



# The Messenger

## December 2018



### Advent Again . . .

Every year, around this time, the Church Year rolls again to Advent. You'd think by now, we would have figured this out, that we wouldn't need four Sundays to prepare for Christmas. After all there were decorated trees across the community weeks before Thanksgiving, and all of the big sales have already happened. Why do we need to wait four more weeks?

This is one of those times when the Church keeps time a bit differently than the rest of the world. According to the Church calendar, a New Year begins on December 2nd, and the new year always begins with the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. We take our time getting to the actual birth story which we will celebrate on December 24th.

This Advent, we encourage you to prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. Plan to participate in the Advent Study each Wednesday in Advent; read the Scriptures each week during the season to prepare for Sunday worship; use the Advent guide published by the Evangelism Committee with your family as another way to anticipate Christ's birth. Imagine if the entire Rehobeth family were truly ready for Christ's coming, what wonders could God work in us?

### Christmas continues . . .

We will celebrate the Nativity of Christ on Christmas Eve (December 24th), and because the Church's calendar is different than the rest of the world, we will continue to celebrate. As you see trees and lights coming down all over the community, we will keep our tree up—two more Sundays. Christmas is not just a day, but a season. On the Sunday after Christmas, we will hear the story of the baby growing up. On the first Sunday of January, we will hear the story of the Epiphany, when Jesus' light shines out to the whole world.

Long after Christmas carols stop playing on the radio, when stores have taken down their decorations, and when much of the world has moved on to other things, we will still be telling the story of Jesus, born of Mary, and born to establish a whole new kingdom.

Get ready!

*Pastor Mike*

#### Rehobeth United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 356, Terrell, NC 28682

Phone: (828) 478-2518 Fax: (828) 478-3952 Email: [info@rehobethumc.org](mailto:info@rehobethumc.org)

Church Website: [www.rehobethumc.org](http://www.rehobethumc.org)

Dr. Michael Rich, Pastor  
Angela Beard, DYCM

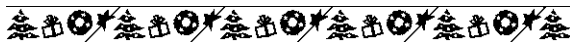
Carol Graham, Music Director  
Rosalie Sailstad, Editor



### Happy Birthday

Birthdays are important because they indicate a special moment when God selected us to live in time. That further indicates that we are very special to have been chosen by Him to serve in His Kingdom in this generation! So let each of us share that special day by phoning, or writing a note to that special person in our congregation. (P.S. Please inform the church office when additions or corrections are in order.)

December 1	Dee Greene
December 1	Stone Cook
December 4	Ken Wooten
December 6	Gaynell Foster
December 7	Bernie Thompson
December 8	Morgan Hall
December 8	Grant Parham
December 9	Preston Michael
December 11	Katie Graham
December 11	Preston Nephew
December 14	Brenda Milano
December 14	Lyvonda Robbins
December 15	Lewis Robinson
December 16	Phyllis Sipes
December 16	Shanda Parker
December 18	Jean Hughes
December 20	Debbie Michael
December 20	Jeremy Strong
December 21	Landon Kiser
December 23	Amanda Seitz
December 25	Ann Howard
December 30	Wayne Lowe
December 31	Mackenzie Stutt
January 1	Jennie Connor
January 2	Valerie Chandler
January 2	Kathy Sigmon
January 3	Fred Liska
January 3	Holden York
January 3	John Geer
January 4	Jan Liska
January 4	Terry Holdscraw
January 4	Tommy Carroll
January 5	Betty Campbell



### Our Faithfulness in Worship Attendance

(The first figure is the attendance for the 8:45 service and the second figure is the attendance at the 10:45 service.)

Oct. 7, 2018	55 + 91
Oct. 14, 2018	58 + 90
Oct. 21, 2018	58 + 120
Oct. 28, 2018	59 + 101

### Preaching in December

December 2, 2018—1st Sunday of Advent	Scripture: Luke 21:25-36 Sermon: Signs
December 9, 2018—2nd Sunday of Advent	Journey of Promises—Choir Cantata
December 16, 2018—3rd Sunday of Advent	Scripture: Luke 3:7-18 Sermon: Repentance
December 23, 2018—4th Sunday of Advent	Scripture: Luke 1:39-45 Sermon: Mary
December 24, 2018—Christmas Eve Service (4:30 p.m.)	Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 Sermon: Birth
December 30, 2018—1st Sunday after Christmas	Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 Sermon: The Baby Grows Up

### A Special Thank You

*Dear Rehobeth Family,*

*Thank you so much for all of the kindnesses and expressions of sympathy extended to our family upon the death of my mother, Frances Berry. Your cards, thoughts and prayers were truly appreciated. A special thanks goes to the ladies of "Group Three" who provided such a wonderful lunch. Thank you again and God bless you.*

*Marsha Cole and family*

### A Note to the "Ladies of Group Three"

*In Heaven Frances Berry's "Blue Eyes Danced" when she saw the table laid out for her family. How proud Ann Howard and I were to honor her in that way. Our ladies donated so many delicious dishes and they were quick to offer their time to serve. We all are blessed to have a congregation full of love and compassion. As always, you made us very proud to belong to the Ladies of Group 3."*

*Bless you all,  
Gail Eckman*

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**December 2018**

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## Youth Group

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend Sunday evening activities starting at 5:00 p.m. This month we will begin our "Home for Christmas" series. Free supper is provided followed by games, crafts, and mission. If you wish to provide supper, please sign the list in the narthex. Thank you.

