



NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTING POINT

December 2011

Dear Church Family,

There can be so many distractions we sometimes have trouble keeping the main thing, the main thing. Christmas can be like that. The excitement and glitter steal our attention and shopping itself can be a tremendous distraction. Women love to experience the textures, colors and all of the variety while men seldom shop. They are more on a hunting trip than shopping. Men find the first item that suits them and lining up the cross hairs, they shoot it, bag it, and drag it to the house.

Even the children get distracted from the true meaning of Christmas. Take a child into a toy store and they tend to want every single thing that they see! The allure of unopened presents under the tree makes

God is not like this at all. He always keeps His priorities straight. In God's perfect time, Christ was born. The entire world was eagerly waiting for God's consolation. We were overwhelmed by sin and our inability to fulfill the law. Our Savior was born into a world full of need and distraction. It is a wondrous miracle that Jesus kept His focus in spite of everything, all the way to the cross. This is highlighted in Luke 9:51 as Christ "Set His face" to go to Jerusalem and the cross.

We serve a loving God who desires the very best for His children. He wants us to celebrate and have fun; in fact He tells us that His joy is our strength! When we see the bright lights, let's help each other remember who the brightest light is. When the evergreen comes into the house, remember who gives

a detective out of every little girl and boy. If it snows, pandemonium sets in, sleds come out, snow men go up and distraction abounds. Oh, we usually allocate some amount of time for Jesus and the stable, but it is often hard to keep Christ the main focus throughout.

everlasting life. And when the gifts are passed out, help all to remember the greatest gift of all, and that Jesus is truly the reason for the season. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Grace and His peace,
Ralph



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

Join us for one of our Christmas Eve Services.

A family friendly service will be held at 5:00 p.m.

Children can come dressed as a manger scene character.

We will also have a Candlelight Service at 8:00 p.m.

Cookbooks

We still have cookbooks available. They are \$13 and can be purchased from Meredith Luper or the church office. These make great Christmas gifts and support the Methodist Women.



Thank you to everyone who made a Shoe Box or donated money for shipping. We had a total of 127 boxes! Many children around the world will be touched by your gifts.

Pre-school Program

Everyone is invited to our Pre-school program that will be held on Thursday night, Dec. 15th 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come see these precious children share songs that they have learned this year.



Nursery Help Needed

Amy Danforth is in the process of creating the 2012 schedule and is in need of volunteers for the 8:30 Toddler and Infant Nurseries. If you currently use the nursery or just love caring for children, please call Amy at 459-2765

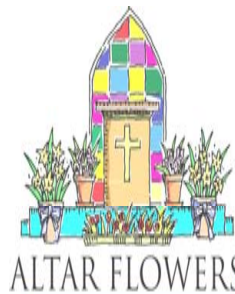


Angel Tree

NUMC is once again sponsoring a group of Nash County children in need through our Angel Tree. The Angel Tree is located in the gathering area. When you select a tag, please be sure to write it on the sign out sheet located beside the tree. The gifts will be due back to the tree no later than Sunday, Dec. 11th.

Love Offering

Christmas is a time to show appreciation to our church staff for the fine work they do each day for ministry here at NUMC. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee asks that you consider making a contribution to a love offering to show your love and support for them. Please designate "Staff Christmas Love Offering" on your



We are in the process of compiling our 2012 flower calendar. A calendar with available Sundays is in the gathering area. Please feel free to write your name in any available Sunday. If you have questions, call the church office.

The Men's Bible Class will be having their Christmas Party on December 2nd at 6:30 p.m.



You Are Invited!!

**Emmaus Gathering in Braswell Hall
Friday, Jan. 6th at 7 p.m.**

Come join us for a special Emmaus Gathering. Walnut Grove United Methodist Church will lead us in worship, fourth day and clergy.

Please come and join us in this

...donation and submit it no later than December 20th.

in Cockrell Hall.






special time of worship!



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Bear Den</u> 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 - Cockrell Hall <u>Tigers Den</u> 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 - Bus Garage <u>Wolf Den</u> 2nd & 4th Sundays 2:30 - Bus Garage	Scouting Schedule <u>Webelos 1</u> 1st & 3rd Sundays 2:00 - Bus Garage <u>Pack Meeting</u> 2nd Tuesday 6:00 - Cockrell Hall	<u>Girl Scouts - Troop 1</u> Dec. 4th - 2:00pm Parlor & Men's Bible Class <u>Girl Scouts - Troop 2</u> 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:00 - Cockrell Hall		<i>1</i> Braswell Hall & Kitchen Reserved Nash Central Swim Team	<i>2</i> 6:30pm - Men's Class Christmas Party - Cockrell Hall	<i>3</i> 9:00am - District Christmas Dinner -- Braswell Hall 2:00pm - Cantata Practice - Braswell
<i>4</i> 8:00 - CostaRica Breakfast Cockrell Hall 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Combined Service - Cantata- Braswell Hall	<i>5</i> 10:15 - Nursing Home Ministry - Nash Grove	<i>6</i> 7:00pm - Trustees, Parlor	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 6:00pm Children's Play - Dress Rehearsal	<i>10</i> 9:00 am - Cockrell Hall Reserved - Emmaus Training 3:00pm Children's Play - Dress Rehearsal
<i>11</i> 7:30am - Methodist Men's Breakfast - Cockrell Hall	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 7:00 - Finance - Parlor	<i>14</i> 	<i>15</i> 7:00pm - Pre- School Christmas P	<i>16</i> 3:00pm - Nash Central Jazz Band	<i>17</i>

