



Advent  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2012

2258 Woodruff Road  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
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# the adventurer

The Newsletter of Advent United Methodist Church  
Simpsonville, South Carolina

*Dear Friends,*

I was in the grocery store the other day and noticed all the magazines which featured cover stories looking back at this past year. There were stories about the biggest wedding: it was the royal wedding if you have forgotten. There were stories about sports teams who won and lost. There were stories about who married who and who left who. You could get a quick review of the year while you stood waiting to check out your groceries.

All this made me think about the New Year to come. What will be the headlines this year? What stories will I see in the grocery line 365 days from now? More important to me, what will the year hold for my own life and for those I love?

Of course none of us can know what the future will hold. We simply live each day trusting the Lord who holds the future of all things. As followers of Jesus Christ, we try to make our daily choices in the knowledge that those decisions will shape much of what our future will be.

What choices will you make this year? Ephesians 5 in the New Testament says, "Be very careful, then, how you live not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every day..." When I think of the New Year, I hope to make the most of each day. I would like to make wise choices. I believe those wise choices will lead me to the best future. And even when life seems less than the best, maybe even far from the best, I have faith that God is at work so that even my problems and hardships can be used by God for my good.

Whatever comes your way this year, keep trusting in God. Make the best choices you can and live each day fully, making the most of each day. And then let it go. Place this New Year into the hands of God, trusting that the Lord will be with you each day and into eternity.

Love in Christ,

Michael Wolfe

*Night of Epiphany*

*January 11 @ 5:30 p.m.*

*Epiphany* comes from a Greek word meaning "appearance" or "revelation." It is a time to remember "the other side of the incarnation: this tiny helpless Child in the straw is also the God and Ruler of our universe" (Gertrude Mueller Nelson, To Dance with God).

On **Wednesday, January 11**, we'll enjoy a meal together at 5:30 and have an opportunity to consider the coming year and what gift we might offer the Christ child. We will also share king's cakes and learn how we've embraced that tradition as our own at Advent. Then we'll journey together, following the light to the sanctuary for prayer and reminder of Jesus' presence with us. It's a very special night for our entire Advent family.



A bonfire will be immediately following our time in the sanctuary, the magi will lead us out to share light in the world. A huge bonfire created from our own Christmas trees will remind us that the light of Christ is ours to share.



Save your Christmas tree for the Epiphany bonfire! Drop off at Advent in the field just to the left of the Education Building.



# Forming Faith



## Wednesday Night Connection

### Make it a New Part of Your Faith Journey Resolution!

January 18 - February 15, 2012

Each Wednesday night beginning January 18, adults have available a wide range of opportunities to form their faith and connect to your church family. Beginning this year's sessions, adults can choose from the following:

- **Mosaics with Lou Ellen**--Lou Ellen Davis of LEB Glass is a favorite of ours. Her artistry and skill with stained glass is well recognized far beyond Advent, and the depth of her faith is evident and engaging. We welcome her again among us as she leads her class in creating a mosaic design. As always, class size is limited, so sign up quickly to ensure yourself a chair in the group. Cost: \$35
- **More with Less**--Many of us would like to be able to do more with less. We would also like to understand what the Bible says about stewardship of the world around us, how we might be more aware and even participate in embracing a life filled with more faith and less waste. What better time than the new year to make a step in that direction? This group will have the advantage of several experts, the first being one among us. Ron Cotterman and his family are active members at Advent with a wealth of knowledge about sustainability. Ron's expertise makes him a sought after speaker both locally and globally and we are fortunate that he will lead several of these class sessions. In addition, Debbie Cotterman and Clare Wood will be offering "tip sheets" and ideas and last, but certainly not least, Virginia Crews will share recipes and food ideas. With any luck, we will also have visitors from some of our local farms to help us too.
- **Planning for the Future**--While many of us have 2012 calendars already heavy with schedules and plans for the new year, have you thought about planning for your family's future? For example: What happens to my property if I die without a will? What is Probate? What is a Living Trust and how can it benefit my family? Will my estate be taxed after I am gone? What steps can I take to make it easier for my family should something happen to me? Learn the answers to these questions and more in Estate Planning with Chuck Crews, a five-week study where you will learn about wills, trusts, probate, powers of attorney, health care directives, and more. Chuck is a practicing Estate Planning attorney and a member of Advent UMC.
- **Sunday on Wednesday**--Kellie Alexander leads this group, which is Sunday school style, but offered on Wednesday night. This session, she will be leading the highly successful, Workbook of Living Prayer by Maxie Dunnam. Being intentional about prayer is transforming and this study has been significant for many of our members. This class always welcomes new members, so consider it in this new year.

