



Westview United Methodist Church ***"Fire in the Rain"***

"Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors."

Volume 16, Issue 11

December, 2005

The Good Views

From the Pastor

"Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps." Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Advent and Christmas are a time for returning to familiar surroundings and remembering where we come from. The deepest yearnings of the human heart are met in this holy season as families gather to share the joy of God's love and the strength that comes from spending time being families. I hope you are looking forward to seeing family and friends as I and Diana are. We wish your family a joyous, love filled, and merry Christmas!

As a Church family I hope we will focus on the opportunities we have to welcome visitors and to encourage each other to grow in our faith. We may find that we can reach out to people in our community, who are standing at a distance from the Church and from Christ, by inviting them to some of the special activities of the season like the Christmas program on Sunday morning Dec. 18th at 10:30 a.m. and the Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24th at 7:00 p.m.. We have a unique opportunity to take an hour on Christmas day and New Years day to attend church and receive Holy Communion this year as each of those holidays occur on Sunday. In spite of appearances, many people today feel anxiety and loneliness as they face life in these times and they need to hear about the birth of the Savior and they need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The psalm quoted above speaks of a people restored and forgiven who find peace as they open their hearts to God. What better time than Christmas to open your heart and let Christ touch you at the deepest levels? The psalmist says, "steadfast love and faithfulness will meet, righteousness and peace will kiss each other". What a great description of what the experience of Christmas should be for the Christian. We are reminded of the love of Christ which first captured our hearts some time in the past.

Do you feel that strong urge to travel back to your "home" wherever that may be? God's people have always felt the need to travel back home and be in familiar surroundings once again.

If you travel this Christmas, I pray you will be safe and that you will arrive at one of those warm home places we all love, a land that "will yield its increase" and where "righteousness will go before" us and "make a path" even as John the Baptist went out to "Prepare the way of the Lord" and "make his paths straight".

May you and your family have a holy and joyous Advent and Christmas Season.

Our Church Calendar: Programs and Activities @ Westview



United Methodist Information Service

Where you can ask any question
about the United Methodist Church

1-800-251-8140

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Central Time
Toll-free in the U.S.

<http://infoserv.umc.org>

Weekly Meetings

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Southern Gospel Folk Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 p.m. Worship Service
12-2 p.m. Youth Fellowship
2:00 p.m. Joyful Noyz Youth Praise band practice

Tuesdays

7:30 a.m. AA meeting

Wednesdays

6:30-8:00 p.m. Adult Choir practice
6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Thursdays

7:30 p.m. AA meeting

December

Sunday, Dec. 4	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Worship Sunday School Dec. Advent Study - Choices Class (Room 15) led by Dawn Green.
	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Worship Fellowship Dinner
	Alternative Christmas Christmas Gift Tree	Giving display in the Narthex Sign up today if you plan to adopt one or more "angels" from our Christmas gift tree. Contact Dorothy Newman 799-5948 or Kim Tenney 799-1393 with questions or if you can help.
Monday, Dec. 5	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Budget meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 6	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Preschool in session Alcoholics Anonymous
Wednesday, Dec. 7	3:30-5:30 p.m. 5:30-7:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	No Art Academy in December No Sprouts in Dec.ember Adult Choir Practice
Thursday, Dec. 8	6:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study Preschool in session
Sunday, Dec. 11	7:30 p.m. 11:30 a.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous Adult Fellowship Meeting
Monday, Dec. 12	2:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.	Cookie Exchange Deadline for turning in Christmas Gift Tree gifts at the Church
Saturday, Dec. 17	2:00 p.m.	Adult Choir singing at Claiborne-Hughes Nursing Home, Franklin
Sunday, Dec. 18	10:30 p.m. 1-3:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Christmas Program Christmas Gift Tree gifts will be given to recipients at the Church
Saturday, Dec. 24	3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Sunday, Dec. 25	8:30 & 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Communion Service
Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006	8:30 & 10:30 a.m.	New Years Day Communion

