



First Methodist Messenger

Troutman 1st United Methodist Church
204 Mills Avenue, P.O. Box 717
Troutman, NC 28166

To Worship, To Learn, To Share the Name of Jesus

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS!

Pastor: Mike Carr

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Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9am - 3pm (lunch at noon)
Visiting: Tuesday & Thursday
Sabbath: Friday

www.troutmanmethodist.com

The Pastor's Pen

"Outside the Box"

The Gift that Can't be Contained

The theme this Advent is "Outside the Box" - The Gift that Can't be Contained. Jesus is the gift that can't be contained. Jesus is a gift that can't be contained in a box like another gift. Jesus is outside the box compared to any other gift.

The 1st Sunday of Advent we opened up the box of "Expectations" (Mark 13:32-37). Advent is a time for great expectations of things to come. We live in between Christ having come and yet coming again. While some will be expecting the ordinary - gifts purchased from stores, Christmas parties, and ultra-busy schedules - encourage those around you to be expecting the extraordinary. What about feelings instead of things...true joy instead of festive superficiality?

The 2nd Sunday of Advent we will open up the box of "Acceptance" (Isaiah 40:1-6a). Even when we venture into uncharted territories, we are challenged to accept the things we cannot change and move forward as best we can. During the holidays, many feel broken in spirit as they remember the past and what was, or lament what could have been. "Comfort, comfort my people!"

The 3rd Sunday of Advent we will open up the box of "Family" (Isaiah 61:1-4). We are called to step into, and live outside, any boxes that attempt to contain our faith. That includes living outside society's materialistic approach to Christmas. What are some new family traditions you can start this year?

The 4th Sunday of Advent we will open up the box of "You" (2 Samuel 7:1-3). This Christmas, we have a new opportunity to open up once again for Christ's birth in our lives. We have a chance to come into the light and be seen for who we are and know we are in the story too.

On Christmas we will open up the BIG mysterious gift revealing that greatest gift of all.

John 15:5

In Christ,
Pastor Mike Carr

SAVE THE DATE

<p><u>Sat. Dec. 10th</u> Parsonage Open House Christmas Party 4 - 7pm Come drop in for Refreshments</p>	<p><u>Sun. Dec. 11th</u> Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins 3 - 5pm *Everyone invited to come and sing.</p>	<p><u>Sun. Dec. 18th</u> Christmas Cantata 6pm Refreshments afterwards</p>
<p><u>Sat. Dec. 17th</u> Birthday Party for Jesus (Children's Event) 10:30 - 12:30pm - Fellowship Hall Snack Lunch, Cake, Ice Cream, and Games</p>		<p><u>Sat. Dec. 24th</u> Christmas Eve Service 6pm</p>



Parsonage Open House
Christmas Party
Saturday, December 10th
4—7pm
Drop in for a visit & refreshments!

Christmas Caroling
To Shut-ins
Sunday, December 11th
3—5pm
Everyone invited to come & sing!



Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 18th at 6pm
Bring your favorite “finger food” for refreshments in the fellowship hall afterwards. Please come for an evening of beautiful music, food and fellowship!



BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Saturday, December 17th



10:30am—12:30pm in the fellowship hall

All are invited! We will have cake and ice cream and sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus! Saint Nicolas (aka “Santa Claus”) will be there to tell us about the birth of Jesus and why he gives gifts to children. Bring your children, grandchildren, invite your neighbors.

December Birthdays

12-01 Emma Plyler	
12-03 Joe Clodfelter	
12-05 Nancy Nye	12-05 Ed Pryor
12-06 John Bendele	
12-07 Kelly Miller	12-07 Pat Oldham
12-08 Lenna Sherrill	12-08 Jesse Oates
12-12 Shirley Miller	12-12 Karen Starrette
12-14 Laura Crater	
12-18 Lucille Ervin	
12-23 Mary Starrette	
12-25 Jack Ervin	
12-27 Lucille Brown	

December Anniversaries

12-02 Danny & Jean Ervin
12-14 Clark & Norma Sherrill
12-14 Rich & Lisa Dagenhart
12-24 John & Ruth Ostwalt
12-29 Gus & Linda Schade

Happy Birthday & Congratulations!



