



WALKERSVILLE EPC

December 2023

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A Note from Pastor Paul:

As we head into the Advent season, the question we occasionally forget to ask is, “Who is Jesus?”

Do you remember that when we see pictures and Christmas cards of a baby in a manger, we are also talking about God himself, the God who is, the God who stands outside of time, and the God who stepped into the time he himself created? John 1: 1-5 reminds us of this truth.

Throughout the Gospel of John, light is often used to show God’s presence. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world...” In John 1: 6-14 we are reminded that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. The darkness of this world attempts to hide the light but is never successful. Jesus was there at creation and Scripture reminds us that the universe, which, of course, includes us, belongs to Him. And the power to become children of God is found only in the God who came to us in the person of Jesus Christ. When we look at Jesus, we are looking at God, the creator of light.

But how specific can we get in seeing who Jesus is, especially in terms of his earthly existence? To answer this we will consider Matthew 1:1-17. If nothing else, you will have the opportunity to hear me read all those names. But what is behind those names? Why bother? What is their significance? What can we learn from them?

When we turn to Colossians 1:15-20 we find one of the most powerful passages that point to who Jesus is and continues to be. Jesus is so much more than a baby in a manger. Or even a man who miraculously healed the blind and the lame. Being fully human Jesus is able to relate to us and be our final sacrifice, but many religions and their leaders could potentially make that claim. Being fully God Jesus is able to reconcile us to God, being victorious over sin and death. No one else can do that. Jesus is the only one who can make both claims...and back them up, a truth we see in our transformed lives.

On Christmas Eve we will find ourselves at the familiar story of the angels proclaiming the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Why would God go to that much trouble? We can remember that the baby’s “due date” for this event was sent out centuries earlier. It should be no wonder that the angels were thrilled and delighted about finally being able to proclaim the most extraordinary birth announcement ever.

SERMON SCHEDULE

December 3: John 1: 1-5

December 10: John 1: 6-14

December 17: Matthew 1: 1-17

December 24: 10 am: Colossians 1: 15-20

Christmas Eve 9 pm: Luke 2: 8-20

Walkersville EPC Session Meeting Review for November 16, 2023

I. Prayer and Devotions (Spiritual Leadership by J. Oswald Sanders)

- Natural and Spiritual Leadership
- Important leadership question: Is anyone following
- Natural Leadership: elected/chosen by the people, looking ahead 1, 5, maybe 10 years
- Spiritual Leadership: chosen by God, looking ahead 1,000 years (into eternity)

II. Approved: October 19, 2023 minutes (stated meeting)

III. Baptisms, new members, and visitors:

IV. Committee Reports: "How is each committee fulfilling the Great Commission?"

December 2023 Committee of the Month: Building & Grounds

December 2023 Elder of the Month (from the Committee of the Month): Bob Stirton

A. Building & Grounds: Bob Stirton

- gathering information for an electronic message board for our sign.
 - We will need 2, one for each side. Ongoing research.
- Education Wing Recommendations
 - painting classrooms in the Education Wing - (waiting on estimates and scheduling)
 - drywall and wainscoting in the hallway - (waiting on estimates and scheduling)"
 - new carpet/flooring in the education wing (Phase 2)
 - new faucets in education wing bathrooms - completed
 - new cabinet (completed and installed) and countertop (in process) in the nursery
- Remodel Fellowship Hall? - future discussions
- Security camera upgrade
 - replace existing cameras? Cameras in Sunday School rooms?

D. Christian Education: Larry Schott

- November 19, 2023 meeting
 - Advent packets filled and set to VBS children
 - looking ahead at 2024 plans (plans for Lenten and Easter season, Easter Egg Hunt, VBS)
- Little Angels & The Outsiders (using Alpha Youth Series)
- Next Meeting: January 21, 2024

E. Congregational Care: Dennis Robinson

- Next Meeting: February 7, 2024
- care packages for shut-ins

F. Mission & Outreach: Bob Stirton

- December 2023 Mission of the Month: FaithWorks Bevebolence Outreach
- next meeting: February 7, 2024