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Michael Valcarcel
2 Andrea Sanders, Maxine Romine, Bonnie Barton
4 Kayla Gulley
5 Daniel Penner
6 Jamie Cox
7 Leah Thornhill
[Joe & Mary Clinard Anniversary](#)
9 Paul Newman
11 Eric Fold
12 [Roger & Susan Gulley Anniversary](#)
17 Gary Wedgewood
21 Bobby Stephens, Susan Gulley
22 Josh Leek
[Jerry & Ruth Cox Anniversary](#)
23 **Ryan Brison**
25 Karen Renner, **Ryan Brison**, Christmas Green, Jesus Christ
26 Zack Glasgow
27 Brittain Mangrum
[James & Jeannie Handy Anniversary](#)
29 Kayleigh Handy
31 [John & Sharon Collins Anniversary](#)

Remember Our Military Friends Protecting our Country

SGT Jason Gulley
HMLA 167 F/L
UIC 77021
FPO AE 09509-7021

PVT Jessica Spivey
L.R.M.C.
C-MROT Box 2003
APO A-E 09180

CTRSN Daniel Hawkins
OT Division USS Mason
(DDG 87)
FPO AE 09578-1302

Renner, Scott CPL
927 Albacore Street
Beauford, SC 29906

SPC Richards, Thomas
FOB Cobra
L. Troop 3/278
APO-AE 09374 IRAQ

Captain Adam B. Mangrum
Home

2nd Lt. Katherine Ivey
300 Taylor Street
NE Apartment L11
Washington DC 20017

Lance Corp. McDaid, Matthew
2-5 Golf Co., 3rd Platoon
UIC 40365
FPO AP 96426-0365

PFC Joseph A. Clinard
B-3-69 AR 1BCT
FOB Brassfield-MORA
APO AE09383
In Iraq

HT3 Braddy, William C.
ENG/R DIV
USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)
PPO AA 34095-2800

Danny Gray
100 Crews Ave., A15
Alamogordo, NM 88310

PVT2 Fold, Eric
C Co. 3-75 Box 29
Fort Benning GA 31905

Minor, Jeremiah L.
Task Force Bayonet
HHC 2/503rd FSE
APO, AE 09355
Cindy New's nephew
AN Jenkins, Keith
V4/AIR DIV
USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)
PPO AA 34095-2800

CPL Kenneth A Roeten
Molonge House
Room 451
6900 Georgia Ave.NW Bldg. 20
Washington, D.C.
20307-5001

POINSETTIAS: If you would like to place a Poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor of or in memory of a loved one please fill out the form below and place this in the offering plate with a check for \$10.00 designated for Poinsettias. The plants will be at the church on or before Sunday December 18th and will be available for you to take after the Christmas Eve Services on Dec. 24th. Contact Pastor Wedgewood at 799-0250 to order by phone or if you have questions. The name(s) of your loved one(s) printed in the bulletin.

Poinsettia order Form
Please reserve ____ Poinsettia plants for

My Name

My Phone #

to be displayed in the sanctuary between Dec. 18th and Dec. 24th. The cost of \$10.00 per plant. I am enclosing

\$ _____ in the form of a ____ Check or ____ Cash.

**My plant(s) are
Given In Memory of:**

**or
Given In Honor of:**

Gently Used Coat Drive Meets With Great Success

The **gently used coat drive** is turning out to be a **great success** - please continue sending in those coats that you have outgrown or do not need. We are in desperate need of a ladies 4x coat for a new family in our community. I am working with the elementary and middle schools here in Fairview and we have found persons for all the jackets so far. Please watch for an insert in the bulletin for other needs Nurse Genia is sending me from the middle school. Thanks, Traci Bloodworth

MERRY CHRISTMAS

IN MANY LANGUAGES

Merry Christmas can be said in many ways, in many different languages. Here are some ways people in different countries say Merry Christmas:

