



# The Pilgrim

## CONSECRATION SUNDAY



**CWF will meet Thursday night, December 8th, at Janet Stephenson's home. Dinner will be served around 6:30, so please come and bring your friends. Just let Janet know if you are planning to attend we will know how many to plan for. We will be electing our officers for 2012 and Rachel Park will be teaching us how to tie beautiful bows for our Christmas gifts! It promises to be a great night full of fun and fellowship!**

To quote our treasurer, Alex Wilson, at the Consecration Sunday luncheon: "It's a great day in the life of our church." Why was it such a great day?

Well, we could say that with 101 people, it was a great day because our attendance was the highest of the year.

We could say that it was a great day because Lynda Sloan donated her time, talent and energy and catered a fabulous meal for all 101 of us for a mere \$325. (If you'd like to thank her, her address is 222 Webb Street, Statesville, NC 28677).

We could say that it was a great day because Linda Stephenson chaired a rockin' Consecration Sunday committee inspiring pledges totaling \$128,960.

**NOVEMBER 6, 2011**

We could say that it

was a great day because of all those things. Indeed, they give clear witness to the gracious commitment of our current membership.

But, those things are not what made it a great day. It was a great day because of the spirit that was among us. Our guest minister, Jamie Brame, remarked that, "It was nice to be in a church that was so positive and hopeful."

He is right. I am POSITIVE that God is going to bless our church in a mighty way in 2012. And, I am HOPEFUL that the fruits of the spirit will continue to grow. Alex was right. It IS a great day of the life of our church. -Lea

**Worship Attendance**  
November 6 — 101  
November 13 — 75  
November 20 — 76  
November 27 — 78

**Inside this**

Message from the Minister	2
Worship News	3
Calendars	4-5
Prayer Concerns	7

**9:45 A.M. Coffee**  
**10:00 A.M. Sunday School**  
**11:00 A.M. Worship**

## A Message from the Minister

The radio stations have been playing Christmas music for a long time already! I love Christmas music (although I do try to wait until Thanksgiving is over). Although I enjoy the music, I have to be careful. My temptation is to run singing "Joy to the World" and skip right over Advent. It's hard to concentrate on the waiting of Advent when the excitement of Christmas calls to us. Let's face it. John the Baptist just cannot compete with the jolly old elf. It's hard to do the waiting of Advent when the world around us pulls us forward like a giant storm surge toward a Christmas where more people celebrate the opening of presents and blockbuster movies than celebrate the birth of Christ.

I'm not very good at waiting...but that is what Advent is all about: waiting.

It is a season sprinkled with anticipation. But what are we waiting for? Well, that's the odd thing. We are waiting for the Christ who has already come AND the Christ who is to come again. It is a paradox. We believe Christ to be present and yet we wait. We know what it is to wait for a guest to arrive; but waiting on a guest who has already arrived is another matter! And yet that is what Advent asks of us.

Perhaps we can take a lesson from "Joy to the World" after all. Perhaps instead of running right towards "let Earth receive her King," we could spend a few weeks on "let every heart prepare Him room." What needs to be prepared in your heart to receive the Christ Child? Does something need to be thrown away? Rearranged? Repaired? Is there anything occupying space in your

heart that blocks "God with us" or that drowns out any chance of heaven and nature singing?

Mary Chapin Carpenter has written a beautiful Christmas song called, "Come Darkness, Come Light." She sings:

Come broken, come whole,  
Come wounded in your soul  
Come anyway that you know.

Alleluia.

Come doubting, come sure,  
Come fearful to this door.  
Come see what love is for,  
Alleluia.

Come see what love is for.  
Advent is the time to wait,  
to come see, to turn to God,  
and to prepare for God's  
presence to be born into  
our lives. May we all find  
the time this season to pre-  
pare room. Alleluia.

*Lea can be contacted via  
email:  
wilsonsmillscc@gmail.com.*

**Don't Forget: Angel Tree Presents are due back  
at church by December 7th.**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Jimmy Batten	Lynn Gard	Betty Parrish	Jeff Trask
Cheryl Bryant	Lara Kelly	Curtis Ray	Linda Uzzle
Dorothy Byers	Ina Mae Lee	Chase Rudisill	Sidney Wellons
Lydia Byrd	Peggy Norris	Emmit Sugg	Jody Wiley
Annette Cobb	Andy Parrish	Patti Sydow	Gilliam Wilson
Tyler Dunn	Doug Barrick Family	Paul Sydow	Pete Yauch

## A FRIENDLY REMINDER

At the end of the year, we will give ourselves a fresh start with our prayer list. If you have a name that you would like to be included, please complete one of the blue prayer request cards and give it to Lea or put it in the offering plate. We will post the cards on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. As you know, we do not include personal information on the prayer lists in the bulletin or in the newsletter. When you have questions about the nature of the prayer concern or who someone is on the prayer list, you will be able to get that information from the bulletin board. So, please make sure you have the individual's permission before including them on the prayer list. With prayer information being available in so many formats - the bulletin, on the bulletin board, on the email list, and on the web-site - we want to make sure that we respect any privacy preferences.

Thanks for a great fall semester in LOGOS! LOGOS is a labor intensive ministry, but this semester, we have certainly seen the fruits of that labor. We'll start back again in January. Below are the dates for the spring:

## SPRING LOGOS DATES

January 18	February 22--No Logos	March 28
January 25	February 29	April 4--No Logos
February 1	March 7	April 11
February 8	March 14	April 18
February 15	March 21	April 25

## HOPES-N-DREAMS

On Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, several of our youth and adults served the community at the annual Hopes-n-Dreams Thanksgiving dinner. In addition, our church donated part of the food and provided two turkey chefs and several desserts! Hopes-n-Dreams is a “non-profit organization committed to providing children and adults, who are intellectually challenged and/or disabled, and their family enjoyable and cost effective recreation and sports activities. These activities encourage creativity, enhance social and educational development, promote fitness and fun, and provide opportunities for new experiences.” We were glad to be a part of their work.



