



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Court Street United Methodist Church

A Christmas Reflection

“Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and always.” With God there is no such thing as time. All of time is totally present to him right now. God’s work among us is always in process, it never comes to an end. In God’s eyes, Christmas is an everyday event that involves Jesus knocking on the door of my heart, seeking admission. The God-dimension never changes, the offer is always there. The good news is delivered with greater consistency than the morning newspaper. What happens after that is totally dependent on whether I accept the offer, open the door, and make my heart available as a manger. One important point: when the shepherds heard the message they said, *“Let us go to Bethlehem and see it for ourselves.”* The life of the Christian is a journey of discovery. It involves coming to find out for myself the truth and the reality of what I had been told by my parents, teachers, or preachers in church. I have to cross that bridge. The gospel is in between two phrases. At the beginning, we are invited to *“Come and see,”* and, at the end, we are instructed to *“Go and tell.”* Many of the early church fathers have written hymns and homilies in praise of the Incarnation. John the Monk, an 8th century writer, in his Hymn of the Nativity, sings of the great exchange in the mystery and wonder of the Incarnation, God becoming man in order to bring man to heaven. Heaven and earth are united on Christmas day, for Christ is born! God has come upon earth, and humankind has gone up to heaven. For the sake of humankind, the invisible one is seen in the flesh. Therefore let us glorify him and cry aloud: *“glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace bestowed by your coming, Savior, glory to you!”* In Bethlehem, I hear the angels: *“glory to God in the highest!”* Glory to him whose good pleasure it was that there be peace on earth! Light has shone on those in darkness, exalting the lowly who sing like the angels: *“Glory to God in the highest!”* Beholding him, Adam, who was in God’s image and likeness fallen through transgression, Jesus bowed the heavens and came down, without change taking up his dwelling in a virgin womb, that he might refashion Adam fallen in corruption, and crying out: *“Glory to your epiphany, my Savior and my God!”*

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

CHRISTMAS JOY STARTS WITH JESUS



Musical Musings

Anthems for December



December 5th ~ Second Sunday of Advent

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Matthew Lundquist

A classic from the Concordia Church Choir Series, arranged by Matthew N. Lundquist. "**Of the Father's heart begotten**" alternatively known as "**Of the Father's love begotten**" is a doctrinal hymn based on the Latin poem "Corde natus" by the Roman poet Aurelius Prudentius, from his *Liber Cathemerinon* (hymn no. IX). The ancient poem was translated and paired with a medieval plainchant melody "Divinum mysterium. An early version of this chant appears in manuscript form as early as the 10th century, although without the melodic additions, and "trope" versions with various melodic differences appear in Italian, German, Gallacian, Bohemian and Spanish manuscripts dating from the 13th to 16th centuries.

"Build My Life" arr. Brett Younker

(Performed by Dr. D's Cserv group)

Build My Life is based on **1st Corinthians 3:11** *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ....* This song is all about the foundation that we build our lives upon, and there is no greater foundation than Jesus Christ. Brett Younker is a worship leader and songwriter based in Atlanta, Georgia. Brett's heart is for people to see and experience the fullness of God in their lives. Inspired by the words of A.W. Tozer, "Whatever comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us," his desire is to lead people to know Jesus and respond to the greatness of who He is and what He has done.

Hymns this Sunday: People, Look East ~ O Word of God Incarnate ~ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

December 12th ~ Third Sunday of Advent

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" arr. by Zabel

Court Street Chancel Handbells

Some controversy stems from Neale's original first line of the carol, "Good Christian men, rejoice." Today's standards for inclusive language in reference to humanity result in the change of this line in most hymnals published in the last 20 years. Interestingly enough, the original Latin does not refer to "men" or people at all. The second unusual feature about this carol is the atypical change in meter that takes in its early part: "News, news!" As it turns out, this interjection is the result of an error. According to Carlton Young, Thomas Helmore, serving as the music editor for the volume, "incorrectly transcribed the tune from the old notation and added two notes after each third phrase. To accommodate the change in meter Neale added 'News, news,' 'Joy, joy,' and 'Peace, peace.'" In *The UM Hymnal*, "News, news!" has been maintained for each stanza. All this said, the message of the carol is clear and may be found in the last line of each stanza: "Christ is born today!" "Christ is born for this!" Christ was born to save!"

