

Announcements

Disciple Bible Study. Disciple Bible Study tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Youth Meeting. The Youth will meet tonight at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday night at 6:15 p.m.

Bible Study. Please join us for Bible Study Class each Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Huckaby Class. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call Bob Helms@ 295-2973.

Morning Circle. The Morning Circle will meet on December 15th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Quilt Room and then will go out to eat at West Family Restaurant and a short meeting. Jane Walker will have the devotion.

Shalom Circle. The Shalom Circle will meet at Ellen Holman's home on December 15th at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish meal. We will be collecting can food items for our missions.

Christmas Offering Envelopes. Our Christmas Offering Envelopes are placed in the pews for our missions offering. This offering helps to give support to United Ministries and other places that we help during every year.

Christmas Eve Service. Our Christmas Eve Service will be Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Office Closed. The office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th.

Newsletter Deadline. The last day for articles to go in the January newsletter will be next Sunday, Dec. 20th.

Wednesday Night Supper Menu: Turkey & Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, and Apple Cobbler. Beverages included are: Tea, Water and Coffee.



December 13 Becky Philpot
 December 14 Scott Beasley
 December 15 Laura Brown
 Barbara Durham
 Diane Greer
 December 17 Susan Leonard-Ray
 December 19 Anne-Marie Failor



December 19 Martha & Benson McWhite

Mary Virginia Taylor
Resident Bishop

Charles Johnson
District Superintendent

Keith D. Ray, II
Pastor

Bill Sherrill
Director of Music

Sibyl Thomas
Organist

Debbie Capps
Admin. Assistant

Pat Teat
*Membership & Financial
 Secretary*

Marsha Disher
Treasurer

Matt Greer
Director of Youth

Monroe Stone
Acolyte

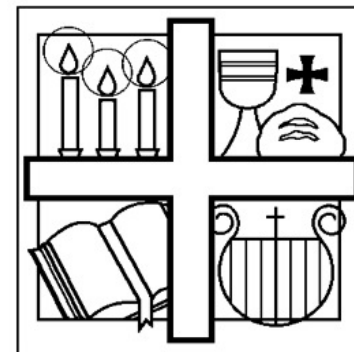
Jim Humphreys
Trustee of the Month

Tom Smith
Stewardship

Vickie & Anne-Marie
 Failor
Nursery

Mary Penland
Altar Guild

Eddie Hughes
 Jim Humphreys
 Ronnie Hunter
Ushers



Berea Friendship United Methodist Church

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**3rd Sunday of Advent
 December 13, 2009
 10:30 a.m.**

The mission of Berea Friendship United Methodist Church is to glorify our Lord by serving all people equally, welcoming those in search of a loving and supportive church family.

Welcome to Berea Friendship United Methodist Church!

If you are new to our community, we hope you will participate in our service as you are comfortable. An asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able. **Bold print** indicates that you are invited to join the community in reading aloud those passages that are indicated.

Please take a moment to sign the Worship Attendance Pad that is found in your pew.
Welcome to this assembly of the people of God!

A Service of Lessons and Carols

The Prelude	Voluntary	(Croft)
Lighting of the Altar Candles		
Greeting and Service Notes		
Trinity Chimes		
Choral Call to Worship	Ding Dong, Merrily on High	arr. Barbara Wallace
Opening Prayer		

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.

Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.
(A moment of silence for prayer)

These prayers and praises we humbly offer to God. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath **Tari & Alex Beeson, and Kody Bennett**

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

Today we give thanks for the Mary's among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

The First Lesson Isaiah 40: 1-6, 8
To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home.

*Congregational Carol **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** No. 211

The Second Lesson Jeremiah 23: 5-6
The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come.

Choral Carol **Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?** Robert Lau

The Third Lesson Luke 1: 26-35, 38
The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom shall never end.

Canticle of Mary Webb/Winter
The Choir: My God Has Done Great Things for Me
The Reader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

The People: **My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

The Reader: From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is the name of the Lord, whose mercy is on those who fear God from generation to generation.

The Choir: My God Has Done Great Things for Me.

The Fourth Lesson Luke 2: 1-7
Against a background of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

Choral Carol **The Infant Jesus** Pietro A. Yon

The Fifth Lesson Luke 2: 8-16
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the World.

