

Prospective and New Member Class

Please make plans to join us for the Winter Session on Sundays January 9 through February 27. Classes are held at 9:45 a.m. in the Parlor (rm 205, 2nd floor). For more information, please contact Joy Owen, Director of Welcoming Ministries, at jowen@esumc.org at ext. 350. You may check out the topics by visiting the Home Page of our website; then, Learning and Growing/Visitors and New Members.

E-vites...A Four-week Sermon Series Starting 01.09.11

A recent study found that **82** percent of people who don't go to church would be somewhat likely to go if invited; however, only **2** percent of people who do go to church have actually ever invited someone. In what percentage are you?

In our upcoming January sermon series entitled *E-vites*, we are challenging this church family to be radically invitational in inviting others. Most of us know what it's like to have our lives transformed from pointless to purpose-filled, and from vagueness to value because of an encounter with the Risen Lord. So maybe the new year is a perfect time for us to invite others to encounter a God who'll do the same for them? Whether you know folks who are restless or hurting, lonely or lost, full of questions or looking for a home, let a friend know there's a place for them at Edenton Street.

Altar Flowers - If you would like to donate the altar flowers for January 16th or February 7th, please contact Virginia Murray at 836-1292.

Parents, Students, and Leaders are invited to attend Experience

eStreet Youth 2011 on January 9th, from 6:30-8 pm in Kerr Hall. Dinner will be provided. Spring and summer dates will be announced and registration opens. Don't miss the most important youth meeting of the next 6 months!

First Night Raleigh Organ Concert

- Join us for First Night Raleigh 2011 on December 31st at 7:00 and 9:00 when Bill Weisser will present an organ recital program titled: The Organ—King of Instruments. Two featured works include “Scenes from Childhood” by John Leavitt based on poems by Robert Louis Stephenson and “Rodomontade” by Dan Gawthrop. Both will be narrated by Sally Bates. At 8:00 and 10:00 soloists from the NC Opera Company will present varied operatic arias. No button is needed if you are an Edenton Street member.

WIHN In January

ESUMC will host families from the Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network (WIHN) during the week of January 2 – 9, 2011. WIHN is a ministry for temporarily homeless families. A detailed brochure is available on the ESUMC website under Missions. If you can help, please contact wihn@esumc.org or Crystal Knoke at 247-2018. Many thanks and God bless.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 26th

8:40 am Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am The Gathering Contemporary Worship Service (Kerr)
9:45 am Sunday School
10:55 am Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
11:11 am The Gathering Contemporary Worship Service (Kerr)

Monday, December 27th

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 28th

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 29th

8:00 am Walking Club (offsite)
11:15 am Intercessory Prayer (Prayer rm)
6:30 pm Sisters of Grace Study (164)

Thursday, December 30th

6:00 pm The Gathering Worship Team Rehearsal (Kerr)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 31st

Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 1st

8:30 am HS Love Wins Breakfast (offsite)

Edward F. “Ned” Hill, II, Senior Pastor
Matthew R. Ashburn, Pastor of Caring Ministries
Lisa N. Yebuah, Pastor of Inviting Ministries
William J. Weisser, Minister of Music
Leigh Holloway, Director of Preparing Ministries
Carlin Johnson, Director of Equipping and Sending Ministries
Josh Dumbleton, Associate Director of Music • Joy Owen, Welcoming Ministries
Susan C. McGuire, Older Adult Ministries
Stefan Youngblood, Contemporary Worship • Ruthie Jones, Children’s Ministries
Justin Morgan, Youth Ministries • Renae Newmiller, Missions
(919) 832-7535 www.esumc.org

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THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Eve of the Nativity

December 24, 2010

As the community gathers, we respectfully request that you enter into a time of silent preparation for worship. May the music of the prelude draw your hearts and minds to God. The chancel area is open for prayer before the service and during the last hymn.

The Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. Travis
Il est Né, Le Divin Enfant (He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child) Dupré
Of the Father's Love Begotten arr. Near
Pastorale (from Organ Sonata No. 1) Guilmant
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Dupré
Variations on “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” Dethier
Mr. Josh Dumbleton, organist

The Greeting Rev. Yebuah
The Introit *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Plainchant

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath (please remain seated)
8:30: Chet Buell and Cyndy Van Der Wiehl 11:00: Bobby and Vange Lufty

Response: Living God, come to our world. May the love of Christ shine brightly at the center of our lives, spreading warmth and light, in us, in this congregation, and everywhere.

The Presentation of the Cross and the Light of Christ

+The Processional Hymn 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

The Opening Prayer

Gracious God, your angels broke into the midnight of a sleeping world to sing the news that Christ was born in Bethlehem. Break into the midnight of our dark world and stir hearts to hear again the message of your love. On this night of joyful and expectant wonder, we look forward to the coming of the Christ child. Open our eyes to see in him your loving purposes, arouse within us the spirit of adoring praise, and although there was no room for him in Bethlehem's inn, help us to make room for him in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prophecy Isaiah 9:2-7 p. 606 OT, Pew Bible
The Anthem *Still, Still, Still* Austrian Carol/arr.Luboff
The Chancel Choir

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the Eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the Eve of our Savior's birth. Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

The Prayer for Illumination

Mighty God, the shepherds of old were full of your praises, saying that all they had heard and seen was mirrored by what they had been told. Move among us now with your Holy Spirit, that we too might hear and experience the wonder and joy of the living Word as we seek to welcome the written Word into our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

+The Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-20 p. 55 NT, Pew Bible

+The Sung Response 239 *Silent Night, Holy Night (vs 1)*

The Homily OVERNIGHT DELIVERY Rev. Hill

+The Hymn 245 *The First Noel*

The Invitation Rev. Ashburn

The Prayer of Confession

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Pardon and Assurance

Minister: People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us too! In Christ we receive the salvation of our God. Glory to God in the highest!

The Offering

The offering tonight will go the Raleigh District UMC Christmas Offering to The Methodist Home for Children, Zimbabwe Orphan Endeavor, and Love for Liberia.

The Offertory *Glory To God* Handel
The Chancel Choir

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

+The Doxology 95

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Pg. 15-16, Hymnal, Rev. Ashburn

The method for receiving Holy Communion will be by intinction. Please come forward to receive the bread and then dip the bread into the chalice. Those who would like to kneel at the altar for prayer following communing are invited to do so. During the serving of the sacraments, the congregation is asked to sing the first and last verses of hymns 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 228, 242, 249, and 254.

All offerings left at the chancel rail will go the Door Step Ministry Fund.

The Lighting of the Congregational Candles

The ministers will go down the center aisle lighting the candle of the person seated at the end of the pew. That person will light the candle of the one seated next, and the light will be sent through the entire pew.

The Anthem *O Holy Night* Adamme
The Chancel Choir

The Dismissal with Blessing Rev. Hill

+The Hymn 246 *Joy To The World*

The congregation may follow the choir and ministers outside with lighted candles to sing Christmas carols in the street. See insert for words. Those persons who do not wish to recess on to Edenton Street are requested to sit toward the front of the sanctuary. This will help the recessional flow in an orderly manner. Thank you.

+ Please stand, if able.

Participating in the service today:

Acolytes: 8:30 Justin King

11:00 Abbey Lockhart, Benjamin Lockhart, Sophie Sajovec

Liturgists: Lisa N. Yebuah, Matthew R. Ashburn

Preacher: Edward F. Hill, II

Minister of Music: William J. Weisser Organist: Josh Dumbleton

If you are visiting with us this evening, we invite you to return and worship with us each Sunday morning. Services are held at 8:40 and 10:55 in the sanctuary. At 9:30 and 11:11 am a more casual service, the Gathering, is held in Kerr Hall. Please join us!

For information concerning membership or ministries, please contact Joy Owen, Director of Welcoming Ministries, at 832-7535 ext. 350 or jowen@esumc.org.

Hearing aids, large print bulletins and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher if you would like to use any of these during the service.