Hymns this Sunday: O Come, All Ye Faithful ~ Open My Eyes, That I May See ~ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

December 19th ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Soloist

Hymns this Sunday ~ What Child Is This ~ O Little Town of Bethlehem ~ Angels We Have Heard on High

December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

Join us for a Candlelight Service at 4:00pm

December 26th ~ First Sunday of Christmas

Soloist

Hymns this Sunday ~ Sing We Now of Christmas ~ In the Bleak Midwinter ~ Joy to the World

DECEMBER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

December 5: "A Long Wait"

December 12: "Mary's Pondering"

December 19: "Waiting for Prophecy to Be Filled"

December 26: "Jesus is Waiting"

**Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Refectory.
Children's Sunday School meets on the main floor off the Bishop Early Hall.**



IN LIEU OF POINSETTIAS Court Street will once again be accepting donations for Meals on Wheels. Please make a donation in Honor and/or Memory of loved ones. The list of names "Given to ~ Given by" will be published on December 19th and will be added to the end of the Christmas Eve Service posted online. Please send in your order forms by December 16th. You are also welcome to call the church office 434-845-3427 or email your request 621courtstumc@gmail.com and place a check in the mail or in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to CSUMC with "in Lieu of Poinsettias" on the memo line.

FLOWER FUND IN NEED OF DONATIONS for upcoming events at Court Street. The flower fund is used for Christmas; Palm Sunday, Easter, and events that have receptions. Please consider donating to the fund. Thank you

~ Worship Committee



LIVING NATIVITY Court Street proudly announces their 1st annual Living Nativity! Drive thru the 6th street parking lot to see a live scene depicting the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on **Saturday December 18th from 6pm - 8pm**. Please see Jesse Jackson to be a part of what we hope to be an annual tradition here at Court Street!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Please plan to join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm on Friday December 24th. This is a traditional service with everyone lighting a candle at the end of the service and singing carols around the tree in the Bishop Early Hall. We hope you can come and make sure you invite your friends and family to join you!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Birthdays		January Birthdays	
Hunter Alan Tyree	December 02	Eddie Letchford	January 01
Milton West	December 03	David Hudnall	January 03
Brennalynn Diuguid	December 05	Jeremiah Jackson	January 04
Phil Ripley	December 05	Doris Lee Spriggs	January 06
Nancy Russell	December 06	Bobby Brown	January 08
Elizabeth Larkin	December 07	Patsy Wilkinson	January 13
Adam Bryant	December 09	William Eric Sweeney	January 17
Jeff Thaxton	December 11	Eric Johnson	January 19
Suzanne Baker	December 12	Patti Montgomery	January 19
Susan Cobbs	December 12	Shelley Burleigh	January 20
Lisa Thaxton	December 14	Rebekah Jackson	January 30
Randy Hurst	December 20		
Ray Pulliam	December 30		
Anne Langley	December 31		

December Anniversaries
 Shelley & Bill Burleigh Dec. 16
 Bobbi & Randy Hurst Dec. 23

January Anniversaries
 Brenda & Andy Whitehead Jan. 04
 Cheryl & Milton West Jan. 25



PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St. Unit 102, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084

son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

Robert Allen Tyree – stationed at Fort Bragg, 1404 Brookville Ln., Lynchburg, VA 24502

Grandson of *Mary Tyree

SICK (Church members*)

Anne Burleigh ~ 2608 Plum Branch Road, Concord, VA 24538

mother of Rev. Bill Burleigh

Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh

*Susan Cobbs ~ 1062 Grand Oaks Drive, Forest, VA 24551

*Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh

*Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Bill Phillips – Liberty Ridge, 30 Monica Blvd #223, Lynchburg, VA 24502

*Phil Ripley – 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176

*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Cornell Thompson ~ 2029 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504

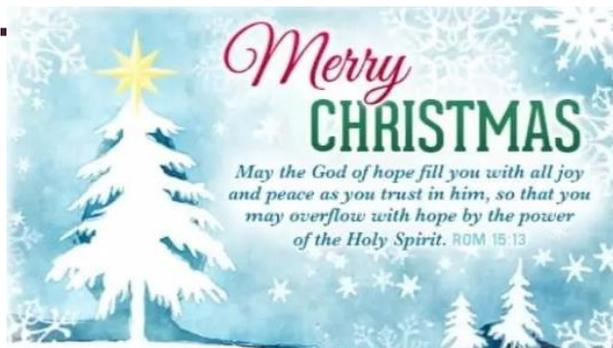
*Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502

son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin

* Church members

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 11/28/21	\$278,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$21,019
Received to Date	\$241,566
Received since last update	\$50.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328



Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:
621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted
on the church website.

