

*Becks Lutheran Church*  
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Lexington, NC 27292  
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*Pastors: Revs. Ray Sipe and Ruth Ann Sipe*  
*Organist & Choir Director: Stephen Gourley*  
*Office Administrator: Kimberly Hedrick*  
*Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*  
*Pastors' Office Hours: Tues, Thurs, & Fri 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*  
*website: [www.beckslutheranchurch.org](http://www.beckslutheranchurch.org)*



DECEMBER



### ***“Prepare the way of the Lord...”*** Mark 1:3

Happy New Year! Welcome to Advent, the beginning of the church year, the season of preparation for our Lord’s arrival! We usually think of December as the very end of the year. But for the church, the year begins just four Sundays (not necessarily even four full weeks) before Christmas! Those four Sundays mark out the season of Advent, a time of preparation. The liturgical color for the season is blue, the color of hope.

We often get caught up in the “shopping mall Christmas” which begins earlier and earlier each year, with Christmas music blaring and holiday decorations in place long before Thanksgiving. This year, we hope that amid the flurry of shopping and baking, decorating and parties, you will take time to prepare prayerfully for the coming of Christ into our lives anew.

Rather than rush the arrival of Christmas, we want to take time to experience the season of Advent, to savor the anticipation of Christ’s coming. In order to help accomplish that, we will begin worship in the season of Advent simply with the Advent wreath and gradually add decorations in the church throughout the season, until the sanctuary is transformed with poinsettias, greenery, and lights in time for our Christmas Eve worship services.

We are also planning additional opportunities for worship and Bible study during the season of Advent. Each Wednesday in December there will be two worship opportunities. At noon, there will be a brief service of Responsive Prayer, followed by a Bible study. (On Wednesday, December 3rd, this will follow the Young at Heart Luncheon. On December 10th and 17th, you are invited to bring your own lunch and join us for this time of fellowship, prayer, and study.) And each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m., we will worship with Evening Prayer. Both Responsive Prayer and Evening Prayer are excellent opportunities for us to explore the resources of the new ***Evangelical Lutheran Worship*** and to help us truly prepare for the Christmas season. Everyone is invited to attend either - or both – times!

Finally, on Christmas Eve, there will also be two different opportunities to usher in the Christmas season. Worship services will be held at both 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. We hope that the early service will provide a time of worship for those who do not normally attend the traditional late service. Both services will include Holy Communion and conclude with candle lighting.

Wishing you all hope, peace, love, and joy in this time of preparation,

Pastor Ray

Pastor Ruth Ann

## WOMEN OF ELCA

It's time to turn your donations in for our "Shopping Day" at Centerclaire. We need any items (new or gently used) for men women and children. The Dollar Tree or similar stores, your basements, in the back of your drawers and old jewelry boxes are good places to get these these gifts.

Dust off these knick-knacks that you no longer want, put them in the box and you'll never have to dust them again! As always, your help is appreciated!!!

The "Shopping Day" will be Sat. Dec. 6 with set up at 12 noon and shopping from 1 to 3. If you would like to help the residents with shopping or help out bagging and labeling gifts, put on your Santa hat and come out and join us.

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

December is always busy - -- and our WELCA group is no exception!

So mark your calendars, ladies---

**Sat. December 6---**

Shopping Day at Centerclaire

Nursing Home 12-3pm

**Sun. December 14 at**

5pm--- our Christmas

Party and Joint meeting

Here is a list of things to bring to our party----a food item to share ---appetizers or dessert types of things, your Heart Sister gift , an ornament for the tree, a bag of rice for Crisis Ministry, AND a festive, ready-to-have-fun attitude! Plan now to make time to celebrate the season with your Beck's sisters in Christ!

## The Circle of Hope

The Circle of Hope will meet with the circles of Faith and Love on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm for

the Annual Becks Women of the ELCA Christmas Party. Members are reminded to bring a \$7.00-\$10.00 gift to exchange within our group. We are providing the punch for this get together.

Any women of Becks, along with your family and friends, are invited to visit the Circle of Hope. Our meeting dates and locations are flexible and jus might work with the busy schedules so many of us find ourselves juggling.



### Social Club

Join us!

If you would like to join the Social Dinner Club, please call Holly Dorton at 336-249-6135. The groups are getting together monthly. Please join us!

# Yuletide GAMES

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

## JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

### What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



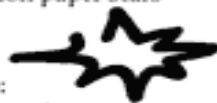
### What you do:

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

## PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

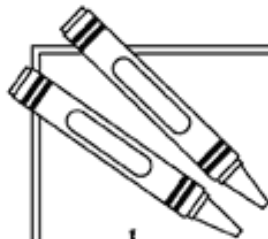
### What you need:

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



### What you do:

On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.



# Just for KIDS

## The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter A and finishing with a word starting with the letter Z.



angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	camel
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg
coat	glory	flocks	Earth	feathers
inn	jacket	grapes	peace	quiet
Joseph	king	lord	only	righteous
keep	loop	Mary	night	unique
last	maze	paper	wise men	virgin
open	nest	word	excitement	young



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, flocks, glory, holly, inn, Joseph, king, Lord, Mary, night, only, peace, quiet, righteous, shepherds, tidings, unique, virgin, wise men, excitement, young, zillions (saved by this baby called Jesus)

# Youth Activities

**Junior Youth** will go caroling to our shut-ins and return to the church for their lock in here Friday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Rebecca Moretz for more information.

