



NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTING POINT

December 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

There is one Christmas carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name, Emmanuel; which translated means, God with us." Today I found out and so I'm going to tell you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning just like the Gospel of John. There is the surface meaning plus a hidden, deeper, spiritual meaning known to members of the faith. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- ◆ The partridge in a pear tree was the **Prince of Peace**, Jesus Christ, who died on a tree to set us free.
- ◆ **Two** turtle doves were the **Old and New Testaments**.
- ◆ **Three** French hens stood for **faith, hope, and the greatest of all love**.
- ◆ The **four** calling birds were the **four gospels** that told the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ The **five** golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, which are the first **five books of the Old Testament** written by Moses.
- ◆ The **six** geese a-laying stood for the **six days of creation**.
- ◆ **Seven** swans a-swimming represented the **seven fold gifts of the Holy Spirit**; Prophecy, Serving, Teaching Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, and Mercy.
- ◆ The **eight** maids a-milking were the **eight beatitudes**. Blessed are the poor in spirit... Blessed are those who mourn...Blessed are the gently (humble)...Blessed are those who hunger

and thirst for righteousness...Blessed are the merciful...Blessed are the peacemakers... Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness...

- ◆ **Nine** ladies dancing were the **nine fruit of the Holy Spirit**: Love, Joy, Peace, patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.
- ◆ The **ten** lords-a-leaping were the **ten commandments**.
- ◆ The **eleven** pipers piping stood for the **eleven original faithful disciples**.
- ◆ The **twelve** drummers drumming symbolized the **twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed**.

So, a strange song becomes a Christmas Carol that proclaims the excellencies of Him whom called me out of darkness into His marvelous light.

See you and your family every Sunday during the Holidays,

Wayne

Belarusian Ministry

Time has come to be in prayer about your participation in the Belarusian Ministry. The need is still great to provide the children of Belarus and chaperones an opportunity to come to Nashville and receive a reprieve from their everyday radioactive living conditions, medical/dental/vision evaluations and necessary treatment, a renewed hope for the future and most importantly exposure to Jesus Christ and His love through our generosity.

If you feel led or would like more information on hosting a child/chaperone for six weeks, beginning approximately the first or second week of June please see Kevin or Denise Calloway. Deadlines for host family applications will be late February.

During the Lenten season, a special collection will take place each Sunday as "Change For Children". During the worship hour, specially decorated pails will be passed to collect your spare change &/or dollar bills saved from the previous week. God has always provided funding for this mission through the generosity of donations.



Nursery Help Needed

Amy Danforth is our new nursery schedule coordinator. She is in the process of creating the 2009 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 459-3765



My family and I want to thank our wonderful church family for everything you did during the loss of my father, J.W. Smith. Words can not express the sincere gratitude we have for all the calls, visits, cards, food, thoughts, prayers, and love shown to us at this time of grieving. You have truly helped me and my family during this time.

Love, Melissa Lumpff & Family.

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 donation and submit it no later than December 21st.



"Tonight, Heaven Touches Earth"

will be presented by a choir comprised of individuals from both Nashville Baptist Church and Nashville United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Nashville Baptist Church. Members from our church will also be sharing their musical talents in the orchestra. Come and join this special Christmas celebration of God showing His love in the most miraculous way – through the gift of His Son, Jesus.



A New Lost & Found box has been placed in the front/middle cabinet in the lobby. There are many items in it already. If you have misplaced something, please check the box. Also, we have a member who has lost a camera that was in a red case. If anyone has seen this, please call the church office at 459-7178. Thank You!