Choral Carol **Do You Hear What I Hear?** arr. Harry Simone

The Sixth Lesson		Matthew 2: 1-12
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews		
Choral Carol	Where is This Stupendous Stranger?	David A. White
The Seventh Lesson		Isaiah 9: 2-4, 6-7a
We return to the prophet Isaiah's prophecy of the coming king and his reign.		
Choral Carol	Unto Us is Born A Son	arr. Bill Sherrill
The Christmas Reflection		Dr. Keith Ray, II
The Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
Choral Response	Two-fold Amen	(Dresden)
Offertory	Lento	(Franck)
*Doxology	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	No. 95
*Congregational Carol	Joy to the World	No. 246
*Extinguishing of the Altar Candles		
*Dismissal with Blessing		
*Choral Benediction	Alleluia	Bill Sherrill
The Postlude	Psalm of Glory	(Saxton)
* Those who are able, please stand.		

We welcome and thank our guest musicians who practiced with us and joined us today: Singers Judith Bazemore and Adam Rutter, and Handbell Ringers John Farrar and Laura Gould.

Many thanks to the Philpots for donating the funds to purchase "Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?"; and to Lynn Dyson and an anonymous donor for the funds to purchase "The Infant Jesus".

The flowers today are placed by the **Joe Philpot family** in honor of **Becky Philpot's** birthday, and for her tireless efforts to keep us all (children, grandchildren, and in-laws) happy.

OTHERS TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER Claire Rebecca Philpot, Joe Philpot, Vera Hunt, Helen Yockey, Carolyn Hunter, Nick Nichols, Bob Donaldson, Libby Wingate, Georgiana Dougherty and her neighbor, (Bobbie Brown), Edith Bynum, and her sons Carl and Jerry, Margaret Rivers, Eunice Looper, Mildred Huckaby, Rachel Palmer, Mildred Pollard, Steve Hester's mother, (Elva Hester), Jake Moorehead, Juanita Sherlin, Doris Williams, Katrina Earnest Collins, Lisa Nichols, Jan Vaughan, Nora Brown, Mike & Laura Brown and their Family, (Mac) Benson McWhite, Barry Childs, Laura Brown's brother (Rick Wham), Steve Dixon and family (friend of Rick Greer), Jayne Ferrer's nephew (Rusty Pearson), Walter Vaughan, Lloyd Turner's mom (Elizabeth Lanford), Myrna Turner's mom (Mary South), Cindy Hester's parents, (Tom and Bobbie Speck), Doris Hunt, Bobby Taylor, The Bryan Clark family (friends of Parks Evans' family), Patti Taylor's mother and father (Andy & Margaret Watts), Myra Clements, Gwen Vaughan, Lucy Hughes, Elmo Mann, and Pattie Humphreys.

For Your Information

Attendance for :December 6th: S.S. - 54 Worship – 121

Financial Report for December 6th:

Received for Budget \$7,246.65

Received for Good Samaritan Fund \$230.00

Received 47 Estimate of Giving cards for total \$133,874.00

You may still turn in your Estimate of Giving card by placing it in the offering plate or mailing to the church office.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

The ministry of the Church extends to God's children of every age and we at Berea Friendship are blessed to be able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with young and old alike. But in today's world we must always be aware of issues of safety when caring for children, youth, and vulnerable adults. That's why our South Carolina Conference has required all United Methodist Churches in our state to adopt a "Safe Sanctuary Policy" outlining our safety measures in our ministries with the young and/or vulnerable. This policy includes a mandate to secure criminal background checks on all church volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. As your pastor, I, too, am subject to regular criminal background checks as a way of ensuring we are taking appropriate steps to maintain high standards of safety for those who worship God in our local churches. If you are a volunteer with children, youth, or vulnerable adults, please fill out the necessary paperwork as required by our Berea Friendship policy.

Our Safe Sanctuary Coordinator, Nancy Neal, will provide you with a packet of information to complete this process. Return the three required forms to Nancy as soon as possible. Be assured that background checks are completely confidential and will be held secure. Also, if you would like to schedule a time to talk with me about our safety measures or any concerns you may have, please call.

We are implementing this Safe Sanctuary Policy for the safety of all members and while it is somewhat inconvenient, we believe it will help us ensure a place of safety for all who participate in the ministries of Berea Friendship United Methodist Church.

Blessings,
Pastor Keith