G. Worship: Ann Rose

- Next meeting: January 7, 2024
- 2023 tentative Communion dates: Dec. 3, Dec. 24
- benches outside on sanctuary porch discussion (on hold until next year)
- New sanctuary banners (to be put up during Hanging of the Greens - November 27)
- Christmas Eve services (Sunday, December 24): 10 am (no Communion); 9 pm Candlelight (with Communion)
- December 17, 2023, Christmas Program update (5 pm program including creating a live Nativity)

H. Finance Committee: Dennis Robinson

- October 2023 Financial Report
- Next meeting: October 10, 2024

I. Fellowship Committee: Rick Gay

- Next meeting: December 5, 2023, 7 pm
- December 17, 2023: Christmas Party

V. Old Business

A. Presbytery Report

1. Next Presbytery meeting: January 26-27 (Benton Heights EPC, Monroe, NC)
2. Hosting a presbytery meeting: from the Presbytery Executive Committee: It was decided that a church hosting a presbytery meeting needs to be no more than about 15 minutes from hotels.
3. Presbytery would like to see as many RE's attending as possible (we never have a 2:1 ratio of RE:TE)
- D. Set a date to review the membership list (active and inactive)

VI. New Business

- A. Begin considering a church logo and vision statement.
- B. Session will meet on 12/14 at 5 pm
- C. Discussion on the future use of the church bus: Narrowway Theater, McAdenville Christmas lights
- D. Approved: Congregational Meeting: January 14, 2024

VII. Dates for use of the Fellowship Hall:

1. Debbie Robinson: November 18, 2023
2. Gloria Norwood: November 23, 2023
3. Alice Gay: December 2, 2023, 2-4 pm
4. Gloria Norwood: December 2, 2023, 5-10 pm
5. Beverly Haney: December 3, 2023, 12-5 pm
6. Adult Sunday School Class Christmas Party: December 9, 2023
7. Debbie Robinson: December 16, 2023

VIII. Close with prayer

Next stated Session meeting: January 18, 2024, 5 p.m. in the Library (NO December Session Meeting)

Mission of the Month

For as the
BODY
without the
SPIRIT
is dead,
so
FAITH
without
works is
dead also.

James 2:26



Faith Works Benevolence

“Faith-Works Benevolence Partnership committee views Scripture (Old and New Testaments) as the inspired Word of God, trustworthy and holistic in nature, with the various books validating its content and teachings. The Bible affirms the Apostles’ Creed, which is “Faith-Works” faith statement; and gives guidance of identifying and maintain Christian core values from which we formulate our policies and directives for service.”

ELDERS & COMMITTEES

Teaching Elder:

Pastor Paul Rankin

Building & Grounds:

Elder: Bob Stirton

Chair: Russell Mosley

Christian Education:

Elder: Larry Schott

Chair: Debbie Rankin

Congregational Care:

Elder: Dennis Robinson

Chair: Tammy Mosley

Missions & Outreach:

Elder: Bob Stirton

Chair: Clay Murray

Finance:

Elder: Dennis Robinson

Chair: Fran Griffin

Worship:

Elder: Ann Rose

Chair: Frances Gamble

Fellowship:

Elder: Rick Gay

Chair: Debbie Robinson

CHURCH HOURS

Pastor Paul:

Mon-Thur 8:30-5:00

or by appointment

Caitlin Richardson

M-W-F 8:00 - 2:00



LITTLE ANGELS & THE OUTSIDERS NEXT MEETINGS:

-Wednesday, December 13, 2023: 5:30 pm

Youth Christmas party! Bring your family and a finger food to share, as we enjoy dinner together. We will hear God's amazing Christmas story and have a special guest!

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24
Candlelight Service
& Communion
9:00 p.m.

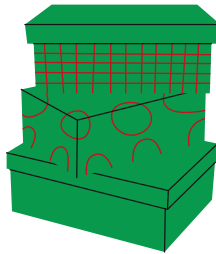


OCC Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox, donated money, or donated gifts!

We put together over 30 boxes this year! If you would like we have a basket in the Mary Ann room where items can be donated all year when you see items on sale!

