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Methodist Church  
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**BEREA FRIENDSHIP NEWS**  
Church Office: 864-246-4311  
Internet Homepage:  
www.bereafriendshipumc.com  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Friday—Closed

## Berea Friendship United Methodist Church News

Berea Friendship United Methodist Church

December 2016 Newsletter

**From the desk of Rev. Gordon**

Praise the Lord my Brothers and Sisters, as you read this newsletter I pray that you are having a blessed time in the Lord and that all is well with you and your family members. It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another year. I have truly enjoyed being your pastor and feel extremely blessed to be serving with you. As we look forward to another year of service in the Lord my prayers for you and your family are that the New Year will be a year that will be filled with much blessings and prosperity. As a church I want you to be in prayer with me and the leadership of the church as we continue our conversation in finding ways in which the Lord wants for us to be in ministry with Him during this new year of 2017.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you that has participated in helping us minister to our Child Development Center children during this past year. Your support of the Children ministry has been a blessing for everyone involved. As we wrap-up our annual stewardship commitments. We thank all those who have already submitted their commitments for **2017**. Your support enables us to continue our ministries in the church and the community. Thank you!

I want to encourage everyone to submit a commitment for **2017**, by the end of the year (**2016**). Making a financial commitment is part of the commitment that we make to the Lord and to each other as members of our church. God has brought us together ... let's all do the best we can for the Lord! And truly "Experience the Joy of Generosity!"

As we prepare to enter into the season of Advent and Christmas, let's remember that "The season proclaims the comings of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate." As I close this newsletter I am reminded of the words found in Ephesians the fourth chapter and verses number four and five "There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism;" Paul reminds us here in this passage of the unity that must exist in the body of Christ. My prayer is that we can find that unity as we continue to serve and seek ways to be faithful to God's calling in our lives. May the peace of the Lord continue to be with you and your family!

Yours in Christ,  
*Enrique R. Gordon*  
Rev. Enrique R. Gordon, pastor

**Sympathy.** The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to John Disher upon the death of his sister, Marilyn Disher who passed away and to Marilyn's husband and family. They lived in Marietta, Georgia and the funeral service was held November 5<sup>th</sup> in Georgia.

**Sympathy.** The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to Patti & Bobby Taylor and family upon the death of **Bobby's stepfather's mother**. Mary Lois Hartin. This is not Bobby's mother who has the same name, but they appreciate all the cards and well wishes received from the congregation.

**Thank You.**

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for all the cards, calls, emails, and prayers during my knee surgery and rehab. Thanks to Pastor Enrique for his visit, it brightened my day. I feel blessed to be a part of such a loving, caring church. I hope to return to church soon after I'm cleared to drive – maybe this week. Martha McWhite.

**Inspiration Group.** The Inspiration group will have the combined November-December meeting on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered and the CDC children will provide a musical program. We always look forward to having them with us. Mark your calendar and sign up on the sheet provided. Since the meal will be catered we will have to pay for the number of people who sign up. If you need to cancel let the church office know by Tuesday of that week (December 6). The menu will be fried chicken, Macaroni Cheese, Green Beans, Slaw, Rolls, and Banana Pudding. Tea, Coffee, Water will be available also. The cost will be \$7.50 per person. I hope you will plan to attend! Bobbie Bogan

**Preparing for Advent and Christmas**

**Donations to make our church beautiful for Christmas**

We will not be taking orders for Poinsettias this year as we have done in the past, but if you would like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of someone, we will be accepting those gifts to go toward the expense of making our sanctuary beautiful for the Christmas season. Just make your donation, such as we have done for Mother's Day and Father's Day, with any amount you would like to contribute and the name of person to be remembered, by December 18<sup>th</sup>. An insert to the bulletin on December 25<sup>th</sup> will specify the names of the donors and those being remembered. Amount of donations will not be printed. The forms and envelopes are in the pews.

**Administrative Council Meeting**

Due to busy holiday season, the Administrative Council will not meet in December.

**Trustee Committee Meeting**

The Trustee Committee will not meet in December. There will be a special called meeting in January for the trustees to set the calendar for the year. Please watch bulletins for details.

