

# WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173  
DECEMBER 2019



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## A Note from the Pastor...

If you follow a liturgical calendar, Advent takes on two different roles. The one we are most familiar with encompasses the four Sundays before Christmas, marking the advent of Christ's birth. But the other role of Advent is to usher in the new Church year. Advent may come at the end of our calendar year, but it marks the beginning of the year as we consider our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

At the same time, when we come to the Christmas season, I find it almost impossible not to make the jump to Good Friday and Easter. I suppose it is for this reason that I look forward to celebrating Communion on Christmas Eve. Christmas is eternally linked to all we remember and celebrate when we approach the Lord's Table. As has been the case in the past, when we worship on Christmas Eve, this will be our celebration of Communion for the month of December.

When we begin to talk about the Advent and Christmas season, one of the great challenges for pastors is trying to find something new or different to talk about. This season all the passages we will be looking at come from the prophet Isaiah. Hundreds of years before the first Christmas in Bethlehem, this prophet said more about the coming and the work of Jesus Christ than any other Old Testament writer. We will hear about the light of the LORD, the knowledge of the LORD, and the joy and glory of the LORD. However, we know that, while "everyone" is supposed to be happy and joyous this time of the year, this is not always the case. Isaiah even covers this when, in Isaiah 7:10-16, people were truly scared at what they saw happening on the international stage around them. Immanuel would be appearing right in the middle of it all providing a sign of God's presence regardless of our circumstances. And in the darkness of the world as well as our lives, there is light...not just a small light at the end of the tunnel, but a "great light". Finally, as we look behind at the past year and ahead at the coming year, Isaiah 55 gives an invitation to an abundant, joyful life found only when we follow the LORD. Are you *really* ready for Christmas?

God's blessings to you,  
Paul

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### Sermons for December

December 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 2:1-5  
December 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 11:1-9  
December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 35:1-10  
December 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 7:10-16  
December 24: Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7  
December 29: Isaiah 55:1-13

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**Weekly Reminders:**

**Prayer Group:** Wednesdays at 4:00 PM in the Youth Room

**Children’s Choir Practice:** Mondays at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary

**Adult Choir Practice:** Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

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**Walkersville’s EPC Session Meetings Minutes**

The session of Walkersville EPC met on November 18, 2019 @ 7:00 pm in the church library. Elders present were Boyet Twitty, Hazel Norwood, Dean Haney, Jim McGee, Dennis Robinson and Rev. Paul Rankin, moderator.

The meeting was opened with Bible reading from Nehemiah 1:1-10 and prayer.

The minutes for October 22, 2019 and the congregational meeting on October 20, 2019 were read and approved.

Dean Haney presented the treasurer's report prepared by Beverly Haney. The report was accepted and approved by the session. Dean Haney also presented the 2020 proposed budget prepared by the finance committee. The session made the motion to dissolve the \$1,000.00 line item in the budget giving to Pochocuape School Mission (Nicaragua) The school gets 1/2 of all funds made from the four chicken and dumplings each year before expenses. The men and women also give to Nicaragua. Session approved.

**Ministry Team Reports**

**Building & Grounds** - Boyet reported that the concrete work had been completed at the take out station and the ramp at the back of the church under the walkway. Building and Grounds will be installing handrails around the new ramp when weather permits.

**Christian Education** - No report

**Congregational Care** - A letter was presented to the session to be signed by the clerk of session and the pastor allowing Bob McCain from Walkersville EPC and Jerry Helms from Prospect United Methodist to permit them to write checks from Faith Works checking and to administer funds that were put in the United Methodist Endowment funds. These are two separate accounts.

**Fellowship** - In search for someone to head this group after the beginning of 2020. A big thanks for all the hard work and dedication to Alice Gay and Alisa Pierce for being a vital part of this group for the past 8 years.

**Mission Outreach** - The session approved \$204.00 yearly for website maintenance. This would be a line item for mission and outreach.

New calendar items - December 4, 2019 will be the Little Angels Christmas party. December 7, 2019 Hazel Norwood has approval for use of the Fellowship Hall.

There being no further business Jim McGee made a motion to adjourn. Dean Haney seconded. Session approved. Rev. Paul Rankin closed in prayer.

Rev. Paul Rankin  
Moderator

Dennis Robinson  
Clerk of Session

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November 1, 2019  
Walkersville EPC  
Congregation Meeting

Being given proper notice, the congregation met following morning worship service. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Paul Rankin and opened with prayer. A quorum was present.