Armenia- Shenoraavot Nor Dari	Korea- Sung Tan Chuk Ha
Belgium- Zalig Kerstfeest	Latvia- Prieci'gus Ziemsv' tkus
Brazil- Boas Festes	Lebanon- Milad Saeed
Bulgaria- Tchestita Koleda	Lithuania- Linksmu Kaledu
Cherokee- Tsa-su-ye-da	Malaysia- Selamat Hari Natal
Chinese- Sing Daan Faai Lok	Mexico- Feliz Navidad
Croatia- Sretan Bozic	Netherlands- Vrolijk Kerstfeest
Czechoslovakia- Prejame Vam Vessele Vanoce	Norway- God Jul
Denmark- Glaedelig Jul	Philippines- Maligayang Pasko
England- Happy Christmas	Poland- Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia
Estonia- Roomusaid Joulu Puhi	Portugal- Boas Festas
Finland- Hyvaa Joulua	Rumania- Craciun fericit
France- Joyeux Noel	Russia- Pozdravlyau s prazdnikom
Germany- Froehliche Weihnachten	Rozhdestva
Greece- Kala Christouyenna	Serbia- Hristos se rodi
Hungary- Kellemes Karacsonyi unnepeket	Slovakia- Vesele vianoce
Iceland- Gledileg Jol	Spain- Feliz Navidad
Indonesia- Selamat Hari Natal	Sweden- God Jul
Iraq- Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah	Thailand- Suksan Wan Christmas
Ireland- Nodlaig Shona Dhuit	United States- Merry Christmas
Italy- Buon Natale	Vietnam- Chuc Mung Giang Sinh
Japan- Shinnen Omedeto	Wales- Nadolig Llawn



Interesting history behind the Advent and Christmas Seasons and Symbols

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Kingdomtide or Pentecost becomes the Season of Advent, the New Year season at the beginning of a new liturgical year that the Christian Church has observed for at least fifteen hundred years. The sanctuary hangings have been changed from green or red to purple, proclaiming that the arrival of a King is anticipated! In our season of Advent preparation, let us make ready this building of God for the celebrations with which this congregation, this people of God, will welcome, again, the coming of God's Son into the world.

THE EVERGREENS

The evergreens, cones, and fragrant herbs for making wreaths and garlands dates back to the ancient Egyptians, Hebrews, and Persians. One of the ways the Romans celebrated their mid-winter festival called Saturnalia was to cover their homes with greenery, inside and out. Evergreens were considered as hospitable refuges for wood sprites, and the ever-living green of living plants was used to dispel the gloom of winter. The Christians at first rejected this custom, but later came to use it as a form of Christian celebration - the evergreen bough representing eternal life, the circular wreath telling of the victory (as the wreath was used in athletic games,) and telling of the love of God, eternal, without beginning and without end.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

The custom of using holly at Christmas was brought to our churches by the English settlers. The plant often has been called the "Holy Tree," the name coming from the Old English. The holly plant, according to the legend, was symbolic of the Virgin Mary, who had been chosen to be Christ's mother. Another story was that, when Christ's enemies were searching for Him, the plant concealed His whereabouts. As a reward, the holly was allowed to keep its leaves throughout the year, thus becoming an emblem of immortality, with the promise of life everlasting. In any case, may the glistening leaves and bright berries of the holly remind us of the joy and happiness that comes to humanity as we remember the birth of God's son.

THE MISTLETOE

The mistletoe has become for us the sign of merriment, symbolized by the kiss; but among the Romans, the mistletoe was considered a symbol of hope and peace. Therefore, when enemies met under it, they laid aside their weapons, kissed each other, and declared a truce until the next day. Thus, it has become a custom among Christians to use mistletoe at Christmas. It can remind us of the peace which comes from God, and the power of Christ to heal differences between people.