Be on the lookout in the education wing for a map coming in January! We will be pinning up the location of our boxes!!



Sunday School Christmas Party

**December 9, 5 pm
\$25/person**

**\$10 gift for Chinese
Gift Exchange**

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus

December 17, 5 pm

Short Program in the Sanctuary
Fellowship to follow!

Be sure to bring finger food to share!!

We have asked Santa to come by
and hand out a special gift!

We ask that you leave all
other gifts at home, please.

PRAYER LIST EXTENSION FROM WEEKLY PRAYERS

Robby Griffin	Sheldon Medlin	Albert & Bo Starnes	George Huntley
Chris Starnes	Mary Edwards	Maggie Thompson	Bob O'Kelly
Baby Kix	Chris Beck	Mark McCain Jr.	Sheila Medlin
Beth Simpson	Reece Starnes	Kaymon Carter	Silas Simpson
Suzette Barker	Remington Hargette	Richard & Tyler Lee	Katya Newsham
David Pruet	Barb Salisbury	Rachel Brody	James Gordon
Clara McGee	Billy Norwood	LeeAnn Ventuo	Doris & Brooke Rhoden
Pete Green	Brenda Mosley	Saylor Grace Hardy	Joyce Wooten
Betty Simpson Medlin	Mary Mosley	Jack & Mary Rogers	Faye Cox

Assisted Living

Robby Griffin: Lee Forest Group Home

1209 Pelham Dr., Laurinburg, NC 28352

Travis Price: Brookdale Monroe Sq.

Room 44918 Fitzgerald St, Monroe, NC 28112

Linda Goodman: Arcadia Care Home

7415 Walnut Crest Drive, Waxhaw, NC 28173

DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bob McCain - 1

Rick Moser - 3

Quinton Richardson - 3

Todd & Debra Twitty - 5

Marsha Stirton - 8

Layne & Lynn Dewlen - 8

Daisy Hardy - 9

Allison Batson - 10

Tiffany Medlin - 14

Mike & Mitzie Broome - 15

Quinton & Caitlin Richardson - 16

Bryleigh Helms - 17

Rhonda McManus - 19

Ann Rose - 20

Lauren Yeakley - 23

Jean White - 25

Jessica Johnston - 27

Elleigh Johnston - 28

Bob & Fran Griffin - 29

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
BOB MCCAIN'S
90th
birthday

DECEMBER 3RD
 DROP IN FROM 2-4 PM

WALKERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 FELLOWSHIP HALL
 6204 BRADY ROAD
 WAXHAW, NC

RSVP TO BEVERLY HANEY AT 704-301-7899
 OR BEVHANEY6601@GMAIL.COM BY NOVEMBER 26

IN LIEU OF GIFTS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER DONATING
 TO WALKERSVILLE CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND



December

*Congregational Meeting for budget & Nominating Committee - TBA

Committee of the Month:
Buildings & Grounds

Mission of the Month:
Faith Works

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 Fellowship Hall Reserved
3 1 st Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:00 Worship – 10:00 Choir Practice-11:15 Fellowship Hall Reserved	4	5 Square Dancing Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 pm	6 St. Nicholas Day Bible Study-3 PM Prayer Time-4 PM	7	8	9 Adult Sunday School Christmas Party
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:00 Worship – 10:00	11 Men's & Women's Monthly Bible Study – 7PM	12 Square Dancing Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 pm	13 Operation Reach-Out Meal -12:00pm Bible Study-3 PM Prayer Time-4 PM Little Angels & The Outsiders-5:30PM	14	15	16 Fellowship Hall Reserved
17 3 rd Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:00 Worship – 10:00 Church Christmas Celebration	18	19 Senior Luncheon Out to eat for Christmas 11:30. Square Dancing 7-9:00 pm	20 Bible Study-3 PM Prayer Time-4 PM	21 Session - 5PM	22	23
24 4 th Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:00 Worship – 10:00 Christmas Eve Services 9 PM Holy Communion	25 Christmas	26	27 Bible Study-3 PM Prayer Time-4 PM	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6