The purpose of the meeting was to dissolve the Pastoral Search Committee. The motion was made by Bob Griffin and seconded by Jim McGee. The vote was unanimous to dissolve the committee. The committee was recognized. Hazel Norwood chairman, Alisa Pierce, Clara McGee, Bob McCain and Dennis Robinson. We welcome Rev. Paul Rankin as fulltime pastor after completing all the requirements of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Praise God. There being no further business, the meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Paul Rankin.

Rev. Paul Rankin  
Moderator

Dennis Robinson  
Clerk of Session

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### **The Men's and Ladies Bible Study**

They meet on second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM  
With Pastor Paul Rankin first and third Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

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### **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 Clara McGee. 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 Clara to continue to list that person's name.

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### **Senior Saints Luncheon**

55 plus luncheon is meeting the last Wednesday of every month at 11:30.

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### **Fellowship Supper**

There will be **NO** Fellowship Supper on the second Wednesday of December.

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### ***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 Perry and Marlene Brown, Jean Price, Robby Griffin, Eric Thomas, Ronnie Craig, Barb Castner, Gregg Ross, Albert Starnes, Ben Plyler, Denny Simpson, Debbie Dickson, Melanie Deal (sister of Linda Goodman), Brenda O'Kelly (mother of Tammy Mosley).

We extend sympathy to the families Joe Caldwell, Ray Webb, Carlton Tyson, Betty Jo Parker and Davis Starnes.

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

Mrs. Jean Price, White Oaks of Waxhaw 700 Howie Mine Rd. Waxhaw, NC 28173

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

Bryant Russell, Monroe Manor, 1101 Baucom Rd, Monroe, NC 28110

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

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### **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!

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### **Fellowship Committee**

Fellowship Chair Alisa Pierce and Clerk Alice Gay are giving up their positions effective December 31, 2019. We have served on the Fellowship Committee for years; we need a break and it is time to let someone with fresh ideas take over! We would like to thank you all for your help and support over the years and look forward to attending Fellowship Events in the future.

Contact Hazel Norwood Elder for Fellowship Committee if you are interested in taking over these positions.

Thank you.

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### **Operation Reach Out**

Just a quick reminder that Walkersville has pledged to provide lunch to the clients at **Operation Reach Out** each month on the **2nd Wednesday**. If you would like to take the meal one month, you can find the sign-up sheet posted on the door to the sound room as you enter the sanctuary. Our focus item for October is coats and sweaters.

If you would like to help with this mission project, there is a sign-up sheet on the door to the sound room. If you have any questions please feel free to contact anyone on the Mission/Outreach Ministry Team.

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### **Women of Walkersville (WOW) News**

The Women of Walkersville would like to thank Linda Goodman for leading our Bible Study this past year. We completed *What Happens When Women Pray* by Evelyn Christenson in July. In August we met and decided to start a new study entitled, *Bad Girls of the Bible: and What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs. All ladies of Walkersville are welcome to join us. If you would like to be a part of the study group, please let Marsha (704-579-2358) know so she can order a book for you. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Youth Room.

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### **Mission and Outreach**

Gloria Norwood is accepting shoe boxes to go to Samaritan Purse for the children of the world. Allison Batson is collecting College Goody Bags for our college students.

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### **Church Fellowship**

The church will be taking the church bus to Narrowway Theater-The Real Christmas Story on December 11. See Beverly Haney for more information.

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### “Sing a Song of Christmas!”

We got through November with hearts filled with thankfulness for our many blessings! Now as December arrives, we start counting down the days to Christmas. The **Adult Choir’s** Christmas musical, “**Waiting for Christmas**”, tells the story in beautiful songs and narration about the one day each year when family and friends come together to celebrate the joy, peace, hope and love that came into our world through the birth of our Saviour. We look forward to sharing this story with you all on **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. Bring your families and friends for this celebration.

The **Kids Choir** is working really hard to be ready for their Christmas program performance on **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM** in the Sanctuary. “**The First Leon (Noel spelled backwards)**”. In this musical we get to see the Christmas story through the eyes of a young and special boy named Leon. We’ll have angels, shepherds, and of course Mary and Joseph. There will be singing and even dancing. Great music in this one. We hope all of you will try to work this time into your busy schedules. We know you will receive a Christmas blessing. This will be an opportunity to consider what we are willing to give or give up for Christ this season.

We are wishing everyone Love and Joy this Christmas season and throughout the New Year!

Christmas Blessings,  
Sue and Marsha

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### Memorials to Cemetery Fund

For Richard Banks McCain, Jr.

By Anonymously

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### Good News and Praises

It's a Happy Birthday to Allison Batson on Dec 10th. Celebrate.....

From Jennifer Corley, Campus Outreach UNC-Chapel Hill

Last year, I met Melissa in Craige dorm through her suite mates who were in my Bible Study. A few months later, she gave her life to Christ and just last weekend got baptized to publicly declare her faith in Christ in front of friends and family. She has a beautiful testimony of God's pursuit of her heart and is growing daily.