### Inquirers' Class

January 18, 25, and February 1

6:15 p.m.

Those wishing to learn more about Advent United Methodist Church are invited to attend our Inquirers' Class. **The class consists of three Wednesday evening sessions on January 18th, 25th and February 1.**

These informational sessions are intended for anyone (including members!) interested in learning more about our life of discipleship as the community of faith called Advent, the values we hold that distinguish and defined us, the significance of formally joining this specific congregation, and how all this reflects our heritage and connection with United Methodist Church.

Please contact Jackie Lollis in the church office at [jackie@advent-umc.org](mailto:jackie@advent-umc.org) or 288-8217 if you are interested in attending these classes or need more information.

## Children's Page

### Coming Soon...

#### New Faith Formation Opportunities for Children at 11:00 am!

- On Sunday January 22, a new Children's Sunday School class will be offered from 11:00-noon. This one-room class is for any children 1st-5th grade and will meet in room 113! For more information, please contact Laurie at [laurie@advent-umc.org](mailto:laurie@advent-umc.org).
- Additionally, a parenting class will be offered simultaneously. For more information on the parenting class, please contact Pastor Beverly at [beverly@advent-umc.org](mailto:beverly@advent-umc.org).
- K3-K5 Children are welcome to attend Live BIG Children's Worship from 11:00-12:15. Following playtime, the children will worship together, share a Bible story and watch a corresponding video.

### Children's Ministry Opportunities

Would you like to help with the faith formation of some of our youngest members? Are you willing to serve 2-3 hours a month? The Children's Ministry is currently seeking a shepherd to share shepherding duties in our 9:55 K4 and K5 Sunday School classes. If you are interested, please contact Laurie at [laurie@advent-umc.org](mailto:laurie@advent-umc.org).

Santa-hatchie was amazing! Thanks to the kids and adults who made up the Elf Team! In just 4 short hours, the Advent Elves made up over 120 snack bags, over 70 ornaments, 4 garden stones, and 4 designer cork boards. These elves also found time to play a bit too! We'll do it again next year Team Elf!!



## Live BIG Sunday School

9:55-10:55

### for 1st-5th grade

#### January's BIG Idea

We believe that stories about Jesus help us understand that Jesus is the Son of God.

#### January's Bible Verse

The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him. Luke 2:40 CEV

#### January's BIG Theme

Stories About Jesus

#### This Month's BIG Stories

- January 1: The Wise Men—Matthew 2:1-12
- January 8: Jesus in the Temple at Twelve—Luke 2:31-52
- January 15: Jesus' Baptism—Mark 1:4-11
- January 22: Jesus Begins His Ministry—Luke 4:14-30
- January 29: Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law—Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41.

## Epiphany Night at Advent...

Join your Advent friends on Wednesday, January 11 for dinner starting at 5:30. During dinner, you will have a chance to think about

what gift you will give the Christ Child this year. Following dinner and King Cakes, we will journey to the Sanctuary to visit the Christ Child. Then, weather-permitting, the night will conclude with a bonfire.



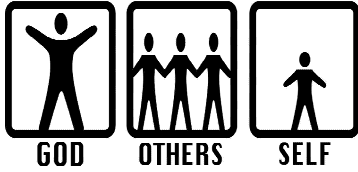


# el·e·vate

News for Advent Students ~ 7th-12th

*Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You will be changed from the inside out!*

*Romans 12:2a The Message*



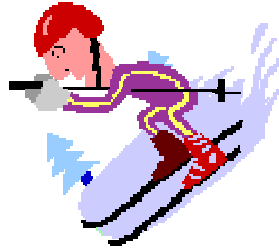
## January 2012

- 1.....NO el-e-vate
- 8.....el-e-vate
- 11.....Night of Epiphany
- 13.....Mdl. School Ski Trip
- 15.....el-e-vate
- 18.....Wed. Night Connection
- 22.....el-e-vate
- 25.....Wed. Night Connection
- 27-29...State B-ball Tourney
- 29.....District Worship



## March 16-18

Columbia, South Carolina  
A state-wide gathering of Methodist Youth!  
Registration details coming soon!



