

THE WITTENBERG



JANUARY 2012

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1

People of Wittenberg:

Matthew continues the nativity story with the call and arrival of the magi. At Herod's suspect insistence, these stargazers follow the great light, hiking to Bethlehem to join the throngs already worshipping the newborn king. Herod demands a report – is this child a potential threat? What I find most compelling about the story of the magi is how they respond to the radiance of the little one named Jesus. Instead of filing a summary of their Bethlehem findings with Herod, the three “wise men” head home on a route that bypasses Herod altogether, their lives inexplicably changed by the presence of a newborn.

A wee moment in Bethlehem of Judea changes everything – everyone. On its own, the Nativity of Jesus is a warm, inspiring and captivating story. But lest we forget, Christmas is a scene in a much larger narrative. In our shared experience of God's love and light, we are, like the magi, changed forever; our paths wonderfully altered.

What discoveries, opportunities and challenges await you in 2012?

May the light and wisdom of *God with Us* illumine your path and rekindle your faith as you walk ahead toward a new year of ministry.

Peace be with you.

Michael

Happy New Year 🍷 Happy New Year 🍷 Happy New Year

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SERVING IN JANUARY

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 1/1- Jason, Kim & Tate Feaster
1/8- Mr. & Mrs. Boddie Rinehart
1/15- Carolyn Price & Eva Watson
1/22- TBD
1/29- TBD

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Brent Shealy

NURSERY—

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 1/1- Paula Miller, Jennifer Patrick
1/8- John Oxner, Connie Kramer
1/15- Kayce Shealy, Erin Thomas
1/22- Linda Almgren,
Rhonda Bedenbaugh
1/29- Rebecca & Michael Reed

GREETERS

- Narthex:
Charlie & Beth Long
Commons Area:
Wyman & Freida Banks

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Charlie Long

LAY READER

Rebecca Reed

ALTAR GUILD

- Freida Banks, Wyman Banks,
Hazel Cooper, Torry Dickey,
Ann Nichols, Catherine Oxner,
Debbie Sawyer

NURSERY

Paula Miller, Chair

- 1/1- Rebecca & Michael Reed
1/8- Barbie & Dean Rodgers
1/15- Betsy Shealy, Kayce Shealy
1/22- Freida Banks,
Rhonda Bedenbaugh
1/29- Erin & Scott Thomas

USHERS

Robert Epting, F.H. Hendrix, III
Michael Reed, Brian Shealy

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 1/1- Barbie & Dean Rodgers,
Freida Banks
1/8- Brandee & Jeff Quarles,
Debbie Sawyer
1/15- Dawn Bedenbaugh,
Rhonda & Tracy Bedenbaugh
1/22- Rebecca & Michael Reed
1/29- Doris Antley, Kayce Shealy,
Joan Caughman

TELLERS

- 1/1- Cher Davis, Torry Dickey
1/8- Billy Rauton, Dean Rodgers
1/15- Erin Thomas, Bob Wiley
1/22- Marti Burns, Bill Caughman
1/29- Tracy Creech, Cher Davis

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Dawn Bedenbaugh, Advisor

- 1/1- Acolyte: Marissa Spradley
Almsbearer: Brett Spradley
Crucifer: Avery Finger
- 1/8- Acolyte: Brayden Patrick
Almsbearer: Sydnee Patrick
Crucifer: Rachel Creech

- 1/15- Acolyte: Matthew Reed
Almsbearer: River Rauton
Crucifer: Jesse Rauton
- 1/22- Acolyte: Ellee Quarles
Almsbearer: Payton Quarles
Crucifer: Ross Shealy
- 1/29- Acolyte: Eli Sherman
Almsbearer: Tate Feaster
Crucifer: Nevin Rodgers



KICS Goes
SKATING AT CELEBRATIONS
January 8, 2012
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

All KICS and Youth are invited.

Bring heavy hors d'oeuvres (finger foods)
and a drink to share.

Plates and cups will be provided.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At the Dec. 4 congregational meeting we approved the 2012 church budget and establishment of the Wittenberg Endowment Fund. We also elected new Council members Tracy Creech, Scott McNabb, Jerry Price and Joann Wells.

CHRISMON TREE

Join in the fun of taking down the Chrismon Tree on Friday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m. See you there!

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

Fourth Quarter 2011 Stewardship Reports are due from all organizations within the church. Please pick up a Stewardship Reporting form and drop in Brian's box in the church office. Thank you!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The annual planning meeting is Monday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. in the choir room. Anyone who is interested in serving on this committee is more than welcome to attend this important meeting. If you are interested in serving on this committee but cannot attend this meeting, please call Jo Wells (532-4833).

FOOD PANTRY

Volunteers are needed (no experience necessary). A training class for our new system is Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. This class is for previous and new workers alike. Call Jeff Long (317-1143) if you would like to help but cannot attend the class. Duty sign-up sheets are located on the kitchen counter in the fellowship hall. Hope to see you at the meeting!

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee meets Sunday, Jan. 22, following the 11 a.m. service, in the Senior Adult classroom.

JOY LUNCHEON

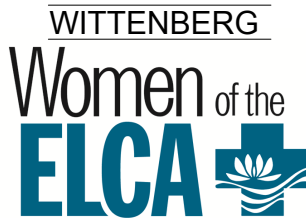
At our Jan. 25 luncheon, Randall Shealy presents a program on the Building of the Lake Murray Dam. Join us for lunch and a fascinating program.

THANK YOU

Many thanks for all the cards, gifts and Christmas goodies. Blessings to you all in 2012.

Happy New Year!

Karen



- ◆ **The Morning Circle** meets Jan. 3 at 10 a.m. with Eva Watson as leader.
- ◆ **Circle V** meets Jan. 3 at 1 p.m. Nelle Rinehart is leader.
- ◆ **Circle L** does not meet this month.
- ◆ **Circle IV** meets Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Ernestine Sharpe is leader. Joann Wells is hostess.
- ◆ **Hannah Circle** meets Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. Torry Dickey is leader and hostess.

WITTENBERG FOOD PANTRY

We at the food pantry would like to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work, dedication and the long, hard hours they put in. Without you, we couldn't possibly do all we do to help others. To all those who have donated food, produce and funds, we especially would like to thank you! I have diligently been in contact with other food pantries in the community to work on a more efficient way to keep us all in contact with each other. We have served more than 2,078 families this year and given more than 29 coats, 7 sweaters and 5 blankets. We also handed out approximately 5625 pounds of produce donated by local farmers and 157 dozen eggs. We assisted families in outlying counties get additional help and resources in their own county.

I personally would like to thank all those who made this ministry possible with their love and kindness for your fellow neighbors. When the need arises, this congregation and community always steps up to the task and always finds a way to help. Thanks to all of you.

May God bless you every one, and All have a Happy New Year!

Jeffrey P. Long Sr.



**BAPTIZED
UNTO THE
LORD**

Jonathan Nathaniel Rogers,
son of Jon & Julie Rogers,
and brother of Jada,
became a member
of the body of Christ
through the sacrament of
Holy Baptism
on December 23.

Welcome to the family, Nate!

IT'S A BOY!



Congratulations to Garth Kemerling and family on the birth of his grandson Alexander David Perlman on Dec. 5 at 12:30 a.m. Garth's daughter Sarah, her husband Andy, and baby Alex live in Virginia, where Garth plans to spend much more time now!

DECEMBER STATISTICS

DATE	SCS	WORSHIP
12/54.....	89	172
12/11.....	99	151
12/18.....	80	170
12/24.....	N/A	265
12/25.....	N/A	70
YTD Regular Offering.....		218,336.48
Needed		282,824.58
Difference		(64,488.10)
YTD B.F. Offering		79,153.00



MUSIC NOTES

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who shared your gifts during our musical preludes on Christmas Eve. You so willingly accepted the invitation to participate and during a season which allowed for no time to spare, you gave of yours with hours of practice and rehearsals, often at very inconvenient times for you.



The music was lovely and I thank you for that; but mostly, I thank you for your beautiful, unselfish selves!

It is my honor to work with you.

Rachael

As we bid Garth farewell as our director, we acknowledge with grateful appreciation his dedication and skill in challenging our choir to accomplish more than we sometimes thought possible. Thank you for believing that we could, and so we did!

