



WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173

DECEMBER 2021

A note from the pastor...

More than likely the countdown to Christmas has already started for you. Is the Christmas shopping all done (or have you even started)? Have you decorated yet? Is the tree up? Have the plans been made for who is going where on which day, and what are you going to eat while you're there? And, of course, the question of questions: What about Christmas cards?

Too often our Christmas preparations are like our decorations: the same every year. But...how important is Jesus to you? Is your life different today than it was last year, or even ten years ago, because of Jesus?

In many ways Jesus' birth was like his parable about the mustard seed, something that seems to be insignificant will actually have a great effect. On the day Jesus was born, a seemingly unimportant event took place in an unnoticed town that escaped the attention of almost everyone around.

What matters today is, did *you* notice? Are your Christmas preparations focused on Jesus? No matter what happened in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, what is happening in your heart? Did you notice Jesus today? Has the Kingdom of God grown in you like the mustard seed Jesus described?

As we consider who Jesus is, we can join together to answer some of the questions of Christmas.

Old Zechariah is told he and his wife will have a son (John the Baptist). He doubted the reality of the message with interesting consequences.

When the angel described what was going to happen, it simply didn't make sense to Mary.

Priests had great knowledge, but something was missing.

Shepherds may have been astounded, but *they* believed and searched for this baby whose birth has been announced. When all the excitement is over, they return to their sheep...

But does anyone believe their story?

Pastor Paul

Sermon Passages for December:

December 5*: (Advent #2) Luke 1:18 "How can I know this...?"

December 12: (Advent #3) Luke 1:34 "How can this be...?"

December 19: (Advent #4) Matthew 2:3-6 "What do you know about Jesus?"

December 24*: (Christmas Eve) Luke 2:12 "God Among Us"

December 26: Luke 2:20 "Returning to the Sheep"

*—Communion will be celebrated on both December 5 & 24.

*—On December 24 there will be two identical worship services at 4:00pm and 9:00pm.

Weekly Reminders:

Prayer Group: Wednesday at 4:00 PM in the Youth Room

Adult Choir Practice: Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Sanctuary

Bible Study with Pastor: Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Walkersville's EPC Session Meetings Minutes

Walkersville EPC
Session Minutes
November 18, 2021

The Session of Walkersville EPC met on November 18,2021 in the Fellowship Hall. Elders present were Clara McGee, Larry Schott, Bob Stirton, Boyet Twitty, Betty Lou Mosley and Rev. Paul Rankin.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a review of EPC's position on Abortion. The minutes from September 16,2021 were read. Betty Lou Mosley made a motion to accept as read, Boyet Twitty seconded and all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds – Carillon is working
Water Fountain in Educational Wing has been replaced
Hot water in kitchen is fixed
Drainage problem on back walkway has been fixed
Front window needs to be fixed top won't stay up

Christian Education – **Advent devotional materials are on the table inside the front door**
Next meeting January 16

Congregational Care – Pray for the congregation and our church.
Note the prayer list in the bulletin

Mission & Outreach – Toys for Tots
Consider supporting EPC missionary individuals/couples (EPCWO)

Stewardship/Finance – Finance Report read. Motion to accept by Betty Lou Mosley,
Seconded by Clara McGee accepted by all.

Worship - November 22,2021 Hanging of the Greens
December 5,2021 Congregational Meeting
December 19,2021 Christmas Program
December 24 Christmas Eve Services: 4:00/9:00 with identical services

(We encourage everyone to wear a mask when entering and exiting the Sanctuary. They are mask at the back of the church if you need one)

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Old Business – N/A

New Business – December 16,2021 at 5:00PM in the fellowship hall the Elders will be packing Fruit bags to give out after the Christmas Program and we can use all the help we can get!

There being no further business Betty Lou Mosley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Clara McGee and approved by all.

Closed with Prayer by Paul Rankin

Rev. Paul Rankin
Moderator

Clara McGee
Clerk of Session

The Men's and Ladies Bible Study

They meet on second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM, Men meet in Fellowship Hall and Women at the Manse.

