



## December 2009 NEWSLETTER

### **Albemarle District Office of United Methodist Church**

**403 N. 3rd Street  
Albemarle, NC 28001  
Ph: 704-983-1104  
Fax: 704-986-0857**

**Email: Amy [albemarleds@wnccumc.org](mailto:albemarleds@wnccumc.org) or Kim [albemarleadmin@wnccumc.org](mailto:albemarleadmin@wnccumc.org)  
<http://www.albemarleumc.org/>**

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined ... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

(Isaiah 9:2, 6)

### **Glad Tidings!**

Time Magazine’s cover announces that it has been “The Decade from Hell”. Tonight, President Obama will announce that more troops will be sent to Afghanistan in hopes of ending the Taliban insurgency and training government troops for the day when American and British forces can withdraw. The local news is filled with stories of bullet-riddled cars, plant closings, and an increase in requests for assistance at churches and social service agencies. As we enter into this season of Advent, we must remember in the midst of all the darkness and gloom – terrorism, unemployment, economic downturn, and war – we have not been left without hope! God has come to save us from ourselves; we have not been left to our own devices. Making a way through the despair of this world, Jesus comes to bring us hope and a future! Perhaps this year, more than any in recent years, we need this good news and can truly celebrate the glad tidings of Christmas. Part of celebrating the “glad tidings of great joy” is rejoicing with community. There are many opportunities this month to enjoy your friends, family, and faith community – decorating for the season, sharing meals, and enjoying any of the numerous special services, plays, and cantatas. Instead of getting caught up in all the commercialism of Christmas, I urge you to look for and participate in those events and activities which will fill your heart and soul with the hope and joy of the Christ child. It’s then that you will be able to sing with the heavenly host, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Luke 2:14)

May the peace and joy of knowing God has overcome the darkness be yours this Advent and Christmas! *Amy*

### **God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action**

“We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it,” announced the bishops of The United Methodist Church at the recent Council of Bishops meeting at Lake Junaluska in a pastoral letter entitled, “God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action.” “As bishops, we know that critical issues of the day have left people feeling fearful, cynical, hopeless and overwhelmed,” said Bishop Gregory Palmer, president of the Council of Bishops.

The pastoral letter, unanimously approved at that meeting, is the result of a 2004 General Conference action which authorized the bishops to update their 1986 pastoral letter and study document, “*In Defense of Creation: The Nuclear Crisis and A Just Peace*,” by “educating and encouraging the church, citizens and governments to seek things which lead to peace.” Over 5,400 United Methodists from around the world offered input into the current document.

The bishops recommend that the pastoral letter be read aloud in worship during the season of Advent in each of 42,600 congregations worldwide. Three documents, the pastor letter, a liturgical setting of the letter, and the foundation document have been posted and are available for download at: [God's Renewed Creation](#). Congregations are urged to download, study, and discuss these important matters as together, we seek to be more faithful stewards of God’s creation.

#### **Christmas Gift Suggestions:**

To your enemy: forgiveness.

To an opponent: tolerance.

To every good child: a good example.

To a customer: service.

To a friend: your heart.

To yourself: respect.

To all: charity.

*(source unknown)*



### **Stanly County Ministerial Network Dates to Remember**

- An annual ecumenical prayer service, "Stanly County Prays" will be held on January 31, 2010 at the Agri-Civic center

### *Birthdays*

12-5 *Robert Cauble*  
12-8 *Mark Helms*  
12-31 *Steven Phillippi*

### *Anniversaries*

12-16 *Bill & Judah Jones*  
12-18 *James & Judy Allred*  
12-22 *Mike & Mary McClellan*

### **Prayer concerns within the District**

**If you have any prayer concerns  
that you would like shared in the  
newsletter,  
Please contact the District  
Office.**



Please check out this website as a wonderful resource to promote health and healing in your church and community: [www.hopeandhealing.org](http://www.hopeandhealing.org)

### **District Calendar**



**Dec. 3rd**- District Executive Leadership committee to meet at 7:00 pm at District Office.

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**- Albemarle District Year-End Statistical Training for all Clergy and Church Treasurer's. Event will begin at 9:30 am at Central UMC in Albemarle. (172 N. Second Street, Albemarle NC 28001) Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

**Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** - District Superintendency meeting to be held at District Office at 7:00 pm.

**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup>** - District Office will be closed for Christmas holiday.

Make sure you check out Conference Calendar for events scheduled throughout Western North Carolina Conference @ <http://www.wnccumc.org/Cal/calendar-events.htm>



**Remember to check out Weekly E News- WNCC**

The District Office will not necessarily repeat what it includes