

Calendar

Sunday

All Sundays

9:00 AM – Choir Practice
9:45 AM – Coffee and Fellowship
10:00 AM – Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 AM – Worship

Youth Group meets on Sunday afternoons-
contact Shaquera Alls for specific dates:

allss@lmc.edu

2nd Sunday each month – Five Cents a Meal
Offering; and, Canned Goods, Groceries and
Pet Food for Volunteer Avery

Last Sunday of each month – Newsletter
deadline

December 12th - Joy Gift Luncheon after
church in the Fellowship Hall, please bring a
covered dish

December 12th - 4 PM - Christmas Cantata
“O Holy Night” at Pineola Presbyterian
Church

January 2nd - 6 PM Contemporary Worship
Service (**1st Sunday each month**)

Tuesday

All Tuesdays

12 Noon – Prayer Cloth Ministry – Fellowship
Hall

Wednesday

All Wednesdays

12 Noon – **Bag lunch Bible Study** -
Fellowship Hall

Thursday

All Thursdays

**Information for the Sunday Church
Bulletin due in the morning**

Friday

December 10th – 7 PM -Join us for Christmas
caroling with cookies and hot chocolate
following in the Fellowship hall.

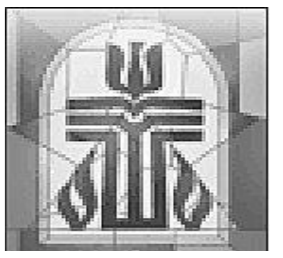
December 17th - 5 PM to 10 PM - Celebrate
the Season at Crossnore Town Center

December 24th - 5PM – Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at the church

The Crossnore Chronicle

December 2010 – Volume 2010 Issue 12 –December 2010

*The Crossnore Chronicle is published monthly by the Communication Team of Crossnore Presbyterian
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Church website: www.crossnorepresbyterian.org*



The Spirit of Christmas

A True Story by Betty Redman

It was a balmy Christmas afternoon in South Louisiana. Christmas dinner was over. The children and grandchildren had come early in the day to share gifts and enjoy Christmas dinner together. Now they were all gone to their respective homes. The house was quiet.

My day, however, was not over. I had been invited to come by the apartment of my friend, Sheryl, a single mother with two daughters ages 7 and 9. Sheryl had at one time been homeless. Her story is one of determination and success as she worked her way from having nothing to having her own apartment and car and a job. She did this with the help of many people, the Baptist church she attended regularly and the church I attended. Her income was below the poverty level, but she was thankful to God.

Sheryl's apartment was one of a long row of apartments, all connected with a large grassy lawn in back. There was a basketball goal and a small paved area. As I entered I saw a table laden with cookies, cakes, sandwiches and candies. Many of the apartment residents had chosen to share their Christmas goodies with each other, and Sheryl's apartment became the location for the common table.

People from all walks of life came and went, visiting together, sharing joys and concerns. There was a couple from Central America who spoke in halting English about their work at LSU, a mechanic who shared his skill periodically with residents whose cars needed repair, a woman who kept children of working parents in her apartment, an employee of a convenience who stopped in to say hello on his way to work, a school teacher happy to have a few weeks off to catch her breath and visit with neighbors, and scores of others who seemed thankful for the opportunity to be together and share the joy of the season.

The temperature was in the 70's. Most of the apartment doors were open and people and children came and went. I followed one of the children who came in to snatch “just one more cookie, Mom” out Sheryl's back door and my eyes fell on a most captivating scene.

There on the lawn, children of all ages and from various racial-ethnic and religious families were playing together. They had brought out their Christmas gifts – new bicycles, basketballs, riding toys, dolls, jump ropes and a dozen others – to enjoy and to share with each other. There they were. Dozens of little ones were running around laughing as they explored the wonders of each new possession and enjoyed sharing each other's toys. Larger ones, proudly displaying their bicycles and skateboards, urged their friends to take a turn. Young people and adults cheered each other on at the basketball goal.

I watched this scene for a long time. There was such joy and love in their faces and laughter in their voices that my heart filled with joy and love and laughter too. No one had many toys or many Christmas goodies, but each shared joyfully and lovingly what they had – Surely the Christmas spirit was present.

The Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are in the Second Sunday of Advent as I write this article. I am sitting at my computer with five inches of snow on the ground outside and 40-50 mph winds kicking up with more snow to come. This is the first Sunday of the winter season that we were not able to have worship... and it is only December!! Staying at home and having time to just “be” may be the best sermon for our busy lives and our weary souls. Advent is a time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Not only do we wait for our Savior, but we use this time of waiting creatively. We prepare for Christmas with gift shopping, tree trimming, home decorating, card mailing. We prepare for Christ with prayer, quiet contemplation, and resolutions to be better people than we are now. The following is an Advent prayer to contemplate in your quiet time with Emmanuel...*God with us!*

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Postage

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Church Phone: 828-733-1939
Rev. Kathy Campbell : 828-963-5190 (R) or 828-260-2512 (Cell)
Pastor's email: rev.kathy.campbell@gmail.com
Church email: crospres@yahoo.com

An Advent Prayer for you:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, O Promised One, once again we come to this time of Advent and we await your presence within us and around us.

Give us the peace to seek the meaning of these busy days.

Give us the courage to wait in times of pain and trouble.

Give us the compassion to be patient with one another.

Give us the faith for the Messiah when we are threatened by the Herods of this world.

Give us the hope to wait for the Savior even when we cannot hear the angels singing.

Give us the love that does not wait when it meets Christ in our neighbor. Amen.