Praise for a healthy baby girl! **Hailey Paige Jarrell** was born October 28th to Natalie (Mosley) and Kevin Jarrell. She is the granddaughter of Russell and Tammy Mosley and the great-granddaughter of Betty Lou Mosley. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. Mom, dad and baby are doing well. Grandpa and Grandma think she's the prettiest little baby in the world!

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**Christmas 1999**  
© 2010 Linda Goodman

On August 21, 2010, Dalton Duling died. A former Richmond, VA police sergeant, he spent the last thirty-seven years of his life bringing Christmas to children whose parents could not afford to buy gifts.

As I read his obituary, I remembered that my husband, Phil, had worked with Duling's wife, Dale. She had given Phil an 8 by 10 autographed black and white photo of Sergeant Santa for our granddaughter Morgan. Phil asked me to put it in a safe place. I put it in a place that was so safe, I forgot where it was.

When Morgan was five years old, she asked me, "Mawmaw, is Santa Claus pretend?"

I was not sure how to answer that question. In Virginia's Appalachian Mountains, where I was born, Santa did not come to our small, one-room house. Daddy said that our roof would not support a sleigh with eight reindeer, no matter how tiny they were.

When I gave birth to my daughter, Melanie, I decided that she would not be fooled, as I had been, by the Santa myth.

Eighteen years later, when I walked into Melanie's hospital room, my arms reaching for my new granddaughter, Melanie held her baby close and growled, "This child *will* believe in Santa Claus!"

What could I do but play along? And I must admit that when I awakened on the Christmas day that Morgan was three years old, I was thrilled to hear her sit up in bed and call out loudly, "Did he come?"

She was in awe when she found the toys and the letter that Santa had left for her. She was smiling and crying at the same time as her mother read the letter to her.

And now this same child was asking me, "Mawmaw, is Santa Claus pretend?"

I answered her question with a question. "Why do you ask?"

"Well," she replied, "a boy in my class is telling everybody that Santa Claus is pretend."

I asked another question. "What do you think?"

"Well, Santa is awful fat. How can somebody that fat fit down a chimbley?"

I was undaunted. "Morgan, remember when we found that mouse in my house, and you asked me how it got in? Remember I told you that mice could collapse their bodies to a quarter of an inch and slip in through a heating grate?"

She nodded.

I continued. "Well, Santa is magic! Just like a mouse, he can collapse his body so that it's small enough to slide down any chimney."

“But, Mawmaw, sometimes I’m at my house on Christmas, and sometimes I’m at your house, and sometimes I’m at Granny Annie’s. How does Santa always know where to bring my toys?”

“I write him a letter every November to let him know where you will be.”

“How does Santa get into houses that don’t have chimbleys?”

“For those houses, Santa has a magic key that opens any door.”

Now she really looked confused. “If Santa has a key that opens any door, why does he bother with chimbleys at all?”

I was running out of answers. “Have you asked your mom about this?”

She looked up at me with trusting blue eyes and said, “Yes, I did ask Mommy, but I know that *you* will tell me the truth.”

I was in a quandary. I did not want to be the one to tell her that Santa Claus was not real; yet, if I withheld the truth now, she might never trust me again

Suddenly, out of nowhere, an image of an 8 x 10 black and white photo, lying underneath a row of hanging file folders in my office cabinet, filled my head.

“Just a minute, honey,” I told her, and I ran from the room. “I’ll be right back!”

I hurried to the filing cabinet in my office and searched as fast as my fingers would sift. In the third drawer down, I found what I wanted and ran back to Morgan. “Here!” I gushed. “This is a photo signed by the man himself!”

She stared at the black and white photo. “What did he sign his name *Sergeant* Santa?”

“Uhm.... that’s what the elves call him,” I improvised. “It’s like a boot camp in the North Pole around Christmas time!”

She traced his beard with her tiny index finger. “I knew he was real,” she whispered.

I never doubted Santa again.