### A Week (almost) in the Congregational Life of WMCC

Have you ever wondered what goes on at WMCC outside of the 11 o'clock hour on Sunday? Or, have you wondered how the congregation fills its time when LOGOS isn't going on? Here's the inside story for the week prior to Thanksgiving – it will give you a little flavor of the many ways our church ministers in and around the community.

On Saturday, church members cooked turkeys or made desserts to be served at the Hopes and Dreams Thanksgiving dinner (which is held for families impacted by developmental disabilities). On Saturday night, the food was delivered and several WMCC youth and adults helped to serve the meal and visit with the families.

On Sunday, we worshipped. We learned. And, we fellowshiped with a baby shower celebrat-

ing new life being born again into our church. On Sunday afternoon, a few members went to the home of another member to offer prayers for healing.

On Monday and Wednesday evening, members took meals to church member recovering from surgery.

On Tuesday, the handbell choir gathered to practice for the Hanging of the Greens.

On Wednesday, we received a call for help. A local woman has been without electricity for three months, and because we tithe our budget, we had the resources to help.

On Thursday, we all gave thanks. Feeding the hungry. Visiting with the least of these. Celebrating new life. Praying for the sick. Preparing for worship. Offering help to those in need.

Not bad for 5 days at WMCC...

## Worship on Christmas Day!!!

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, and although there will be NO Sunday School, we will hold a worship service at 11:00 AM. Casual dress will be just fine. In fact, if your small children are still in their Christmas PJs with a favorite toy in tow, that's fine, too.



## Children's Memorial Day Candlelight Remembrance



Johnston County will celebrate the Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Ceremony in honor of National Children's Day on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. This is a world-wide observance for families and friends to remember those children who passed away before their time. As candles in one time zone are lit and then burned to completion, new candles are lit in the next time zone creating wave of light around the world. The memorial is open to all families and friends who wish to honor a child who has died, at any age

or from any circumstance. The event will be held at Wilson's Mills Christian Church. You should plan on arriving by 6:45pm to receive your candle and register to have your child's name acknowledged during the ceremony. If you wish, you may bring a picture of your child or a small remembrance to place on our memory table. Contact Sheree Murray with any questions or concerns (919-553-6000). There is no cost for this event, it is open to all. Please feel free to invite friends and relatives to join us.

## Worship News...

On **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold a service of healing and remembrance at **7:00 pm**. This a reflective service of worship and is geared towards those who have had a difficult year, those who are simply feeling more stress than joy this Christmas season and for those who want to support them. As in the past, we will provide the “laying on of hands” for those who wish to participate. We will also celebrate communion and sing in this candlelight service. We hope that it will be meaningful for all who attend. WMCC is the sole sponsor of this worship service, but we are inviting the community at large. So please invite someone you know who would benefit from this special service as we see the presence of the Living Christ, the Light of the World, born anew this Christmastide.

What a joy to have the choir singing again in worship! The worship committee would like to share a big thank you to the members of the choir for sharing their talents in worship and offering praise to our Lord. Also, a special thank you to Chris Ray and Rachel Konneker for directing and leading them.

We would love to see even more choir members, so if you're interested in joining the choir, practice this month is at 5:15pm every Wednesday night.



## December Worship Service

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Church Appointments	Leanne Bronson, Karen Klahre, Janet and Whitley Stephenson	Leanne Bronson, Karen Klahre, Janet and Whitley Stephenson	Leanne Bronson, Karen Klahre, Janet and Whitley Stephenson	Leanne Bronson, Karen Klahre, Janet and Whitley Stephenson
Elder	Eileen Penny	Ginger Lee	Linda Ramsey	Kevin Daughtry
Deacons	Trudy Carter Peter Wilson	Joe Slaton Rose Thompson	Carrie Ragland Whitley Stephenson	Jason Lawhorn Armando Mejia
Worship Leader	Travis Stephenson	Paula Bennett	Trey Ragland	Thomas Trogdon
Acolytes	Emily Ramsey	Tyler Dumonceaux	Kaylen Mejia	Sierra Kirk
Nursery	The Lawhorns	The Ramseys	The Dumonceauxs	The Trogdons
Paraments	Blue	Blue	Blue	White

# DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Book Study 10AM	2	3
4 Angel Tree Presents Due M and E Mtg. 12PM	5	6	7 Angel Tree Presents Due 5:15PM Choir 6:15PM Handbells	8 Book Study 10AM	9  5PM Craft Night	10
11  7PM Children's Memorial Service	12	13	14  7PM Service of Healing	15 Book Study 10AM	16	17
18 Congrega- tional Mtg. 12PM	19	20	21  5:15PM Choir 6:15PM Handbells	22	23	24  9PM Christmas Eve Service
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Brain Langston     | 19 Lee Stanley      |
| 7 Jamie Twisdale     | 19 Wyatt Twisdale   |
| 7 Jay Twisdale       | 20 Kay Parrish      |
| 10 Kristin Ennis     | 23 Linda Ramsey     |
| 13 Harrison Twisdale | 27 Nora McCarthy    |
| 15 Jean DePoy        | 27 Clark Stephenson |
| 15 Emily Ramsey      | 30 Donna Creech     |

## January Acolyte Schedule

- 1--Duncan Wells
- 8--Klara Esau
- 15--Patrick McCarthy
- 22--Haden Hanes
- 29--Angel Sauls



Post this page on the refrigerator!