From the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will be including a Prayer List in the bulletin each week. If you wish to have someone's name listed in the church bulletin, please contact Debbie Rankin. Your request will remain on the Prayer List in the bulletin for one month. At the end of that time, the name you listed will be dropped from the Prayer List or you may ask Debbie to continue to list that person's name.

A note from the Congregational Care Ministry Group...

We have several friends who are suffering from injuries and other health problems who need our help through prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits. Please minister in some way to Robby Griffin, Phil Keys, Shelia Medlin, Larry and Audrey Schott, Clyde and Ruth Norwood, Travis Price, Troyanne and Mark Hinson, Rick Moser, Beth Simpson, Frank Rogers, Rachel Brody, Sheldon Medlin, Martha Allen, James and Francis Gordon, Sandy Brady, Linda and Phil Goodman, Wilson Pierce, Paul and Peggy Dvorak, Phil Mosley, Billy Thompson, Terry McManus, Wendy Rose, Clara and Jim McGee, Shirley Starnes, Reece Starnes, Rev. Steve Rembert, Mark and Nanci Beebe, Albert, Hazel, and Bo Starnes, Jenny Wilson, Bob and Brenda O'Kelley Lynn Dewlen, Karen Skirpol, Tim Morgan, Brody Keen, Sharon Barber, Randy Richardson, Robert Helms, Kaymon Carter, Frankie Norwood, Bill Cope, Claude Gamble, Geneva Desmond, Daniel McGuirt, George Huntley, Brittany Helms, David Rankin, Ray Phillips, Melody Carswell, Jeff Wren, Donald Beebe, Walt Venturo, Sue Haney, Silas Simpson, Pat Schlappich, Barb Salisbury, Tiffany Medlin, Bart Jackson and our missionaries in Haiti and through the world, Jennifer Corley, Bruce Powell, Janet Tyson, Pam Gordon, Jerry and Alice Griffin and Patty Outen.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Iris Robinson Moser and Dr. Zake Eargle Sr.

Please continue to send cards and remember in prayer our church members who are in assisted living homes:

Robby Griffin, Lee Forest Group Home, 1209 Pelham Dr., Laurinburg, NC 28352

Travis Price, Brookdale Monroe Square, Room 44918 Fitzgerald St, Monroe, NC 28112-5679

Food Pantry

The food pantry at Prospect is always in need of donations to meet the growing need. Canned soups and non-perishable items are helpful. Please bring them to the back of the church and let's see how fast we can fill up the barrel

The Congregational Care Committee

Have you noticed Walkersville is sending birthday and anniversary cards to members and friends of the church? The Congregational Care Committee would like to extend this ministry by sending cards to your friends and neighbors who need pray encouragement or to be remembered on their special day. Please let Audrey Schott, 704-774-1691, know their name and address and she will make sure a card is sent.

Christian Education Committee needs you:

If you love God's word and want to see others love it too, then consider joining the Christian Education Committee. As we desire to see of the children, youth, and adults of Walkersville and the community grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and the Bible. The committee has bi-monthly meetings to coordinate and plan for up-coming events and to pray for our church. Help us as we pray and plan for Sunday School (Adult, youth & children), Advent, Bible Studies, Lent, Little Angels, CREW Time and special events like the Easter Egg Hunt, and a Children's Christmas.

Good News and Praises

Happy Birthday and Anniversary

December

Bob McCain-1

Rick Moser-3

Todd & Debra Twitty-12/5

Marsha Stirton-8

Layne & Lynn Dewlen-12/8

Daisy Hardy-9

Allison Batson-10

Tiffany Medlin-14

Mike & Mitzie Broome-12/15/18

Rhonda McManus-19

Ann Rose-20

Jennifer Corley, missionary-22

Jean White-25

Jessica Johnston-27

Elleigh Johnston-28

Bob & Fran Griffin-12/29/1967

Dear Walkersville family,

Thank you all so much for the prayers, phone calls, cards, text, food, monetary gifts and flowers you sent during Iris' sickness and passing. Your love was felt and very much appreciated. We are so blessed to have such a caring congregation here at Walkersville. We sure do miss Iris but we feel the peace knowing she's no longer suffering. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. God bless you all!

Love,

Rick, Cameron, Devin & family, Dennis, and Debbie

Operation Reach-Out

Thank you to everyone who helped with Operation Reach-Out's "Lord of the Harvest" Thanksgiving Day meal. The homeless and those who are experiencing a difficult time in life enjoyed your sweet potato casseroles, stuffing, and numerous cans of cranberry sauce along with the other traditional parts of the dinner. All of your donations were a part of a wonderful meal that was served to 353 people by many volunteers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Learn more about the ministry of Operation Reach-Out at: <https://www.operationreachout.org>

"As much as you did it to these the least of my brothers & sisters, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Thanksgiving

by Linda Goodman
©Linda Goodman 1996

When my family lived in the Appalachian Mountains of Wise County, Virginia, the food that we ate at our Thanksgiving Day meal was the same as what we ate on any other day: soup beans and cornbread. Occasionally, there would be meat, if Daddy had been out hunting.

What made the meal different was a ritual that my Daddy insisted upon observing on Thanksgiving. Before eating, each of us sitting around the table would, one by one, give thanks for that for which he or she was most grateful. Not having much in the way of material possessions, our thanks usually were given for treasured relationships. One year, after I had recovered from a severe bout with pneumonia, I was surprised to hear my brothers give thanks for my survival. It changed the way I felt about them, and their constant teasing was easier to take after that. I gave thanks for my new baby sister who, in my opinion, was the prettiest child ever born. Mama was thankful for healthy children, and Daddy was thankful that he had been blessed with children who were thinkers. If you use your head, you will come out ahead, he always told us.

When we moved to the city, Thanksgiving remained the same. Though our new neighbors enjoyed turkey with dressing and sumptuous sides, my parents refused to assimilate into the city culture. Our meals and rituals did not change. We children eventually adopted city ways, but Momma and Daddy held to the old ways until their deaths.

A few months before Thanksgiving 1989, after both my parents had passed away, my husband's job moved us to Enfield, Connecticut. My sister and her family came to spend the holiday with me and my family that year. I fixed a traditional meal of turkey, dressing, corn casserole, and sweet potato casserole. My husband made green beans seasoned with Smithfield ham and butter-rich mashed potatoes. Before eating, my sister and I decided to reinstate the old ritual that we had taken part in so often. One by one our children gave thanks. My daughter was thankful for the new dress she had gotten for the Christmas dance at school. My nephew was thankful for his Nintendo. My niece was glad that her allowance had been increased. No one mentioned family or friends.

I abandoned the ritual after that. It just was not the same with its new emphasis on material possessions. On Thanksgiving Day, we have a bountiful meal and good companionship. Everyone seems happy. But I always make sure to take a few minutes alone to give thanks for the wonderful man who taught me that it is not who you are, but how you live, that matters most; and that anyone who has a loving family is rich indeed.

GO!
by Layne Dewlen

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

This past week I decided to go work at the mission project where I volunteer. It was a different time than I normally go, and as I turned a corner to go into the warehouse this man flagged me down. He wanted money for food. I told him I wouldn't give him any money, but if he wanted to get in, I would take him to a restaurant and buy him some food. He got in. As we were going, I asked about him, discovered his name was Scott, and came to the realization he was the same man I had picked up over a year ago at the very same place. That time he was three sheets to the wind, as they say, and I'm sure he probably didn't remember the occurrence. That time he wanted a ride home, and I obliged him. When he was in the car he asked if we could stop so he could get a drink. I said no. When we got to the place where he was staying, I talked to him about his need of giving himself to Jesus Christ, and of course he agreed with everything I said. Well, Lynn and I have been praying for him ever since.

Then came last week. I wasn't scheduled to go in to work, in fact it was a different time and day than normal, BUT GOD! God had a plan and used me as His witness. I wish I could say Scott accepted the Lord, he didn't, but I was thankful to be used as God's messenger.

This is the second time in my life when I knew I had been used of God. The other was even more strange.