## Middle School Ski-Snowboard Trip Is Here!! Friday, January 13

A letter with details will be emailed in early January!

## Two Special el-e-vate Opportunities in January

### January 27-29

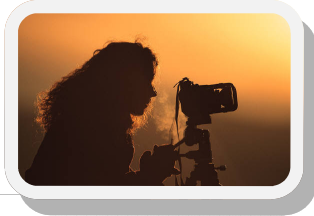
State Methodist Basketball Tourney  
With special worship services on the morning of January 29.  
Greenville District Worship at 6pm  
also on January 29.  
Location to be determined.

## Looking Ahead 2012 Spring Calendar

February 3	Poverty Simulation
February 5	Souper Bowl Offering for STOP Hunger Now
February 5	Super Bowl Party
February 12	el-e-vate
February 19	el-e-vate
February 26	el-e-vate
March 3	March Mission Madness
March 4	el-e-vate
March 11	el-e-vate ~ ZOE Ministries here!
March 16-18	Revolution
March 25	el-e-vate NIGHT OF WORSHIP
April 1	NO el-e-vate ~ Palm Sunday
April 8	NO el-e-vate ~ Easter
April 15	el-e-vate
April 20-22	Collision
April 21	STOP Hunger Now Packaging Event
April 28	Confirmation Dinner
April 29	Confirmation Sunday
April 29	el-e-vate
May 6	Messy Night
May 13	No el-e-vate ~ Mother's Day
May 20	Graduation Sunday @ 11:15am
May 20	Pool Party



Signs ups will open soon! Registration forms may be obtained from the church office or on the Salkehatchie website in the near future! **Registrations and full payment are due by March 1** but please don't delay in sending your application! Camps will fill up quickly!



## Financial Snapshot November 2011

	MTD Actuals	MTD Budget	Difference	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Difference
Budget receipts	\$ 113,926	\$ 97,880	\$ 16,046	\$ 1,107,089	\$ 1,077,160	\$ 29,929
Budget expenses	\$ 100,650	\$ 100,653	\$ 2	\$ 1,095,874	\$ 1,021,437	\$ 25,563
Difference:	\$ 13,275	\$ (2,773)	\$ 16,048	\$ 11,215	\$ (44,277)	\$ 55,492
<b>100% Apportionments paid YTD</b>						
Debt reduction from operations budget	\$ 7,641	\$ 9,000	\$ (1,359)	\$ 83,538	\$ 87,000	\$ (3,462)
Debt reduction from restricted capital giving	\$ 6,679			\$ 57,486		
Building Loan (Payable)				\$ (2,349,922)		

*Please contact any member of the 2012 Finance Committee if you have any questions.*

<b>Robert Verostek, Chair</b>	Ashley Lomax	Chris Baker
Carol Warfford	Don Plemons	Amber Williams



Beginning **January 22 from 6 - 8:00 p.m.** we will begin a 13 week study of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace. This is a great way to start the new year. Contact Susan Churchill at [suekayc@juno.com](mailto:suekayc@juno.com) or 232-3602 for questions or if interested.

### Church Leadership Training Buncombe Street UMC January 22 @ 3:00 p.m.

Buncombe Street UMC will host a leadership training event for those serving on committees and work teams for churches in Greenville. If you are new to a position in our church this year or if you would like a refresher class, then this is the event for you. Join us on Sunday, January 22 at 3 pm at Buncombe Street UMC in downtown Greenville for a two hour time of worship and training. There will be separate classes for a wide range of ministries such as Trustees, Finance, SPRC, Youth, Children, Evangelism, Worship, and more. Call Michael Wolfe at 288-8217 for more information.