**Change in Committee meeting**

During the November Administrative Council Meeting a new policy was adopted. The Administrative Council, Finance Committee, and Trustees will start meeting quarterly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. in the Ruth Bible Class. The schedule will be as follows

Administrative Council: January 11<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Finance Committee: February 8<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Trustee Committee: March 8<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Committee chairs can call a special meeting if needed at other times.

**December Ministry Workers Ushers**



- December 04** Steve Capps, Tony Earnest, Corky Holman, Ronnie Hunter
- December 11** Eddie Hughes, Jim Humphreys, Corky Holman, Ronnie Hunter
- December 18** Steve Capps, Rick Greer, Corky Holman, Ronnie Hunter
- December 25** Steve Capps, Corky Holman, Jim Humphreys, Ronnie Hunter

**Those who serve in December**

- Altar Guild for December** Jane Walker
- Stewardship for November** Vickie Failor
- Trustee for December** Vickie Failor

**Children's Message For December**

- December 04 Terri McCloud
- December 11 Terri McCloud
- December 18 Terri McCloud
- December 25 Terri McCloud

**Acolyte Schedule for December**

- December 04 Anne-Marie Failor
- December 11 Debbie Gissendanner
- December 18 Anne-Marie Failor
- December 25 Lynnsey Nalley



**Nursery for December**

- December 04 Vickie Failor & Lynnsey Nalley
- December 11 Jane Walker & Kristie Argo
- December 18 Debbie Capps & Lynne Dyson
- December 25 Becky Philpot & Melissa or Mark Miller

**Children's Church for December**

- December 04 Terri McCloud & Melissa Miller
- December 11 Terri McCloud & Carolyn Earnest
- December 18 Melissa Miller
- December 25 Terri McCloud & Linda Crouch

**Covered Dish Lunch. There will be no Covered Dish Lunch until January.**



**Christmas Choir Cantata.** The Choir will perform their program on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 morning worship.

**Christmas Holidays.** The office will be closed on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holidays.

**Christmas Eve.** We will not have a Christmas Eve Service this year due to Christmas falling on Sunday.

**Advent Offering.** The Advent Offering Envelopes are placed in the pews during the Advent season to help us meet our mission's commitment to United Ministries, Triune Mercy Center and others.

December 01 James Gordon  
 December 02 Eddie Sentell  
 Danielle Melton  
 Harrison Miller  
 December 06 Lynne Dyson  
 Mildred Pollard  
 December 07 Buddy Stover  
 December 08 Betty Palmer Traynor  
 Joan Zepf  
 Kyleigh Elizabeth Argo  
 December 12 Miller Bogan  
 December 13 Becky Philpot  
 December 14 Scott Beasley  
 December 15 Laura Brown  
 Barbara Durham  
 Diane Greer  
 December 16 Linda Crouch  
 December 20 Kristie Argo  
 Jim Humphreys  
 Wyatt Sentell  
 December 22 Diane V. Sentell  
 December 27 Patty Sentell  
 December 28 Tom Presnell  
 December 31 Pam Harrelson



Mildred Bray  
 Mary Childs  
 Troy Clements  
 Ann Donaldson  
 Jane-Hunt Grady  
 Carolyn Hunter  
 Joe Philpot  
 Margie Philpot  
 Mildred Pollard  
 Fredda Powell  
 Pat Teat recovering from knee surgery she is at home now.  
 Lloyd Turner  
 Glenn Wells  
 Allen Zorn



Special prayers for Glenda Argo and Carolyn Hunter's mother Doris Hollingsworth who is recuperating between the homes of her daughters.

**PLEASE HELP UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST**

We are only listing those who we know are in nursing/Assisted living homes, the home-bound, those who are hospitalized at present, and those who are at present under going medical procedures such as chemo, etc. We do not want to leave anyone out so if you want your name or loved ones name listed, please notify the church office. We will up-date this list every 30 days—please help us with this important endeavor.