Adapted prayer from Touch Holiness)

Happy Advent,
Pastor Kathy



Christmas Pigs

Crossnore Presbyterian Church is going full hog this Christmas! We are sponsoring the opportunity for members and friends to purchase designer pigs made by our members so that we can purchase a litter of pigs for Heifer International, www.heifer.org. Last year we sent 4 sheep to a third world village. This year we hope to send a litter of pigs to help poor village become economically stable. The great thing about Heifer International is the animals' offspring are then passed onto another village to assist them economically and on and on...it is a gift that keeps on giving. If you would like to purchase a designer pig, they cost \$20 — make checks payable to Crossnore Presbyterian Church and designate it for Heifer International. The cost for one real pig to send to Heifer is \$120. Who on your Christmas list has everything except a designer pig...they are oinking just for you!

Clerk's Report

By Barbara Ross

Advent! What a wonderful season of promise!

The Session has great plans for this season so watch your calendars closely because you don't want to miss anything.

The Session requests that you return your survey sheets that were distributed several weeks ago to the church office as soon as possible. Gathering the information sought from the surveys will facilitate charting the course for the future of Crossnore.

The Nominating Committee for Selection of Elders has named several candidates, and an election will be held prior to the end of December. Watch the bulletin for the date.

Church Needs

Each time we witness the Sacrament of Baptism, we pledge to nurture the baptized child in the Christian faith as he or she grows. One way we do that is to assure that we have Sunday school classes for all ages. We need teachers, especially for our young people. We have beautiful classrooms but just a few people who are willing to share their faith with those who occupy them on Sunday mornings. Please consider sharing your faith at least one Sunday a month with these young people. Getting to know members of the congregation is a way to keep young people in the church and each of you is worth knowing. Each of you has a story about your faith to share. Consider sharing it to nurture the faith of others.

Report on Church Website

By Fred France

A new Crossnore Presbyterian Church website is under construction. Completion time depends on the acquisition of input from several sources and the inclusion of pictures and in fact will be an ongoing work-in-progress. This is a user-friendly site which can be updated on a regular basis. There is a new calendar - pages and dates can be changed and new events can be added easily.

The website will contain the history of the church, mission statement, and calendar of events, special events, pictures, newsletters, and much more. You can view the site at www.crossnorepresbyterian.org. We kept our name - just updated the site and changed our hosting service. Note: we also have a Facebook page.

Weather Update

It sounds like last year! We have seventeen inches of snow on Beech Mountain and a little less in other places but enough to cancel church services and meetings throughout the high country. On the bright side, the skiers and snow boarders are happy.

The Wednesday Bag Lunch Bible Study

Have you ever wanted to be part of a Bible study group where you can honestly share what you believe? Our Wednesday group is doing just that. The members of the group, which continues to expand with each gathering, spend three weeks on a controversial issue in our life and faith. The group invites Christians with expertise on opposite views of the chosen topic to come and speak. Participants are able to ask questions, share their thoughts, and learn together. After the experts have come, the group spends the last session discussing scripture, what they have learned, and where they are on the topic in their own faith and life. The topics so far have included "Homosexuality and the Church" and "Creationism, Intelligent Design, and Evolution." One of the greatest lessons learned is that the participants can agree to disagree and still love each as brothers and sisters in Christ, because the center is always "Unity in Christ." If you would like to participate, the group meets on Wednesdays from 12 noon- 1:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and your Bible and be ready for a great discussion!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Listening to the radio I heard the results of a survey which found that, in the United States, atheists and agnostics know more about Christian theology than those professing to be Christians. None of us want to fall into either of those categories.

As a part of our evangelism we need to be able to express and defend our religious beliefs and, to meet that goal the Christian education committee is seeking volunteers to teach both adult and youth Sunday school classes. The adult class needs teachers willing to teach on any theological topic and bible study.

The teachers of youth classes will receive a curriculum and needed instruction to assist them. Adults who do not have children in Sunday school are particularly sought so our youth can get to know our adult members.

If you can help in this program contact the church office, David Hege at hegem@bellsouth.net, or any member of the Christian Education Committee.



Important News from the Communications Team

By Bill Bagby

At its November meeting the Team agreed to put up two boxes on the wall facing the entry door leading into the offices and Fellowship Hall. These boxes are for collecting articles for The Crossnore Chronicle and information for the church bulletin. Each box will be marked appropriately and will have the deadlines for each publication. Deadline for the church bulletin is Thursdays at 9 a.m. weekly and the deadline for The Crossnore Chronicle is the last Sunday of each month.

Book Review of The Shack

By David Hege

For an engaging book for your Christmas travel, or an interesting read for a snow day, pick up a copy of the New York Times bestseller *THE SHACK* by William Paul Young.

When asked about my Christian faith the question which gives me the most difficulty is "Why do bad things happen to good people?" When placed in context of statements we all received as children such as "God is Love", "God is all-powerful", and "God is in control", where are the answers to these apparent inconsistencies? These questions are central to the plot of this book.

If you have no questions concerning your theological beliefs, then you will find this book to fall into the fantasy category of fiction rather than a story of exploration of faith. The tragedy that befalls the principal character both as a youth and as a father leads him on a weekend journey where he is required to confront questions of God's justice, authority, and love as opposed to cruelty of mankind. A father's search for his kidnapped daughter leads him to a visit with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. If you believe that God looks like Wild Bill Hickok dressed in a robe then you will be shocked rather than surprised at the depiction of the trinity in this book.

While, for me, the book still does not satisfy the question earlier asked, once you strip away the obvious literary device of emotional shock, you will be left with new perspectives on the nature of the trinity and the expression of God's love toward mankind.

THE SHACK is available for purchase at *Amazon*, or for loan from the Church office or the Avery County Morrison Public Library.