. Silver Spirits will be having a Friendsgiving. There will be a new Munch & Mingle calendar at the beginning of the year and a Christmas Drop-In this year will be following the Dec. 15 service in the Fellowship Hall.

**Bill Every:** Joanna Martinez will begin her position as church secretary on November 18. He is working on a training process for her.

**Jody McPherson:** We have 2 more weeks of backpacks and then we are done until Feb. There are no Magi Stars through Operation Hope this year because of changes in the school district's program.

**Wayne Hager:** He is encouraged with the direction our church has been going in and we seem to be at a new starting point.

**Jaime Wofford:** The gas furnace was replaced, and he is working on updating the Safe Sanctuary policies with GMC's policies. The office has some issues to be addressed in the basement and in the duct work and also the parking lot across from the church. A new contract has been signed for the copier.

**Bonnie Inman:** No new ideas for Sunday school.

**Debby Croft:** More people are helping with the card ministry.

**Carla Downey:** College students received fall cards and 5 boxes will be sent to them for exams. Students are very appreciative of the goodies and cards from their church family.

**Glenn Downey:** There's talk of lay speakers; there really hasn't been much training since Covid. He wonders if others may be interested in training when it opens up.

**George Ashmore:** He wonders if there is a church outreach program, or if there's ever been one, that targets people new to the community? There was some discussion on ways to be more intentional with the community.

**Pastor Steve:** He used the phrase Relational Bandwidth: we want God to use our church spaces. Discussion was had on how to do this using social media and also combining his nonprofit organization's (Gather Community) activities with our facilities. He also talked about LMC working with the GMC and Gather Community to help provide Christmas gifts and other needed items to students at 2 schools in western NC. Bonnie Inman made the motion that in conjunction with Gather Community, we will use our facilities for family community events. Debby Croft seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Ted closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Castro

## Silver Spirits

Photos: Pete Block



We had a “packed house” at our Friendsgiving luncheon, and it was very evident that all had a wonderful time! You might want to consider joining us next November, as we know you won’t be disappointed! Our senior’s group will not be meeting in December, and we wish each one a very Merry Christmas! Trudy & Cheryl

## Altar Guild



The wait is almost over, Lord! Your children are so excited for your birth! Our sanctuary begins the preparation for your arrival with the Hanging of the Greens service on 12/01, when the beauty of Advent begins! The Christmon tree comes alive when adorned with the symbols representing Christ our Savior. As you take in the beauty of the Advent wreath, remember what each candle represents as a new one is lighted each Sunday morning during this holy season. Gaze upward at the nativity silhouettes, as they progress each week to the ultimate Gift. The beautiful hanging banners adorning the walls reflect hope, peace, joy, and love. As you sit in stillness each Advent Sunday, focus on those impactful words, and reflect on their meanings.

A new flower chart will be placed in the Narthex for the coming year; and, as always, we are available to help with floral pieces for anyone needing that service.

Christmas Blessings, Debby & Cheryl

## Munch & Mingle

A huge THANK YOU to all who have made this bimonthly mission a continued success! From all who have prepared and brought food to those dropping money in the donation basket, your support makes this event possible! If you notice the new signup chart for the new year on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, you can’t help but see there are many open dates!! Remember, we have no participation requirements for signing up! If you have a favorite recipe or two, or new ones you’d like to try, why not prepare them for the group! Chat with a friend or two, choose a date, and let’s keep this beloved event going through 2025!

## Christmas Drop-in



We are excited to have this wonderful Holiday gathering with our church family returning on 12/15, with the new location of Fellowship Hall - this will be immediately following church service. As in past years, we will have members sign up to bring either finger foods or desserts, and this sheet can be found in the Narthex. If you would rather donate toward expenses, a basket will be provided for this as well. We are really looking forward to having this become a “Christmas tradition” once again!



All Saints Day  
In Memory of Fran Page and Don Surface



Photos: Paul Forster