Cockrell Hall 6:00 - Children's Play Braswell Hall		Final DivorceCare Session - <i>New Sessions will begin in January!</i>		Christmas Program Sanctuary & Reception in Cockrell	set-up - Braswell Hall	
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 10:15 - Nursing Home Ministry - Nash Grove	<i>20</i> 6:00 - Birthday Party for Jesus	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 5:30 - Pathfinders Caroling & Christmas Party	<i>23</i> Church Office Closed	<i>24</i>  5:00 - Family 8:00 - Candlelight
<i>25</i> 10:30 Combined Service 	<i>26</i> Church Office Closed	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>
Recurring Church Activities						
		<u>Sunday</u> 8:30am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:00am Sunday School/Cantata Practice 11:00am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:15pm Youth & Children's Activities				
		<u>Tuesday</u> 7:00am Prayers with the Pastor 8:30am Men's Bible Study - B. Garage 7:00pm DivorceCare - Chapel				
		<u>Wednesday</u> 6:45am Youth Shine On! - Bojangles 5:00pm Emmaus Reunion Grp - Library 6:30pm Choir Practice - Choir Room 6:30pm Signing Class - Basement 7:15pm Youth Bible Study - Basement 7:00pm Rockfish Practice - Braswell Hall 8:00pm Narcotics Anonymous - upstairs 8:00pm Nar-Anon - Cockrell Hall			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <u>Weekday School</u> 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. <u>Kidspace</u> 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. </div>	

Pastor: Ralph A. Brown
Ministers: The Baptized of this congregation
Worship Leader: Joanna Hale
Minister of Music & Worship: Gary Rapp
Director of Children's and
Youth Ministries: Luke Whitehead
Minister of Visitation: Jim Boehm
Rocky Mount District Supt. Caswell Shaw
Bishop of the N. C. Conference: Al Gwinn

Who to contact @ NUMC

Bookkeeper: Dot Binkley
Administrative Assistant: Dana Nethercutt
Weekday School & KIDSPACE: Janet Binder

Church Office Hours

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

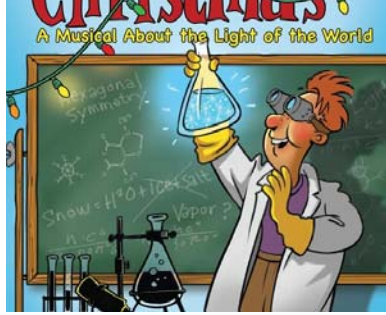


*This newsletter is sent with a
blessing and a prayer to...*



**Join us on Sunday December 11th
at 6:00 p.m. as the children of NUMC present**

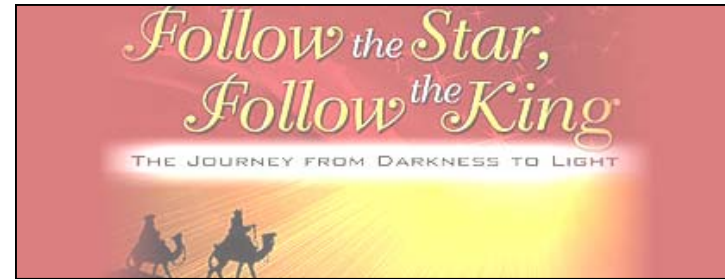
"The Light Before Christmas"



"The Light Before Christmas"

This musical will help explain that the birth of Jesus was not the beginning of the story, but the middle of a much bigger story!

*Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 4th
Combined service at 10:30 a.m.
in Braswell Hall*



"Follow the Star, Follow the King" is the journey from spiritual darkness to light, culminating in the birth of King Jesus. It is a distinctive blend of scriptures anticipating and celebrating the coming of the Christ, beloved carols, and original new music which captures the mystery and majesty of this most holy season. Join our choir and orchestra for this Christmas story musical.

Be sure to come between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and enjoy a pancake breakfast to support our Costa Rica Mission team. Sunday School will be held at 9:30 a.m.