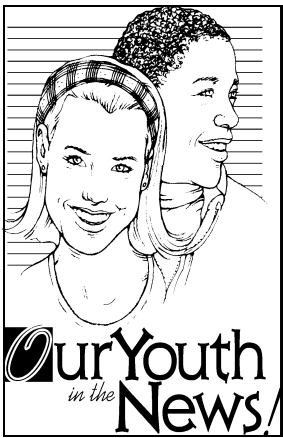
Our Prayer Concerns

In Nursing Homes: Lucille Brown, Betty Lenderman, Joe Clodfelter, Marjorie Sigmon, Doris Thompson

Members: Matoka Mullis, Margaret Ford, Hunter & Willie Fay Freeze, Vernon Ervin, Shirley & Tommy Boger, Lenna Sherrill, Mary Alice Starrette, Jean Hagler, Clarice Miller, Clark & Norma Sherrill, Gus Schade, Shirley Miller, Tiffany Caldwell, Ruth Robbins, Gaye Edmiston, Madeline Bradburn, John & Ruth Ostwalt, Frank Harmon, Jo Levan, Linda Baker, Donnie Bolton, Lucille Ervin

Relatives & Friends: Hilda Mitchell, Danny & Sharon Boan, Clinton & Bertha Stewart, Landis Frain, Brad Sherrill, Chris Triplett, Sylvia Smith, Betty Wingate, Helen Neel, Tracie Sharpe, Deborah Goodpaster.

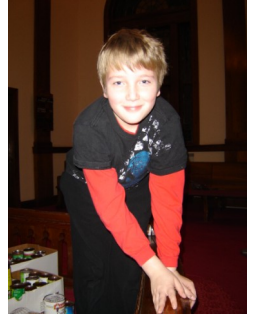
*Please call Pastor Mike, if you or a family member is hospitalized. Also, keep Pastor Mike updated with relatives and friends about how long to keep them on our prayer list.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

We collected 326 cans for HELP Ministries to feed people here in Troutman.

The youth wrote “God loves you” or John 3:16 on top of every can so that those who receive will know that these cans were given in love, the love of God which is unconditional and immeasurable.



Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Sunday School Class

Every Sunday @9:45am

3rd Floor Classroom
Pastor Mike will be teaching the class.

Youth Fellowship

Dec. 4, 11 @6pm

Come, Bring Your Friends!

Saturday, December 17th 6-8pm

Youth Christmas Party at the Parsonage
245 Wesley Street

The only thing you need to bring is spare change to be donated to charities the youth select.

Good Luck
at
College!

Matheson “Mattie” Williams
attending
Tennessee University

Residence Hall 521
2117 Andy Holt Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37916

Consider
sending her
a card or
a package!



Christmas is NOT Your Birthday

This year for Christmas, I feel God challenging us to remember that Christmas is the birthday of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. How many of us sing Happy Birthday to Jesus Christmas morning? Have you ever thought about offering a gift to Jesus for his birthday?

This Christmas we are going to present an opportunity to give a gift to Jesus for his birthday.

For every dollar we spend on Christmas, we will give a dollar to 5 Local Ministries.

Now, I know that might be too much for some of you, but maybe you could do half a dollar.

Whatever it is you feel like God is telling you to do this Christmas make sure we remember that it is Jesus Birthday - Happy Birthday - Jesus! Make your check to the church—mark “Christmas”.

5 Local Ministries we will support this Christmas

Diakonos, Inc.

Fifth Street Ministries

Do justice...love mercy



- Pregnancy Testing
- Counseling on Your Options
- Referrals for Community Resources
- Abortion Recovery Support
- Parenting Classes / "Earn While You Learn"
- Baby Boutique
- STDs & Health Counseling

Fifth Street Ministries
Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing,
Night Shelter, My Sisters House, Soup
Kitchen, and many other ministries.

YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY

Has been serving and
providing food for
needy people in Ire-
dell county
for more than 40
years.



HELP MINISTRIES TROUTMAN

Pays Utility Bills & Prescription Medicine,
Provides Food to Families, and Supplies People
with Firewood.

Habitat for Humanity of Iredell County

*Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and
people everywhere, from all walks of life,
to develop communities with people in need by building and
renovating houses
so that there are decent houses in decent communities in
which
every person can experience God's love
and can live and grow into all that God intends.*



Coming Up in January 2012

***Sunday Soup Supper**—January 15th—6pm

***Statesville District Leadership Conference**

Sunday, January 29th 3:00—6:00pm

Broad Street United Methodist Church, Statesville

More information to follow!