# Methodist Mission Madness

## Save the Date



- **January 29, 2012**  
Triune Mercy Center



- **March 3, 2012**  
March Mission Madness



- **April 21, 2012**  
STOP Hunger Now

What can 76 site family members comprised of high school students, college students and adults being supported by the loving help of 32 middle school students and their leaders, 32 elementary school children and their leaders and 92+ meal, worship and laundry helpers who offer themselves in loving service of our Lord accomplish in just 48 hours? AMAZING, TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY FOR CHRIST! On December 18-20, over 230 Advent UMC family members (with a friend from Lee Road UMC, Buncombe Street UMC and Mauldin UMC) joined together to serve in the first ever SantaHatchie at Advent. Together they helped make the homes of 4 families safer, drier and warmer just before Christmas!



Many area businesses donated their time and services to SantaHatchie! We would like to thank Waste Industries, Hickerson Property Management, JR's Heating and Air, Inc., Lowe's and Joe Cole.

This short, intensive mission was blessed through the efforts of so many people, offering themselves in loving service just before Christmas. Many Salkehatchie veterans commented that in the 48 hours the same amount of work was accomplished as during a full week of Salkehatchie! Many site leaders began work in November to help identify the homes and work projects. All materials were purchased and were on site as work began the morning of December 19. And, with the blessing of our Lord, the homes were transformed by the evening of December 20! The greatest gift of SantaHatchie came from the relationships built with the home owners and their families! TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE BLESSINGS OF SANTA HATCHIE 2011!



## Triune Mercy Center

January 29, 2012

Every FIFTH SUNDAY, Advent has the opportunity to serve a hot meal at Triune Mercy Center. In the month leading up to every FIFTH SUNDAY, we collect FIVE items that Triune Mercy Center needs.

January's FIFTH SUNDAY collection items are: men's jeans or khakis, gas cards, peanut butter, heavy coats, and blankets. Please bring your contributions to church and place them in the hamper in the narthex.

Advent will provide the evening meal at Triune Mercy Center on the FIFTH SUNDAY, **January 29, 2012**. We need volunteers to transport food from Advent to Triune, serve the meal and help with clean up at Triune, and provide desserts (cookies, brownies) and dinner rolls. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up using the online form at [advent-umc.org/sign\\_up](http://advent-umc.org/sign_up). If you have any questions please contact Kim Goodin at [kgoodin9@gmail.com](mailto:kgoodin9@gmail.com)



## Feeding the World

### Not Just for Youth, Not Even Just for Advent

This past summer Advent youth and adults attended a national conference. One transformative afternoon **Stop Hunger Now** hosted a packaging event. We listened, we learned: the world market produces over four pounds of food per person every day yet over one billion go hungry and 25,000 die of hunger each day. We continued to listen, our hearts heard a call: help **Stop Hunger Now!** A **Stop Hunger Now** Packaging event is coming to Advent, **April 21, 2012**. The hope is twofold: package 285,000 meals for those most in need while we continue to listen and learn. Together we can end hunger in our world during our life time!

Missions and youth of Advent invite you and your small groups to consider being a part of this event. Social justice can begin with us but must reach out to those around us to ever become reality. We must all work together! Contact Virginia Crews at [vcrews@bellsouth.net](mailto:vcrews@bellsouth.net) or Leigh Randall at [leigh@advent-umc.org](mailto:leigh@advent-umc.org) for more information.

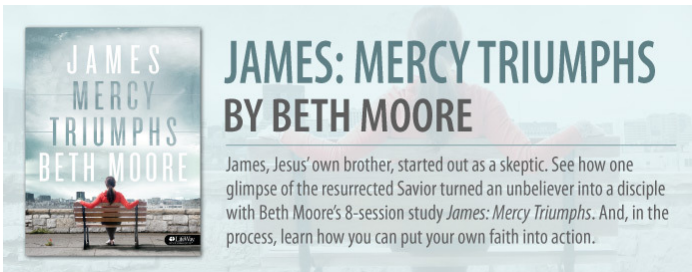


Looking for something new for your child's education? Consider Hope Academy, serving children from K3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Hope Academy allows your child to learn in a safe, nurturing environment that features:

- Low student-to-teacher ratios
- Individualized curriculum
- Academic excellence
- Character development
- Related arts

**We will be hosting an Open House on January 11.** Take a tour and see what is happening at Hope!



## New Women's Bible Study Begins January 19th, 2012

Start your New Year off with the brand new bible study by Beth Moore....JAMES: MERCY TRIUMPHS.