**December Anniversaries**

December 27 Ellen & Corky Holman

**North Greenville Food Crisis Ministry is in need of the following items:**

- Green Beans,
- Pasta
- Mac and Cheese
- Diapers
- Blankets and Sheets
- Children's Winter clothing and shoes
- Men's Winter clothing and shoes

Thanks for getting the word out! Your support is greatly appreciated!

North Greenville Food Crisis Ministry  
 864 N. Highway 25 Bypass  
 Greenville SC 29617  
 P O Box 1672  
 Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
 864-834-7342

<http://www.ngfcministry.org/>

For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

**Men's Club.**

There will be no Men's club meeting in December we will start back in January

## United Methodist Women

### Our Circles

The Morning Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The CDC children will perform their Christmas program for them. Then the ladies will go out to lunch.

The Shalom Circle will meet Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 12 Noon at the home of Vickie Failor for a Christmas Luncheon.

### Prayer Focus

The prayer focus for December is on one of the United Community Centers, the Riley House in Birmingham, Alabama.

Founded in 1903, it was originally established in an effort for Methodist women to provide support for wives and children of the men working in mining and manufacturing industries. Over 100 years later, they continue to carry on the tradition of helping and supporting all of their neighbors in times of need. They were recently rated 4.4 of a possible 5 stars.

Their many programs include recreational activities, instructional classes, summer day camp, senior citizens program, food pantry and co-op, utility assistance, transportation assistance, family programs, GED and college prep classes, and a quilting group.

Their mission statement reads "United Community Center, Inc. enriches the quality of life in the communities we serve by providing programs that assist families and individuals."

Their daily motto is "It is such a joy to bless others."

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Shelly Owen in Oklahoma and Carolyn Lawhorn in Tennessee.

### New Generations for Climate Justice

#### ***United Methodist Women trains young women to be God-centered actors for climate justice. by Carmen Francesco, Kirsten Rumsey and Kelly Schaefer***

The New Generations Climate Justice Pilot Program 2016 began as a training platform for younger generations of United Methodist Women to come together to build on our knowledge and skills to advocate and act to end the injustices of environmental and social degradation. Throughout the 10-week online course and subsequent pre-Mission u retreat, we were guided through a learning experience designed to train, encourage and develop new leaders within the fight for environmental justice.

During our time together, the 12 participants focused on three topics: basics of climate justice: the movement, the community, your role; effective solidarity work and organizing; and teaching at Mission u and educating others. Overall, the aim was to build the necessary skills to teach the Mission u climate justice study in 2017 and receive support in continued work as God-centered environmental actors within our communities through learning, engaging and acting.

### **Learning**

This group was built with intent to employ young women from diverse backgrounds into a community of women seeking justice and faith in God. We ventured to have the difficult conversations and learning moments that became pertinent to our learning experience. In an effort to engage effectively, all of our online learning experiences were delivered through mediums such as Facebook, GoToMeeting and Google Docs. The topics we explored required serious dedication to inward and outward reflection. The subjects covered included spiritual gifts, solidarity work, community organizing, the Doctrine of Discovery and the mission study *Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action*. Through this customized learning experience women were able to engage in the study online while applying their knowledge to their everyday lives. Participants shared their thoughts through reflections and small break-off groups. Hearing from guest speakers who have worked on the front lines of the climate justice movement, such as community organizers and faith leaders, gave the women insight on the impacts of effective community organizing. Participants learned and collaborated from their homes from January to May and then participated in a pre-Mission u retreat and a Mission u training in Tempe, Arizona. The in-person experience of learning together became a helpful follow-up to the online study. During the retreat in Prescott, Arizona, the participants trained, planned and engaged in sessions that expanded their understanding of justice work. This time together fueled lasting relationships between participants while fostering Mission u leaders and United Methodist Women members to connect with the participants in meaningful ways.