Please note there will be no Youth group meeting on December 16 as we will be presenting the White Gifts service that will begin at 6:00 p.m. And we will not meet on December 23 due to the Christmas holiday.

## Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle will meet on Monday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m. at O'Charley's in Mooresville for our Christmas lunch and meeting. If you plan to attend, please bring a gift to exchange costing \$5 or less. Also, please contact either Evelyn Campbell or Dot Holdsclaw if you are coming so we can plan accordingly.



## Loaves & Stitches Christmas Meeting

The Loaves and Stitches group will be having a special Christmas meeting in December. We will meet in the fellowship hall of the Family Life Center on Tuesday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. Please bring finger food or appetizers to share. All are invited and bring any finished blankets to be blessed by Pastor Mike before we distribute them.



## Kidz Connection

Children ages 4-12 are invited to attend Wednesday night activities. These evening events are free and you may register at the door. This month we will begin our "Finding Christmas" series starting at 6:00 p.m. Free dinner is provided followed by music, crafts, games and mission.

Please note that due to the Christmas holiday, there will be no Kidz Connection on December 26th.

## Listening and Praying Our Way Forward

December 2  
3-5 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Following up on the District event held at Center UMC in October, Rehobeth will take time to consider the upcoming called General Conference in February, learn ways to communicate faithfully our concerns to the Western North Carolina delegation, and to pray for all the delegates of the General Conference.

## Mission Opportunity—Serving at The Corner Table

Rehobeth will be serving lunch at our local soup kitchen, The Corner Table in Newton on Thursday, December 6. We need 10-12 volunteers on that date to serve lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We also need volunteers to help cook and prepare the meal beforehand on Wednesday, December 5 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Rehobeth fellowship hall. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janet Prestwood at 704-654-9472 or [jeprestwood@gmail.com](mailto:jeprestwood@gmail.com). The Corner Table is located at 122 N. Main Ave., Newton. Serving at The Corner Table is fun and fulfilling.



## Christmas Cantata—December 9

The Rehobeth Chancel Choir, under the direction of music director, Carol Graham, will be presenting "Journey of Promises" by Joseph M. Martin on Sunday, December 9 at 10:45 a.m. Please note that there will be only one worship service that Sunday. We hope you will join us for this beautiful message in song.

## Welcome Café is Back

We took a break from our regular Welcome Café gathering last month due to the Barbecue. But we hope all will come join us on Sunday, December 9 for a time of special fellowship. Coffee and pastries will be available as well as lots of good conversation. Since there will be only one worship service on that day due to the Christmas cantata, we will be holding our Welcome Café in the fellowship hall of the Family Life Center two different times. From 10:00-10:40 a.m. and then again following the performance for so all those who attend Sunday School will also have an opportunity to come. We hope to see everyone there.

## Mae Howard Circle

The members of the Mae Howard Circle will be having their Christmas dinner and meeting on Monday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the Family Life Center. This will be a covered dish meal, so bring along a favorite dish to share. Ladies, if you are not a member of a circle but have been thinking about learning more about the United Methodist Women, or would just like to join us for the evening, you are more than welcome. Hope to see you there!



### White Gifts Service

December 16  
6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This year the children and youth of the church will be leading the service with what may be called, "One of the Worst Christmas Pageants Ever." They don't take directions well, they sing poorly, when they should be listening they are talking, and when they should be speaking, they are quiet. It might be considered a disaster, and yet, somehow, the greatest story ever told shines through.

Plan to come and bring canned goods and non-perishable food wrapped in white paper for our local ministries. Following the service, refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall, so bring some finger food snacks or a soft drink to share. A special guest is expected to make an appearance.



### Christmas Eve Communion Service

All are invited to a candlelight Christmas Eve communion service which will be held Monday, December 24 in the sanctuary. This service will begin with a handbell prelude at 4:30 p.m. Come join family and friends to worship on this very blessed evening.

### Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Jeremy Bolick and Megan Cosgrove who were married at St. Peter Catholic Church in Charlotte on November 10, 2018. Our best wishes are extended to this couple for a blessed life together.