THE BANNERS

The use of banners goes back to ancient times. The church has always needed a strong visual means of expressing its faith and hope. Banners are again coming into usage in Christian worship. They express humanity's hopes and goals, state our faith, and convey our feelings. Our banners testify to heaven's joy in announcing the birth of Christ to all.

THE STAR

The oldest of our Christmas symbols is the star. Shining on that first Christmas over the manger at Bethlehem, it continues to shine today, lighting the way for all who seek to find the Christ! When the Great Star shone from its mighty station shepherds knelt down in the dew, it was not alone in its jubilation. The little stars danced by the thousands, too.

THE BELL

Around the world, bells peal out the glad tidings of the Savior's birth. In cities, chimes sound joyously from cathedral towers. In smaller churches, a single bell spreads the same message, "Christ is born!" The sound of the bell carries far and wide so all may know the good news of Christmas.

Wake me tonight, my parents dear, that I may hear the Christmas bells, so soft and clear.
To high and low, glad tidings tell how God, the Father, loved us well..

THE POINSETTIA

Of all the symbols of Christmas with which we decorate our church today, the poinsettia plant is the only one of American origin. The people of Mexico call it the "Flower of the Holy Night" because its leaves, either white or red, resemble a flaming Bethlehem star. Its actual flower is the tiny yellow cluster that these leaves surround. It was named after Joel R. Poinsett, who in 1825 was appointed the first United States Ambassador to Mexico, and who sent the plant, which he found growing there, back to this country.

There is a story in Mexico that the poinsettia was first associated with Christmas when a small boy, who was poor, had no gift to bring to place on the altar on Christmas Eve. When he arose from praying, he was amazed to see, growing on the spot, this beautiful plant, and it thus became his gift to the Christ-child.

THE MEANING OF THE TREE

The Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, inaugurated in Germany the Christmas custom of lighting candles on an evergreen tree. Such trees had been part of the pre-Christian religious practices in that country. The Christmas tree probably was first brought to America by the Hessian soldiers who came to suppress the Revolution.

There is an ancient tale that says that when Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus were fleeing into Egypt, they found refuge under the protecting arms of a pine tree as Herod's troops rode by. In the morning when they awoke, the baby blessed the tree, saying that it, and its kind, would be forever green, and that it would be privileged to be a sanctuary for birds all winter long.

THE MEANING OF THE CRECHE

The model or miniature of the manger scene has a French name, "creche," but its use had its beginnings in Italy. There, Francis of Assisi, who had a great love both for animals, which he called his "little brothers and sisters," and for children, staged the nativity scene in 1223 in the nave of his church with living people and live cattle and donkeys.

Thomas of Celano has left an eye-witness account of Francis as he stepped forward in his deacon's vestments, to the manger scene: "Deeply sighing, overcome by the fullness of his deep devotion, filled with wonderful joy, the holy one of God stood by the manger and his voice, his strong voice, and glad voice, invited all to seek the highest good.

Christmas Offering

Enclosed in this newsletter is a Christmas offering envelope. Please consider making a special Christmas offering to Westview UM Church. This will enable us to begin the new year in a strong financial condition. Thanks for your faithful giving throughout the year. God bless you in the year ahead.

**Westview United
Methodist Church**

7107 Westview Drive,
Fairview, TN 37062

**Non-profit Organization
Permit # 11
Fairview, TN 37062**

Return Service Requested



**Westview United Methodist Church
Staff and Contact Information:**

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Kim Tenney, Preschool Director

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***Mission Statement: "We envision Westview
United Methodist Church as a place that
equips disciples to change lives."***

"The Good Views" is a monthly publication of the Westview United Methodist Church.

- Gary Wedgewood, Pastor
- Rev. Loyd Mabry, Columbia District Superintendent
- Bishop Dick Wills, Tennessee Conference

Sunday Activities

8:30 AM Southern Folk Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

12-2:00 PM Youth Fellowship

2:00 PM Joyful Noyz Youth Praise Band

Wednesday Activities

6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice