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**Advents Events February 2019**

**Leaders for February**

**Lay Assistant:**

Ruthie Padgett

**Lay Readers**

2/3 Forrest Greer

2/10 Kirk Zaro

2/17 Hannah Bowers

2/24 Thelma Horres

**HaPpY *February***

**BIRTHDAY !!!**

Robin Smith - 2nd

Jonathan Atwood - 2nd

Justin Holladay - 3rd

Michelle Long - 5th

Cindy McAnany - 6th

Hannah Bowers - 17th

Pastor Melinda Jones - 18th

Cindy Gaither - 21st

Caylen Bohanan- 24th

Kylie Williams - 27th

Edwin Greer - 28th

**Golden Agers**

Pat Twite - 21st

Rae Wolfensberger – 8th

**Delight as A Still More Excellent Way**

The Delight that Jesus Himself was and is, and the saving delight that Jesus brings to sinners, lies at the heart of the Good News of our salvation. Martin Luther may have spoken repeatedly of duty before God, but he spoke even more passionately about this delightful Good News. If we have forgotten this side of

Luther, his sermons of the “Christmas Book,” edited by Roland Bainton, are a good resource. Here we see Luther’s sheer delight in retelling the Gospel story:

*“And the angel said unto them, ‘Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.’ This Joy is not just for Peter and Paul, but for all people. Not* *just to apostles, prophets, and martyrs does God say, but to you, ‘Come, see the baby* *Jesus’”*

Adding to the delight of the Gospel itself and its joyful proclamation, there’s also the delightful singing of this Gospel in the carols and hymns of the Church.

Many hymns could be cited. But probably none is more important than Luther’s Pentecost hymn “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” (LBW 163):

*“Teach us to know our God aright / And call him Father with delight.”*

Luther was a strong advocate of duty, but Luther also understood the joyful journey to **delight.**

**We All Take Delight in Many Things**

Taking “delight” in things has the potential to get in the way of our delight in God. David Wells writes a telling commen-

tary on American culture in his book “God in the Wasteland.”

*“It is one of the defining marks of Our Time that God is now weightless. ... Those who assure the pollsters of their* *belief in God’s existence may nonetheless consider him*

*less interesting than television, his commands less authoritative than their appetites for affluence and influence, his judgment no more awe-inspiring than the evening news, and his truth less compelling than the advertisers’ sweet fog of*

*flattery and lies. ... weightlessness tells us nothing about God but everything about ourselves, about our*

*condition, about our psychological disposition to exclude God from our reality”*

To what do you and I assign the beautiful word “delight”? A warm shower, a good meal, time spent with loved ones and friends? A new purchase? Is there still a prominent place in our lives for the “high delight” of Vetter’s Easter hymn (left)?

If God and our Savior Jesus are still the best reason for any and all delight, how do we give expression to that delight in our own words and deeds?

We Pray ...*Heavenly Father, you are delightful beyond our imagination. Through your Spirit, teach us to delight in you, and to find*

*ever-growing delight in serving you. In Jesus name, Amen.*

**A True Story of Duty/Delight**

Along with Time, Talent and

Treasure, Christians have the privilege of Testimony and, through it, stewardship of influence. Who knows when we will have a chance to change hearts and minds by naming the precious name of Jesus in connection to our everyday

service?

Years ago, when I traveled a lot in my work, I occasionally earned free upgrades to first class on long flights between the West Coast and Chicago. On one such flight, the head flight attendant asked if I would mind giving up my aisle seat and taking the window seat instead? The last passenger to board would be a frightened first-time flier who had taken a bad fall while deplaning her previous flight. Due to her size and the angle of the fall, she had been pinned between seats in the aisle and needed emergency medical assistance to get up. “You

look like someone who could help her through this long flight,” the attendant said, almost pleading with her eyes. Long story short, I said “yes,” moved over to the next seat,

and had a delightful time visiting, praying with, and assuring the lady during the long flight.

Half way through the flight, the lead flight attendant asked to speak with me privately. By switching seats, she told me, I had done more than help the lady. I had helped the crew avoid a conflict with the other first-class passengers who, being regulars” on that flight route, had a history of being rather demanding. “If we don’t keep them happy, it can cost us our jobs. Please, let us do something for you,” the lead flight attendant said as she offered me a voucher for a free, future first-class flight of my choosing.I declined the voucher with thanks and this explanation: “You’ve given me a gift already. I’m a Christian,

and my Lord Jesus Christ calls us to treat neighbors and strangers as Christ himself. When you asked me to change seats, you gave me the opportunity to serve my Lord

in my new neighbor. So, please,

let me give you a gift instead.” I

retrieved two of my business cards, wrote her name, the date, flight number, and “Thank you for your excellent service” on the back of both. One card was for her to keep, and the other was to include with the flight report, especially in case any of the other first-class

passengers complained about any little thing. If my testimony and influence as a Christian CEO could encourage this crew member and defend her for doing the right thing for her passengers, then, praise the Lord for that opportunity as well.

Who knows what opportunities you will have to be a steward of influence, to give a testimony of your

Christian faith, wherever your

time, talent and treasure take you. May you see those opportunities for service, connect the action to your testimony, and be stewards of

all four T’s in the process. May you find delight in all of it!

Rev. Dr. Cathi Braasch,

NALS Board of Regents and

NALC Stewardship Team

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***Life Changes***…

Jack Williamson passed to the Church Triumphant on January 13, 2019.

*Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously; we pray, with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*- Prayer from the Lutheran Book of Worship*

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Pastor Jones attended the National Prayer Service at Constitutional Hall and the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 18th.



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**Bible Blitz**

**Begins again on Feb. 9th at**

**9 am until 2pm.**

**Lunch will be provided.**

**Pastor’s topic for this month will be**

**“The Parables of Jesus.”**

**Hope to see you there.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**

Smiley Corbin turns 99 !!

Advent church family went to Smile’s house after Service on Jan. 20th and sang Happy Birthday to him, and wished Smiley and Mary Blessings and Love!!



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**To our Advent family:**

**Eagle Scout Court of Honor**

**Mr. & Mrs. Greg Harrelson**

**And Boy Scout Troop 409**

**Cordially invite you to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Lance Harrelson**

**Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019**

**2:00pm**

**Yeamans Park Presbyterian Church**

**Reception following**

**RSVP by Feb. 1, 2019**

**843-670-1708**

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**Contra Dancers will be at Advent on Friday, Feb. 15th. 6-10 pm all welcome to join in the fun.**

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**A Devotion from**

**Pastor Jones**

**“Battle Dress Uniform”**

[Ephesians 6:10-20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%206.10-20) [https://www.logos.com/images/Corporate/LibronixLink_dark.png](libronixdls:keylink|ref=[en]bible:Eph6.10-20|res=LLS:ESV)

 I joined the United States Army in the late ’80s shortly after high school without the fear of any major conflict, as world tensions seemed to be relaxing. Within the first year of my tour of duty, the cold war was over, the Berlin wall was gone, the Soviet Union was unraveling, and communism collapsed.  In my mind’s eye, the enemy was no more, and peace was at hand. Nonetheless, every morning I awoke to the sound of a trumpet’s *reveille* and then meticulously donned 12 pounds of uniform and boots, the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU as it was called back then), ready for the duties of the day.

But early one morning a siren replaced the trumpet, alerting the entire post to trouble. We scrambled to assemble on the drill field, still buttoning our BDUs and lacing our boots! The commanding officer then announced that the United States of America had begun military action against the nation of Iraq! And what followed was the longest speech I’ve ever heard on the preparedness of the Army (readiness for battle), and the importance of our mission to the success of the war. A massive inspection of our uniforms and equipment followed moments after the shocking announcement concluded.

Today’s lesson reminds me much of that moment, and many days after that, when I put on my BDUs. Paul uses the familiar imagery of the Roman soldier’s equivalent to the BDU: belt, breastplate, shoes (sandals), shield, helmet and sword. He recognized that at any moment a Roman legionnaire stood at the ready to squelch unrest or engage an enemy. Paul, in no uncertain terms, calls upon the baptized to be just as ready to engage in spiritual warfare by putting on the “armor of God that [we] may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

We, the Church, have been given weapons of such a nature that evil cannot prevail! These weapons, however, must be “put on” to be effective. How will we be prepared to stand on the potential battleground of our lives if we have not “put on” our spiritual BDU, read the Word of God, and become familiar with our Lord and King? Paul calls us to arm ourselves by “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance” and to “proclaim the mystery of the gospel,” Jesus Christ.

I remember standing in stunned disbelief never expecting to hear the words, “We are at war,” but understanding at that moment that I was a soldier fighting in one. I can’t imagine how I would have reacted had I not been trained to put on my BDU and use it with skill and confidence when the moment came to employ it. Paul shares the same concern: “Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

To be ready is to remember our Baptism each day as we wake and wash our faces (Martin Luther). Today, our spiritual armor looks a lot like a baptismal gown, a confirmation robe, and even the encouragement we receive as we witness to the love of Jesus Christ, the Victor over death and the grave.

**Prayer*:*** *Lord God, You once armed David to slay the mightiest of giants; today, You have armed us with the Spirit and the Word. Watch over us as we prepare for life’s giants and the battles we have yet to confront, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen*

***THANK YOU***

Dear Ruth Circle,

Thank you for your continued support of Stand By Me with your recent gift. A request had just been received from one of the men in our studies who has no family support and was need of a Bible. With your help, David has experienced God’s love through the gift of a study Bible. Please join us in prayer for David, that the Lord will work mightily through him.

Thanks again for your support of our ministry.

In Christ, Susan Keefe

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**



Feb. 3rd!!!

“Yum!” Lots of Soup

Check out souperbowlsunday.com

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**Pastor Jones will be having a training session for new lay assistants as well as the present lay assistants. This will be Saturday, Feb. 16th at 9am**.

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Our **Congregational Meeting** will be **Sunday, Feb. 17th** after the Service.

Our Member Directories and Yearbooks will be handed out the previous Sunday, Feb. 10th at the beginning of church Service.

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**2019 Carolina Mission District Convocation** will be held at Advent Lutheran Church this year. 48 churches will be involved on **May 17th and 18th.** We will be updating info aswereceive it. Please be thinking about volunteering for some of the many tasks that will be needed to complete this mission. You may contact Melanie Alkire, Pastor Jones and Lin Donnell withquestions about how you may help.

**-----------------------------------Attention : March Bible Blitz will be March 2nd**

**Worship and Music Comm**.

For 2019 will begin meeting on Feb. 24th after service. We will meet on the fourth Sunday of every month.

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Next **Church Council** Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 17th after Service.

Officers and comm. Chairs elected:

**President:** Brenda Barnett

**Vice President**: Barbara Greer

**Recording Secretary:** Thelma Horres

**Financial Secretary:** Judy Goff

**Co-Treasurers**: Gwin Poston, Nancy White

**Christian Education:** Michael Gaither

**Church Property:**  Bill Anderson,

**Discipleship:** Tracy Atwood

**Finance:** Melanie Alkire

**Social Fellowship:** Barbara Greer

**Worship and Music:**  Lin Donnell

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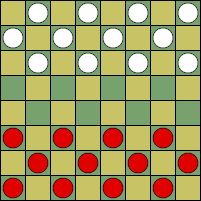
**WALL OF CROSSES**

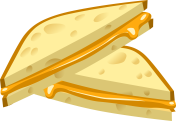
We still have some Advent families that have not brought in a cross for our family wall. Forrest is making another backdrop and we have plenty of room for everyone!



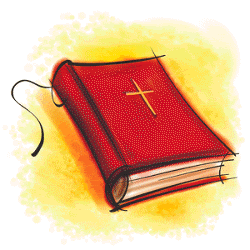
**Prime of Life** will meet on Thursday, Feb. 21st. 11am-2pm We will be enjoying a game day, bring something for lunch to share and dessert will be provided.

****Please think about inviting someone that may not be able to drive here. Call them and offer to pick them up and join us. Looking forward for a get together of fun and laughs!!!

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Anyone thinking of a **Bible Study** that you would like to have??? Please let Pastor Jones know about it and we can make it happen!!!

**Shepherd’s Voice**

NALC Retreat for young men and women with spiritual gifts suitable for ministry in Word and Sacrament**.** This will be March 9th and 10th.

Carolina Mission District Youth Retreat @ Camp St. Christopher March 16th-17th

Seabrook Island, SC

Please check out the back of the Calendar for the wordsearch puzzle.