I had bought a car on e-bay that was in Missouri. As I was getting ready to go to the airport the thought came to me that maybe I would be able to talk to someone about the Lord. On the flight to Saint Louis, I sat next to a nice Christian lady, with whom I had a great conversation.

Well, when I looked at the car, it wasn't anything like what I thought it should be. So instead of driving back to Charlotte, I was going to have to fly home. I got to the airport and found there was a direct flight which was overbooked, and another flight at the same time going to Philadelphia and connecting to Charlotte. Since I was on an employee pass and would not be able to get on until after everyone else, and their dog, I took the safe bet and went to Philadelphia.

I got on the plane after everyone else was on, and went back to my assigned seat only to find it occupied. Being the easy-going guy I am, and not wanting to cause any problem, and having noticed two other seats not occupied. I turned around to the first seat I had passed which was by the window and decided against it, since I would have to bother the person on the isle. So, I went to an aisle seat next to a lady, asking if I could sit with her.

We had a great time talking all the way to Philly. As we were letting down from cruising altitude, I asked her if I could ask a personal question, and she said sure. I asked if she had a personal relationship with Jesus. Her answer was, “Well, ah, yes, er, no.” I started telling her what Christ meant to me, the relationship, Him being my best friend. While I was talking to her, she kept saying over and over, “You don't know your timing, you don't know your timing.” Come to find out she had asked God to show her if He was real.

She was right, I didn't know the timing, BUT GOD! Think of the variables. I could have gone a different day. The car could have been great and I would have driven home. The timing of my arrival back at the Saint Louis airport where two planes were leaving at the same time. My decision to go to Philly. My seat taken on the plane. Two other seats available, and my passing up the first one at the window, which I prefer. God does work in mysterious ways!

Do we always know when we are used of God? The answer is yes. We are used of God as we obey His commandment to GO!

Will we always SEE we have been used of God? The answer is no, but His commandment is still the same, GO!

Maranatha!



December Roster

Committee of the Month: Building & Grounds

Mission of the Month: Operation Reach-Out

Nursery Workers:

- Dec 05 Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston
- Dec 12 Rhonda McManus
- Dec 19 Mark and Nanci Beebe
- Dec 26 Jessica Johnston

Volunteers Needed

Newsletter Information

If you have information to include in the newsletter, please send it to Harvey Hess by the 15th of each month. You may email the information to harveyhess@bellsouth.net or by phone or text to 704-516-6503. Thank you!

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request that needs to be communicated through the prayer chain, please contact Clara McGee at 704-709-7125 or Gloria Norwood at 704-843-2352. They will ensure that the word gets out! Also, if you have not been receiving prayer chain calls and would like to be added to the call list, please let Clara or Gloria know this as well.

Session Members, Prayer Chain Contacts, and Committee Information

2021 Session		
Elder	Phone	Term
Paul Rankin	814-279-5055	Pastor
Clara McGee Clerk of Session	704-709-7125	Class of 2023
Larry Schott	704-774-1691	Class of 2024
Bob Stirton	704-361-4888	Class of 2024
Boyet Twitty	704-351-0833	Class of 2022
Betty Lou Mosley	704-764-3339	Class of 2023

Prayer Chain – Call to Activate	
Clara McGee	704-709-7125
Gloria Norwood	704-843-2352

2021 Church Committees		
Committee	Chair	Clerk
Building & Grounds	Russell Mosley	Bob Stirton
Christian Education	Debbie Robinson	Gloria Norwood
Congregational Care	Bob McCain	Tammy Mosley
Fellowship		
Missions & Outreach	Clay Murray	Betty Lou Mosley
Stewardship	Fran Griffin	Betty Lou Mosley
Worship	Marsha Stirton Frances Gamble	Sue Thornton

December 2021

			1 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	2	3	4
5 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice Communion Congregational Meeting	6	7 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	8 12:15 PM Operation Reach Out Meal 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	9	10	11
12 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice	13 7:00 PM – Men’s Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study at Manse	14 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	15 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 5:30-7:00 PM Little Angels Youth Group	16 5:00 PM Session Meeting	17	18
19 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice Christmas Program	20	21 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	22 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	23	24 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM Worship Service Communion	25

<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>		