### **Engaging**

We were able to engage with other activists in the climate justice movement throughout the process. During our first months of learning together we scheduled one-on-ones with local organizations fighting for climate justice in our own cities. As a result, each one of us connected with members of our community and learned about how to become activists where we live. During our retreat we engaged with one another through prayer, song and conversation, making connections with young women our own ages who see climate change through a lens of faith. During that sacred time we created a safe space where each young woman was able to participate, learn and grow in her own way, resulting in strong connections that will last a lifetime. Going to the Mission u training in Tempe was the perfect way to wrap up our three-month adventure, in fellowship with the larger United Methodist community. At the end of our journey we each pledged to go home and continue to foster connections made during our trip, to engage within our communities, to educate other United Methodist Women members about what we learned and to continue to fight for climate justice.

### **Acting**

For many of us, this effort is not easy. There is a lot of work to do both in and out of the Church in striving toward justice and reconciliation with God's Creation. We struggle even within our global denomination about what this work looks like and what is valued. But God calls us all to this plight and offers strength. The New Generations Climate Justice Pilot Program experience brought a group of young women together to learn with and from one another for 10 weeks. The program connected us to build a foundation of learning and support not only from one another but also from those we met during the Mission u training event. We are reminded that it is within these relationships with other women that support and build one another up in the light of God that we can then go out and continue our important work.

It is with this understanding that women of the New Generations program will continue in relationship with one another, intentionally checking in virtually as a group at least every six months. This will be a time of celebration and sharing struggle, prayer, frustration and encouragement. Knowing and actively being reminded that these women and so many others around the world are working for this common cause brings hope and power, even in difficult days when the empire feels invincible. But we can't do it alone.

Pat Watkins, Global Ministries missionary with God's Renewed Creation and editor and contributor to the climate justice mission study calls all Christians to action. He talks about the Christian necessity to not only be in right relationship with God and neighbor but with the land and all that springs up from it. This is not a choice or a niche ministry for only those who "like being outdoors." As lovers of God, we must take responsibility for how we interact with all life. United Methodist Women has amazing resources on ways to go about responsibly living within and among God's Creation as individuals and as a Church body, including a Bible study, climate justice interactive simulations, further reading suggestions and 13 Steps to Sustainability: A Practical Event Planning Guide.

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*Carmen Francesco* was co-facilitator of the New Generations Pilot Program and interned at the United Methodist Women Office of Environmental and Economic Justice and the United Methodist Seminar Program. *Kirsten Rumsey* is a United Methodist Women member in Washington, D.C., and works at a solar power nonprofit. *Kelly Schaefer* is a missionary specialist for Creation Care at Camp Mokule'ia on Oahu in Hawaii. She previously served as a Global Ministries Mission Intern, partnering with the Asian Rural Institute in Tochigi, Japan, and farm and servant community in Wisconsin.

Posted or updated: 11/2/2016 11:00:00 PM

# December 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 a.m.	2	3
4 S.S. 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Spanish Service 1:00	5	6 <b>Quilters</b> 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	7 No Finance Committee Meeting	8 <b>Inspiration Group</b> 11:30 a.m. for a catered meal  FH 3:00 p.m. re- served  <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 a.m.	9	10 <b>Social Hall, gym and Kitchen Re- served</b> 3:00 p.m. till 11:00 p.m. Shalom Circle will meet at Vickie Failor's home at 12:00 noon for a Christmas Lunch- eon.
11 S.S. 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Spanish Service 1:00	12	13 <b>Quilters</b> 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	14 No Administra- tive Council meeting this month we will start doing quar- terly meetings starting in Janu- ary 2017	15 <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 a.m.	16	17 <b>No Men's Club Choir will be in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. for practice.</b>
18 S.S. 9:30 a.m. <b>Choir performs Today at 10:30 Christmas Cantata</b> Deadline to make donations to Christ- mas decorations No Covered Dish Lunch Spanish Service 1:00	19	20 No Quilters <b>Morning Circle</b> meets at 10:00 a.m. the CDC will sing for them in the FH and then we will go out to lunch	21 No Trustees Meeting	22 No Quilters	23 <b>Office Closed</b> FH and Kitchen re- served all day	24 No Christmas Eve Service
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> S.S. 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Spanish Service 1:00 p.m.	26 <b>Office Closed</b>	27 <b>Quilters</b> 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	28	29 <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 a.m.	30	31