~ Anniversaries ~

~ Birthdays ~

Attendance

Date	8:30	11:00	Totals
Nov. 2	276	78	354
Nov. 9	276	82	358
Nov. 16	257	102	359
Nov. 23	257	99	356
Nov. 30	257	92	349
Average			355

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7:30pm - Trustees, Parlor	<i>2</i> 9:00am Men's Bible Study, Bus Garage	<i>3</i> 6:30am—Pathfinders @ Bojangles	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 6:30pm Men's Bible Class Christmas Party - Cockrell Hall	<i>6</i> 11:00 - District Pastor's Christmas Party - Braswell Hall
<i>7</i> 1:00 - 4:00 - Cockrell hall Reserved 5:30 - No Youth PAC (King's & Covenant Kids meet as usual) Pathfinders - Pizza Party	<i>8</i> 2:00 - 4:00 - 4-H, Cockrell Hall	<i>9</i> 9:00am Men's Bible Study, Bus Garage 7:00pm - Finance Committee, Chapel	<i>10</i> 6:30am—Pathfinders @ Bojangles	<i>11</i> No Disciple I today 6:30 - 9:00pm - Day School Christmas Program, Sanctuary	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> Advanced Lay Speaker Training, Cockrell Hall (all Day) 7:00 - Cantata at Nashville Baptist
<i>14</i> Angel Tree Gift's Due 7:30 am — Men's Breakfast, Braswell Hall 7:00pm - Cantata at Nashville Baptist 4:00pm - Jesus'	<i>15</i> 2:00—4:00 4-H Cockrell Hall 10:15pm Nursing Home Ministry—Nash Grove Manor	<i>16</i> 9:00am Men's Bible Study, Bus Garage	<i>17</i> 6:30am—Pathfinders @ Bojangles 7:00pm—Staff Parrish—Church Office	<i>18</i> 7:00pm Disciple I, Cockrell Hall	<i>19</i> 6:30pm - Choir Party at the Rapp's home	<i>20</i> ASP - Fire Dept Christmas Dinner, Braswell Hall (all day) Cockrell Hall reserved in AM
<i>21</i> 5:30 - Pathfinders Christmas Caroling No Youth PAC, King's or Covenant Kids	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 9:00am Men's Bible Study, Bus Garage	<i>24</i> 7:00 pm 	<i>25</i> 	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 4:00 - 6:30 Wood Reunion - Cockrell Hall reserved No Youth PAC, Pathfinders, King's or Covenant Kids	<i>29</i> 7:00pm—Church Council—Parlor	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 6:30am—Pathfinders @ Bojangles			
		<p align="center"><u>Sunday</u></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Traditional) 5:30 p.m. Pathfinders, Youth PAC, King's & Covenant Kids 5:30 p.m. Crown Financial Study</p>			<p align="center"><u>Tuesday</u></p> <p>7:00 a.m. Prayers with the Pastor</p> <p align="center"><u>Wednesday</u></p> <p>5:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal 6:30 p.m. Puppet Team 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous 8:00 p.m. Nar-Anon</p> <p align="center"><u>Weekday School</u></p> <p>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday</p> <p align="center"><u>Kidspace</u></p> <p>3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday</p>	

Pastor: Wayne Hicks
Ministers: The Baptized of this congregation
Worship Leader: Joanna Hale
Minister of Music & Worship: Gary Rapp
Minister of Youth: Cindy Pike
Dir. of Children's Ministries: Melodie Strickland
Minister of Visitation: Jim Boehm
Rocky Mount District Supt. Mack McMillan
Bishop of the N. C. Conference: Al Gwinn

Who to contact @ NUMC

Bookkeeper: Dot Binkley
Administrative Assistant: Dana Nethercutt
Weekday School & KIDSPACE: Janet Binder
(314-7552)

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...*



BirthDay Party for Jesus!

All children ages 3 - 5th grade, please bring a friend and join us in celebrating Jesus' Birthday on Sunday Dec. 14 from 4:00 - 5:30. There will be party games, prizes, and cake. Each party attendee is asked to bring a \$5 wrapped toy to be given to needy children in Nash County Schools. Gift labels will be available at party sign-in. Call the church office with any questions.



Angel Tree

Nashville United Methodist Church is once again sponsoring a group of Nash County children in need through our Angel Tree. There are still cards available on the tree in the church lobby. The gifts will be due back to the tree no later than Sunday, Dec. 14th. May God bless you for your spirit and support of this cause!