



The Communicator

Rev. Catherine C. Nance, Pastor

Church Office: 865-690-1060
www.beaverridgeumc.com

Christmas Edition

December 15, 2011

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays and Merry Xmas!

Oh my goodness! What bantering there has been about saying "Happy Holidays!" instead of "Merry Christmas!" and using an "X" instead of "Christ" in Christmas.

I get tickled when people say defiantly and with religious vigor, "I've got a *Christmas* tree - not a *holiday* tree!"

Really? You've got a Chick-Fil-A cow and Santa in a hula skirt hanging on the tree.

"I want to be a witness, so I say, "*Merry Christmas*" to the store clerk!"

Really? What kind of witness are we giving as we buy our children more stuff than they need?

It is so easy to hop on a bandwagon without thinking through what we are 'for' or 'against.' Putting an X in front of 'mas' goes back to the early Greek church. It was a common practice to abbreviate names. The Greek letter chi, X, is the first letter in the word Christos. XMAS = Christ's mass. The *IHS* you see on the paraments in church are the first three letters of JESUS in Greek (iota - eta - sigma). The Chi and Rho (which look like an X and a P) are the first two letters of Christ. So, when we write Xmas, we are carrying on a church tradition that dates back to the third-century.

Our modern word *holiday* comes from the old English word for Holy Day, so it really isn't a bad word, either.

My point is this: We have an opportunity during this season (whether it is Christmas or Xmas) to be a witness to love and forgiveness and mercy and grace. It is true that Christmas has become more about Santa and decorations and purchasing more than we need. People are in need of Good News. Let us be joyful Christians whose *presence and actions* speak of Christ regardless of whether someone has said *Happy Holidays* or *Merry Christmas* to us. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, I suspect Jesus would be honored more by how we treat other people rather than what we call our tree or how we spell Christmas. Instead of adding comment to that debate, let us strive to embody 'peace on earth and goodwill to all.'

According to the church calendar, Christmas begins on December 24th and lasts through January 5th - the day of the Visit of the Magi. So, until then, I will say Happy Advent!

-Catherine

Sunday, December 18

Sunday School Program
10:00 am

Come to the Sanctuary during the Sunday School hour and enjoy a presentation of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by the children in our Sunday School Department.



Worship

9:00 & 11 am

Sermon: Is The Little Drummer Boy in the Bible? Bring your favorite Christmas storybooks to church this Sunday. What is the "real story" and what do we learn from Rudolph and the Little Match Girl and others?



Caroling
3:00 pm

Meet in the choir room at 3:00 to go spread some Christmas cheer to our shut-ins! Everyone is invited!




*Christmas Eve
Worship*

Celebrate with us!

5:00 pm

An informal service with children in mind.

8:00 pm

A traditional service with trumpet, choir and candlelight.

CHRISTMAS DAY

One Worship Service...11:00 am

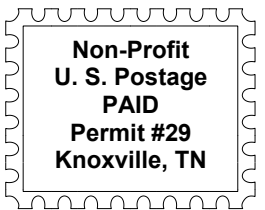
We will have only one service at 11:00 am on Christmas morning. This will be an informal but reverent time of sharing and singing some of our favorite carols, enjoying special music, and sharing Christmas joy with our church family. This may be the one day that someone who has never been to church decides to come. Let's make our home welcome!

No Sunday School



BEAVER RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7753 Oak Ridge Highway
Knoxville, TN 37931-3343



Youth Notes

Sunday, December 18th — **From 6:00-7:00 pm we'll be making luminaries to light the walkways for the Christmas Eve Service. Then, from 7:00-8:00, we will divide into our Resurrection Covenant Groups and have our first of two Covenant Group Meetings. These are mandatory if you are going to Resurrection.

Wednesday, December 21st — YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY!! 6:00-8:00 pm. Snack Supper will be provided. Bring a gift for the "White Elephant Game"...Spending limit is \$10.

Saturday, December 24th — **Christmas Eve services are scheduled for 5:00 and 8:00 pm. The youth will be setting up the luminaries we made and helping Rev. Nance set up the sanctuary for both services and clean up afterwards. (This is the last Resurrection Service Project.) Come at 4:30 and help set up luminaries or at 7:30 and help set up the sanctuary before and clean up afterwards.

****Counts as Resurrection Service Project**

Last Chance!

The final photography date for our new church pictorial directory will be **Thursday, December 22nd**. You do not have to be a member...If you consider Beaver Ridge as your church home, we want to include you in our directory. Call the church office to reserve a photo time, 690-1060.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 1, 2012 NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 20.

E-mail information to:
blloyd@beaverridgeumc.com

2011 Giving

In order to be credited for 2011, all offerings and gifts **must** be turned in to the church bookkeeper by 9:00 am, Dec. 28.

Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed December 23 & 26 and January 2. We pray that everyone has a safe and blessed holiday season. If an emergency situation should arise, you may reach our minister at 865-660-2082.

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15:

4 pm—Zumba (Gym)
5:45-7:45 pm—Aerobics Christmas Party (Gym & FLC Lobby)
7 pm—Youth Counselors' Meeting (Library)
8 pm—Sr. High Boys' Basketball Practice

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16:

6 pm—GYM RENTAL
6-9 pm—Girl Scouts (FLC Lobby)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17:

8 am-1 pm—Church League B-ball (Gym)
Time TBA—Children's Christmas Play Reh.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Offering at the Altar" for Food Pantry
10 am—Christmas Play by Children's SS Dept. (Sanctuary)
1-2:30 pm—Girls' Basketball Practice (Gym)
3 pm—Church-wide Christmas Caroling
4:30-6 pm—Youth Praise Band (Sanct.)
5 pm—Hand Bell Practice
6 pm—Youth Activities

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19:

11 am—Dorcas Circle Christmas Brunch (Charlene Asbury's)

1-2 pm—Food Pantry Open

3:30-5 pm—GYM RENTAL

6-7 pm—Beginner's Yoga (Upstairs FLC)

6-7:30 pm—Daisy Scouts (Ed. Bldg.)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20:

7:20 am—Youth Bible Breakfast (Ed. Bldg.)

10 am—Craft Group (Library)

4-5 pm—Zumba (Gym)

7 pm—Boy/Cub Scouts

7 pm—Finance Committee Meeting

8 pm—Young Men's Basketball Night (Gym)

TUES. & WED., DECEMBER 20 & 21:

12 noon—BR Preschool Christmas Program (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21:

Last day for BR Preschool (resumes Jan. 9)

Photo Date for Church Pictorial Directory

6-8 pm—Youth Christmas Party (FLC)

6:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm—Praise Band Rehearsal

8 pm—MS Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22:

Photo Date for Church Pictorial Directory

4 pm—Zumba (Gym)

8 pm—Sr. High Boys' Basketball Practice

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23:

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24:

CHRISTMAS EVE

5 & 8 pm—Christmas Eve Services (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25:

CHRISTMAS DAY

11 am—Combined Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26:

3:30-5 pm—GYM RENTAL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27:

4-5 pm—Zumba (Gym)

5:15 pm—Aerobics (Gym)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28:

6:30 pm—MS Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)

6:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm—Praise Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29:

4 pm—Zumba (Gym)

7 pm—Sr. High Boys' Basketball Practice

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30:

6 pm—GYM RENTAL