We now look forward to his joining us in the choir whenever he is not busy singing to Alex.



Thanks So Much!

Wittenberg Lutheran Church Council Minutes

November 13, 2011

PRESENT: Bob W., Bill C., Robert E., Cher D., Erin T., Torry D., Ervin C., Betsy D., Billy R., Marty B., Dean R., Rebecca R., Furman C. (Sec), Brent S. (Tres), Connie K. (Fin Sec), Pastor Sherman

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order by Bob W., president, at 7:06 p.m.

Pastor Sherman presented a devotion.

The October council Minutes were approved as submitted. M: Bill C.; 2: Dean R.

Brian Shealy presented the **proposed budget for 2012** from the S&F Committee. A minor change regarding expenses for cleaning was discussed. Pastor Sherman stated that the church has a donation of \$875.00 to construct a garage shelter for the bus. This amount should be deleted from bus expense budget line and added to designated offerings. The presentation by Brian was approved as the proposed budget that will be taken to the Congregation Meeting on Dec. 4. M: Rebecca R.; 2: Bill C.

Pastor's Report: The report was sent to members via e-mail (to be attached to final copy of minutes).

Endowment Proposal: Furman C. presented and discussed the proposed WLC Endowment document that was distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. It will also be presented to the Congregation on Dec. 4 for approval. M: Billy R.; 2: Bill C.

President's Report: Bob W. announced that the Executive Committee had met and prepared a list of nominees for the election of new Council members at the December congregational meeting. The list is as follows: Jerry Price, Tracy Creech, Joann Wells and Scott McNabb. The nominees were approved. M: Exec. Comm.; 2: Billy R.

Treasurer's Report: Brent S. reported on an effort to refinance the building loan. Congaree State Bank has offered to re-finance the building loan from 6.5% to 4.25% if WLC will open an account for \$20,000.00 average balance. After some discussion, this was approved. M: S&F Comm.; 2: Ervin C.

Brent discussed the Balance Sheet and stated that the Building Fund

Continued on next page

November Council Minutes Continued

checking balance was \$14,892.54 on Oct. 1. He is making a \$5,000.00 principal payment plus interest for a total of \$7,000.00 plus. Other current assets include funds from the Pre-School that will be sent to state and Federal as withholding payments. The long-term liability for the building loan is \$385,000.00 at end of October vs. \$460,000.00 at the same time in 2010. Brent stated that the Pre-School students performed for the Joy luncheon and it was well received. Rebecca R. stated that there might be a need for some tuition assistance in the PS. Brent stated that the Bus Fund had \$90.00 for gas included. He also stated that the Food Pantry has spent \$19,495.10 this year and has an approx. \$750.00 deficit, although the recent FP offerings of \$1,235.00 plus \$603.00 have created a slight surplus. He also stated that a line item of PS Offering reflects money sent to PS Tres by WLC form offerings. The report was approved. M: Robert E.; 2: Cher D.

Financial Sec. Report: Connie commented that PS withholdings should be separated form gifts.

Committee Reports: Erin stated that the PS budget shows 4 as Part-time staff, with 2 coming in at minimum wage, thus saving \$3,500.00/yr. Robert E. asked if this is based on 4-5yo students. Rebecca R. stated that it is based on 3-4yo students. Erin stated that the proposed PS budget is based on 12 students. Cher asked how many months the PS operates. Rebecca R. stated it operates 12 months. Ervin C. asked if PS will reimburse WLC for utilities. Rebecca R. stated she understood PS will reimburse for utilities starting the second year of operations. Bob W. stated that the utilities will be monitored and if they increase significantly, PS will reimburse WLC. The PS budget was approved. M: S&F Comm.; 2: Robert E.

Erin also stated that Eric D. has met with the architect to discuss the issues for use of the educational building. The biggest issue is the stairs, which will need to be closed. In addition, the fire alarms and doors will require modifications. The PS will have to use the first floor of the building, not the second floor. There was also discussion regarding use of the kitchen and garbage removal. It is possible that an additional trash can will be needed, and this adds an additional cost from the city.