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## Flying Blind

by Layne Dewlen

I'm sure you've heard the term "flying straight and level," and how about, "flying by the seat of your pants?" It's one thing to fly when you can look out the window and make sure the wings and nose are level with the horizon, and can see at least three miles ahead of your flight path, but it's something else when all the visual markers are gone and you are "**flying blind.**"

I remember a story my instructor told me when I was learning instrument flying. The flight school I had chosen for all of my training was owned by two old men that had been flying since back in the 20's. One of them had built his own plane back then and learned to fly in it. Needless to say, they were a wealth of experience, and I'm sure the Lord had His hand in my going there. Anyway, back to the story. Ned, that was his name, told me about an experience he had flying from Indiana to Birmingham, Alabama. This was back in the days of the wood and fabric biplanes of the early 1930's. They had no navigational instrumentation in those days, it was strictly "by the seat of your pants." He made it there alright, but when it was time to head back home the clouds /ceiling was very low, in fact the tops of the hills were in the clouds. He decided to take off and fly low through the valleys until he found a hole in the clouds where he could get up on top of the clouds. This he was able to do thinking he would find another hole in which he could get down through to land later. The problem was the hole didn't materialize. He was stuck "on top." Finally, he was about to run out of gas, it was nail biting time. Ned told me how in those days they would trim the airplane to fly "straight and level" with the power off, and let the plane take them down through the clouds, with their hands off the controls. Crazy, yes? Well, there was nothing else to do, so he tried it. He kept going down, thinking he would see the ground and be able to take over control and land in a field, but it didn't happen that way. Ned said the first thing he saw was a tree go whizzing past his wing and he ended up in a pasture. Now **that** is flying blind.

What can we take from Ned's experience for our spiritual life? Certainly, we don't want to fly blind! And yet, how many people spiritually, thinking everything will work out when the time comes to face eternity. Well, for one thing, how many times have we gone off on our own and gotten ourselves between the proverbial rock and a hard place, with nowhere to go? We can feel the fear start to come up in our being, taking over all our thinking. Finally, we come to the realization there's only One that can help us make it through to a safe landing, praying something like Psm.102:2..." In the day I'm in trouble, in the day when I call answer me speedily!" And what does God say? "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8, also, "Be still and know that I am God," Psalm. 46:10.

The truth of the matter is, **if** God is our PILOT and not our CO-PILOT, He has promised to take us through all the way to a safe landing on the other side. After naming off many who have gone on before us in Hebrews 11, God tells us in Heb. 13:5, "I will never leave **thee**, nor forsake **thee**. In my old King James Bible, the first 9 verses of Psalm. 37 says time after time, **trust, fret not, commit, rest, wait, delight, and cease**. Read these verses, they will bless you

The rest of Ned's story did not end well. Ned was without God. I got to talk to him twice about his need of Christ in his life. Some of his last words to me before he died was, "Layne, I've done it my way for so long, it's hard to change." It makes me sad now just to put it on paper. This is one of the reasons I **HATE** the song, "I did it my way." What a lie of the enemy.

To be continued...

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**December Roster**

**Committee of Month:** Building and Grounds

**Monthly Greeter:** Boyet Twitty

**Nursery Workers:**

Dec 01 Jessica Johnston

Dec 08 Debbie Rankin

Dec 15 Rhonda McManus

Dec 22 Kayleen Rankin

Dec 29 Nanci Beebe

**Volunteers Needed**

**Newsletter Information**

If you have information to include in the newsletter, please send it to Harvey Hess by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. You may email the information to [harveyhess@bellsouth.net](mailto: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

**Session Members, Prayer Chain Contacts, and Committee Information**

2019 Session		
Elder	Phone	Term
Paul Rankin	814-279-5055	Pastor
Dennis Robinson	704-764-9025	3 Years
Jim McGee	704-709-7125	3 Years
Hazel Norwood	704-575-6258	2 Years
Dean Haney	704-533-1263	2 Years
Boyet Twitty	704-843-1245	1 Years

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

2019 Church Committees		
Committee	Chair	Clerk
Building & Grounds	Russell Mosley	Bob Stirton
Christian Education	Debbie Robinson	Gloria Norwood
Congregational Care	Bob McCain	Tammy Mosley
Fellowship	Alisa Pierce	Alice Gay
Missions & Outreach	Clay Murray	Betty Lou Mosley
Stewardship	Fran Griffin	Betty Lou Mosley
Worship	Lynn Twitty	Sue Thornton

# December 2019

1	2 4:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	3 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	4 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM Little Angels Christmas Party	5	6	7
8 6:00 PM Cantata “Waiting for Christmas”	9 4:00 PM – Children Choir Practice 7:00 PM – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study	10 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	11 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 5:30 PM Narrowway Theater Operation Reach Out	12	13	14 6:00 PM John Knox Sunday School Christmas Dinner
15	16 4:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	17 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	18 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 6:00 PM Bible Study	19	20	21
22 6:30 PM Children Christmas Program “The First Leon”	23 4:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 11:30 AM Senior Saints Luncheon Cancelled 6:00 – 7:30 PM – Little Angels Youth Group Cancelled Christmas Day	26	27	28

<b>Game Day</b> <b>12:30 to 2:00 PM</b>	<b>29</b> <b>4:00 PM – Children</b> <b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>1</b>		
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