Budget 2012

Pastor's Salary	40,623.00
Pastor's Housing Allowance	3,435.00
Pastor's Travel	1,000.00
Pastor's Continuing Education	400.00
Salary, Administrative Assistant	7,540.00
Salary, Music Director	4,408.40
Salary, Custodian	4,988.29
Salary, Pianist	4,408.40
Payroll Taxes Expense	1,680.00
Workman's Compensations Ins.	769.00
Parsonage Maintenance	2,000.00
Church Utilities	9,600.00
Church Insurance	4,566.00
Church Maintenance	3,200.00
Boy Scout Utilities	1,400.00
Church Lawn Care	3,900.00
Church School Literature	2,600.00
Worship Supplies	1,000.00
Choir Music	200.00
Pulpit Speakers	225.00
Fees & Dues	700.00
Nurture-Outreach-Witness	2,500.00
Help Ministries	1,500.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00
Kitchen & Janitor Supplies	600.00
Postage	1,000.00
Telephone/Fax/Internet	2,100.00
Copier Lease	2,400.00
Computer/Printer Maintenance	750.00
Background Checks	200.00
Youth Activities	2,000.00
Fifth Street Ministries	1,000.00
Apportioned Funds	9,776.00
District Expense Fund	3,001.00
District Mission Society	283.00
District Camp Fund	509.00
Clergy Pension Benefits	9,808.00
Clergy Health Benefits	12,466.00
Other Expenses	250.00
TOTAL BUDGET	149,786.09

THANK YOU FOR YOUR Extravagant & Generous Giving

We have been blessed this year so much with Baptisms, Professions of faith, Outreach Events & Ministries, and so much more. This all was made possible because of your giving. God loves a CHEERFUL Giver.

To the left you will see our 2012 Budget and how it supports all the different programs, ministries, and salaries of the church.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To Worship, to Learn, to Share the Name of Jesus

Here is how the 2012 Budget would look like with our Mission Statement.

TO WORSHIP THE NAME OF JESUS

\$47,950.23 32%

TO LEARN THE NAME OF JESUS

\$43,558.41 29%

TO SHARE THE NAME OF JESUS

\$58,277.45 39%

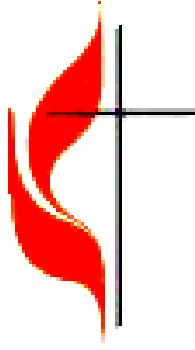
As we worship, learn, and share the name of Jesus together and with others we see action follow this Mission Statement. May your tithe, offering, and giving fuel the Mission.

Thank you and God Bless, Pastor Mike

WOMEN IN MISSION NEWS



- Tuesday, December 6th will be the annual Christmas luncheon. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 11:30am. This year our meal will be catered by Debbie's Heavenly Touch.
- Thank you congregation, for your support of the Women in Mission in 2011. With your support we were able to help needy families and victims of natural disasters. We were also able to make generous donations to Hospice of Iredell County, the Pregnancy Resource Center, and other organizations with serious needs. We look forward to 2012 and the opportunity to reach out to those outside the walls of our church. God Bless you all!



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PO Box 717
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DECEMBER 2011 SERVANTS

Ushers: Chief: Jesse Oates, Marsha Johnston,
Jim Williams

Keeper of the Church: Lannie Brown

Monday Teller: Ruth Robbins

Sunday School Opening: Whitener-Little

Greeters:

- 12-4 Frank & Lynda Harmon
- 12-11 Virgil & Laura Crater
- 12-18 Buzz & Linda Troutman
- 12-25 Danny Ervin & Lannie Brown

Worship Leader: Kelly Miller

Sunday School Nursery: Patty Wilson

Worship Service Nursery:

- 12-4 Laura Crater & Amanda Stanley
- 12-11 Kathy Shumaker & Tracy Grant
- 12-18 Linda Franklin & Donna Miller
- 12-25 Workers on call if needed

*If you can't be there, please find a replacement.
Let the church know who you switched with.

Junior Church:

- 12-4 Kellie Carr & Gilda Pryor
- 12-11 Jean Brown & Jim Williams
- 12-18 Jim Pittman & Sheila Dagenhart
- 12-25 No Junior Church

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone
who helped setup, everyone who cooked,
and everyone who helped clean up for the Wednesday
night Thanksgiving meal here at the church.

Around 70 people enjoyed delicious food and fellowship
with others. What a Thanksgiving blessing for everyone!

Thank you again so much!

Thank you to all the helpers who showed up
at 9am on Saturday morning, Nov. 26th to decorate the
church for the Advent season.

We set up the Chrismon tree and the manger scene,
decorated the windows and the balcony, set out all the
Poinsettias, and decorated the fellowship hall.

It was a lot of work, but we had many helpers!
Thank you!