Topics in this 8 week study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

Please join us **Thursday mornings at 9:15am**. Contact Michelle Dotson at [bretmichd@yahoo.com](mailto:bretmichd@yahoo.com) for more information!

## Sympathies

*The Advent family would like to express their sympathy to:*

Ginny and Cory Hughes, Hendricks and Elgin, in the loss of Ginny's grandfather, Lawrence William (Tony) Farry, who passed away on Monday, November 28, 2011

Alan and Kim Walker, Helen and Nathaniel, in the loss of Alan's grandmother, Marion Crabtree, on Monday, November 28, 2011

Linda Woodward and Jeffrey, in the loss of Linda's father, Ray Woodward, on Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Melanie and Jim Dewitt, Heather Dewitt and Whitney Lane DeWitt, in the loss of Melanie's father, J. B. King, on Friday, December 16, 2011

Susan and Doug Sheeks, Virginia and Dalton, in the loss of Susan's father, Carmine Polo, on Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Fred and Lisa Dantzler, Anthony and David, in the loss of Fred's father, Frederick Whitfield Dantzler, on Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Family and friends of Linda Monk who passed away on Monday, December 26, 2011

## Birth

Congratulations to John and Iris Poletto on the birth of a daughter, Catherine Iris Poletto, born on Thursday, October 27, 2011. Big brother is John Gerald.

## Flower Calendar

The 2012 flower calendar is in the Narthex if you would like to schedule a date to place flowers in the Sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one or occasion. Please call the church office at 288-8217 for details or you may email Jackie at [Jackie@Advent-umc.org](mailto:Jackie@Advent-umc.org).

## United Methodist Women Circle Meetings



**Jean Glover Circle:** We will be meeting **January 12th at 10:00am** at the home of LaRue Hallman. Hope to see all you ladies there to start our New Year off with a bang. For questions, please contact Glenda Featherstone at 349-1682.

**Agapé Circle:** The Agapé Circle will meet **Monday, January 16th** at the home of Grace Tucker, 2417 Roper Mountain Road at **7:00pm**. For questions, call Robyn Pirovitz, circle facilitator.

**Rose Hammond Circle:** Our next meeting will be **January 21 at 6:30 p.m.** in room 108 of the Education Building. Our speaker will be Pastor Beverly. She will be telling about her mission work in Cuba and Japan. If you have questions, please contact Joyce at 286-6073.



Cub Scout Packs 733/833 and Boy Scout Troop 776 would like to thank the Advent family for their wonderful generosity in support of this year's *Gobbler Grab*. Your donations provided over 100 turkeys that were distributed by the Boy Scout's Order of the Arrow organization so that needy families across Greenville County were able to enjoy a turkey meal on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you again, Advent family, for your generosity, and for helping our Scouts learn the importance of sharing with people in need.



Free Spirits enjoyed a great Christmas party and welcomed some new friends to make it all the more special. Many thanks to Elizabeth Brewton who chaired the event and was ably assisted by our founder, Jane Tompkins Weldy. Thank you to the many people who pitched in to aid in decorating and cleaning up.

On **January 19th at 6:30 p.m.** we will return to The Olympian at Five Forks for a good dinner and some conversation.

For questions please call Ann Brooks at 289-0205.

## Advent's Brothers! Early Morning Bible Study 6:00 a.m. Each Thursday

Each Thursday morning Advent men gather as Brothers! for an early morning time of fellowship, study, and ways of making a difference.

We'll meet in the Christian Life Center dining room early enough to have a light breakfast and still get to work on time. Come when you can and as often as you can.

Contact Jim Grayson at [jim.grayson9\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jim.grayson9(at)gmail.com) if you are interested in Advent's Brothers!

## Ushers and Greeters Needed

We need your smile and welcoming presence! Ushers and Greeters are needed to join the rotation for the Sanctuary at all three worship services, and greeters for the Education and the CLC Buildings during the 9:55 Sunday school time. A friendly welcome means so much to those coming to Advent for the first time. Beginning this Sunday you may find a tear off in the announcement insert that you can complete and place in the offering plate or return to the church office if you would like to serve. For questions you may contact Joe Todd at [Joe.Todd@ca.com](mailto:Joe.Todd@ca.com) or Valerie Norris at [Valerie.norris@hotmail.com](mailto:Valerie.norris@hotmail.com).