### With Grateful Thanks

*Rehobeth Church Family,*

*Thank you so very much for your thoughts, prayers and kind words during the illness and death of my brother. Each gesture touched my heart.*

*Carol Stutts*

### An Alternative Gift Idea

What do you give to that someone "who has everything?" How about honoring them in a special way and helping your church at the same time.

As you know, Rehobeth Church has built a beautiful Family Life Center. We want to lower that debt as quickly as possible. One way to do that is to make a donation to the Family Life Center fund in honor of someone special. They will receive a card in the mail saying a donation has been made to the Rehobeth Family Life Center in their honor from you. (As with all memorial gifts and gifts in honor of someone, the amount is never disclosed.)

If you are interested in making a donation to the Family Life Center as an alternative gift, please:

- Make out your check to "Rehobeth UMC" with "Family Life Center" in the memo line. The check can be made in any amount.
- Include on a piece of paper the name AND address of the person who is to receive the card.
- State who the gift is from. For example it can be just your names or something else such as "Mom & Dad," "Grandma" etc.
- Place your check and paper in a plain envelope. Please write "Alternative Gift" on the outside of the envelope and either place it in the offering plate or give to Rosie in the church office.
- If you are interested in something more tangible, memorial bricks are available for \$100 each and leaves for our Tree of Life are \$150 each. See Rosie in the church office for brick or leaf forms.

### Memorial Gifts

*In Memory of: John & Edna McGee  
Given by: Hilda Horn*

*In Memory of: Joe Cornelius  
Given by: Peggy Lutz*

*In Memory of: Frances Berry  
Given by: Upper Room Bible Class  
Merriel Lawing  
Susanna Wesley Circle*

*In Memory of Chick Kresge  
Given by: Dennis & Elaine Cansler*

*In Memory of Eddie Skeen  
Given by: Dr. Jim & Johnnie Sue Ross*

*In Honor of: Tony & Carol Stutts  
Given by: Dr. Jim & Johnnie Sue Ross*

*In Honor of: Rev. Dr. Bob Kerr  
Given by: Elizabeth & Kevin Cosgrove*

### Sympathy Expressed

The members and friends of Rehobeth Church extend their deepest Christian sympathy to Fran Kresge and family upon the death of her husband, "Chick" Kresge, who passed away October 24, 2018.

*"Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die, but have everlasting life."*

## Health and Wellness

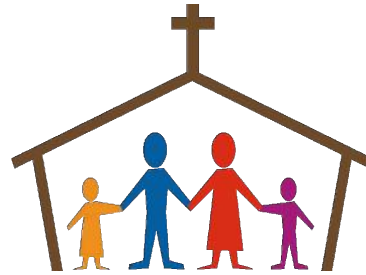
### Take Care of Your Mental Health

We are led to believe that December and all of its celebrations should be a happy time. However, that is not always the case for many people. Below are excerpts from a letter that was written by John V. Arey, Jr., D.Min. who is the Executive Director of Sanctuary Counseling Group located at 1801 East Fifth Street, Suite 110, Charlotte, NC 28204-2472. (Phone: 704-375-5354)

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness, and there are persons within your congregation who suffer—be it anxiety, depression, or some other form. We are trying to help raise awareness of mental health. Each year we offer services to persons who are suffering not only the effects of what can at times be crippling mental illness but also the stigma that is attached to seeking help. As part of our effort at Sanctuary Counseling Group, we are supporting Mental Health with the byline #End the Stigma.

This is important because one in five Americans is affected by some sort of mental health condition. This is roughly 20 percent of our population. Stigma is toxic to their mental health because it creates an environment of shame, fear, and silence that prevents many from seeking help and treatment. The perception of mental illness won't change unless we act to change it.

The good news is that stigma is 100% curable. Compassion, empathy and understanding are the antidote to this virus—stigma—and those are the attributes of the Christian life. Together we can #End the Stigma.



### A Gift to God's House

Many of our church members and friends choose to make donations to our church at the end of the year. Right now, we have a goal to reduce the debt on our Family Life Center. If you would like to make a donation to the Family Life Center fund, you may do so in several ways.

If you have a packet of offering envelopes, you will notice that there are 12 red-bordered envelopes at the back of the packet, labeled, "Family Life Center." You may use these to insert a check or cash and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office at P.O. Box 356, Terrell, NC 28682.

If you do not have a packet of offering envelopes, you may use the preprinted Family Life Center envelopes located on the pedestal next to the display in the narthex. Simply place your check or cash in one of these envelopes and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

Of course you may always simply write a check and mail it or bring it by the church office. Or you may donate online at our Website: [www.rehobethumc.org](http://www.rehobethumc.org).

When writing a check, please make it out to: "Rehobeth UMC" with "Family Life Center" in the memo line. Thank you.

**Merry  
Christmas**