Social Ministry: Robert E. reported that the last "Reach Out " meal served approx. 125 people. He also stated that the Adopt-A-Highway

group picked up 5 bags of trash.

Evangelism: Rebecca R. stated that the First Sunday Lunch for Dec. will be sponsored by the men's and women's softball teams, with proceeds going to the building fund.

Worship & Music: Erin requested approval to purchase a wedding banner...have a donor.

Property: Ervin C. stated that the folding chairs have been distributed. The committee is preparing for signs for the new bus. The bus has new tires. Cher asked if Karen is responsible for scheduling the bus. Bob W. stated that Karen is responsible for the bus schedule.

Strategic Planning: Robert E. asked about income from the MMM event. It was reported that \$650.00 was raised.

Other Business: Bob W. reported that Garth has resigned effective the end of Dec. 2011. He also reported that staff interviews were completed last week. He expressed concern that requests for coats and blankets are coming from the Food Pantry, and stated that he believes that the FP should focus on food and not get into the clothing business.

Pastor Sherman reported on the **National Youth Gathering** for 2012. There are 13 youth and 2 others from Cedar Grove planning to attend. Pastor also commented on the problems with the copier in the office.

Property: Ervin C. stated that some trees were trimmed prior to the MMM event.

Cher stated that assistance is needed to transport the Christmas tree to the church.

Pastor Sherman reminded the members of the new Incident Report form that should be used to document an incident on the church property.

Bob W. reminded the members of the December meeting on the 11th. There will be a covered dish dinner that will include the newly elected members also, followed by a brief Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Furman Cantrell, Secretary

WITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY

Happy Anniversary!

Marvin Jr. & Karla Powell
1/1/1984—28 years

Jay & Kim Hendrix
1/13/2007—5 years

Bob & Kaye Wiley
1/19/1965—47 years



Happy Birthday!

- 1- Connie Kramer,
Ross Shealy
- 3- Sybil Ergle,
Jeff Quarles
- 5- Abigail Sherman,
John Oxner
- 7- Mark Lyvers
- 8- Elizabeth Barnes
- 11- John Ruff,
Kim Hendrix
- 14- Amber Cary,
Carlynn Cary
- 17- Julie Rogers
- 18- Jane Hare
- 19- Emily Finger
- 20- Todd Davis
- 21- Rebecca Leaphart
- 23- Erin Thomas
- 24- Rebecca Reed
- 27- Ira Ruff,
Theo Walker II
- 31- Avery Finger

LET US PRAY

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

MEMBERS:

Marti Burns, Dorothy Curran, Jim Curran, Evetta George, Eleanor and Jane Hare, Ed & Leila Hoover, Mary Alice Hyler, Bucky Johnson, The Kirby Family, Ramona Langford, Beth Long, John Mullins, Brady & Sue Nichols, Clyde Oswald, Debbie Reynolds, Sue Ruff, Anne Shealy, Walter Shealy, William K. Shealy, Jennifer Spradley, Wills Swygert, Merlyn Watkins, Eva Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

John Bedenbaugh (father of Tracy Bedenbaugh), Judy and Doug Benton, The Family of Laura Black, The Mother of Debbie Black, Wyatt Boatwright (Lexington 1 student), Patrick Burns (nephew of Marti Burns), The Family of Peggy Buzhardt (wife of Lynn Buzhardt), Ruby Caughman, Jimmy Clark (brother-in-law of Nancy Woodell), Mike Gunter, Audie Jennings (brother-in-law of Wyman & Freida Banks), David Kneece (cousin of Wyman Banks), Scott Long, The Family of Thelma Lorick (mother of Larry Lorick), Donnie & Lynn Moak (friends of Debbie Reynolds), Mike Nichols (son of Brady & Sue Nichols), The Mother of Landis Price, Tobie & Chester Plunkett (in-laws of Debbie Reynolds), The Mother of Emma Shealy, Mildred Shealy (mother of Michael Shealy), Kim Smith (daughter of Libby Carswell), Diane Spradley, Aaron Stewart, Duane Swygert (nephew of Melvin Swygert), Susan Turner (sister of Mike Almgren), and members of our Armed Forces