**Junior/Middle/Senior youth** will meet next Sunday, December 7 for lunch and monthly meeting.

**Plans are underway** for Middle/Senior Youth lock in for December 12. Watch for more details.

Christmas Giving Tree (formerly angel tree). Since Salvation Army has copyrighted the term Angel Tree, we will not use that term anymore, but we will continue to assist others at Christmas. We already have several requests this year. By December 12, we will have a firm list of those that we are assisting this Christmas, along with ages, clothing sizes, etc. Please consider a donation to the Youth Group to assist them as they buy and deliver these gifts.

**Triennial Youth Gathering** will be in New Orleans in 2009. We hope to have several of our youth attend this event. It is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Lutheran Youth. There will be many events over the next several months to raise funds for the trip. Please give generously!

**Rent a youth!** As a fundraiser, members of the youth group will be available to assist you with yard work, Christmas decorating or other chores in exchange for a donation towards the New Orleans trip expenses. The December dates are Saturday, December 6 or Saturday, December 13. There will also be dates in January. If you would like to schedule assistance from our youth group please contact Pastor Ray for more information. Your support of our trip to the Triennial Youth Gathering in New Orleans is appreciated!

## **Youth Meeting Schedule for the next few months (normally second Sunday):**

December 7, 2008      *moved to avoid conflict with annual congregational meeting*








January 4, 2009      *moved to avoid conflict with annual council retreat*

February 8, 2009

March 8, 2009

April 5, 2009      *moved from Easter Sunday*

## *Items needed in the Pantry*

<i>Meats-Non perishable</i> 	<i>Canned Items</i> 	<i>Non Perishable</i> 	<i>Breakfast Items</i> 	<i>Hygiene Products for Men &amp; Women</i> 
Spam	Spinach	Crackers	Cereal	Shampoo & Conditioner
Chili	Corn	Peanut Butter	Grits	Soap
Chicken	Potatoes	Jelly	Cereal bars	Toothpaste
Tuna	Green Beans	Cookies	Pop tarts	Toothbrush
Potted Meat	Mixed Vegetables	Fruit cups	Oatmeal	Deodorant
Salmon	Fruit	Jell-o	<i>Paper</i>  <i>items</i>	Shaving Cream
Spaghetti w/meat	Mixed Beans	Pudding	Toilet paper	Shaving Razors
Vienna sausage	Tomatoes	<i>Pasta</i> 	Kleenex	Mouthwash
Beanie Weenie's	Green Peas	Spaghetti	Feminine products	Lotion
Chicken-n-Dumplings	Pinto Beans	Macaroni n Cheese		Combs
Beef Stew	Spaghetti Sauce	Rice		Washcloths

If you would like to contribute to our food pantry here at church, plastic bins are located in the hallway of the FEB or you can drop them off at the complex.

## **Messages and Statements**

### **Messages from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson**

November 5, 2008

#### **Presiding Bishop's Statement on 2008 Presidential Election**

Americans have chosen a new president in an historic election. I congratulate Senator Obama on his election to our nation's highest office, and express gratitude to Senator McCain for his continuing commitment to public service. I commend both for participating in our nation's democratic process, which serves our venerable tradition of the peaceful transfer of power.

We look to the future as a nation troubled by economic crisis and continuing wars. Such complex realities call for both humility and ingenuity. In the midst of these challenges, we as Lutherans also look to the future as a community of faith and a people of hope. We bring to the public square a longstanding and effective commitment to serve our neighbors and a conviction that government is instrumental in God's purpose for humanity when public officials work for justice, peace, order and the common good.

Scripture is clear about what should matter to us as Christians in public life: hospitality to strangers, concern for people in poverty, peacemaking and care for creation. From these core biblical values, I appeal to President-elect Obama to establish the following priorities for his administration:

- a response to the current economic crisis with special focus on low-income people
- a robust diplomatic effort to restore U.S. credibility abroad
- a fulfillment of the promised U.S. funding share of the Millennium Development Goals
- strong support for alternative energy research to end our dependence on oil and establish a new green economy
- fair and humane immigration reform
- serious re-engagement with a peace process for Palestinians and Israelis

I call on all members of this church to join me in committing to work with this new administration across the broad spectrum of our Lutheran partnerships and networks. Remain active in public service, be in conversation with each other and within your communities on these issues, and engage members of Congress and this administration through this church's advocacy ministry. Pray for President-elect Obama, Vice President-elect Biden, and their families, and for their work and service on behalf of our country.

**The Rev. Mark S. Hanson**  
**Presiding Bishop**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

## **Wild Women Weekends at Lutheridge**

*All weekends are Friday-Sunday*

*Adult women of all ages & life situations have five opportunities to gain vision & strength for the new year!*

*"God is all over this place!"*

Bring a group to deepen fellowship with women you know - or come alone to find kindred spirits in Wild Women from across the southeast. We'll explore the feminine images of God in both the Old and New Testaments to enlarge our understanding of mission and ministry and make faith connections to everyday life. Lodging is in Kohnjoy Inn, Thornburg Hall, or Hilltop Cottages. **Leader:** Pastor Mary Canniff-Kuhn, Lutheridge Program Director.



### 2009 Dates:

January 23-25  
March 20-22  
~~January 30-February 1~~  
**Weekend Full**  
February 6-8  
**Weekend Full**  
March 13-15  
**Weekend Full**



**Cost per Person for 2009: \$172.00**

**(includes 2 nights lodging, all meals, and on-site program costs)**

**NOTE:** If you are registering for a group of ladies or planning to mail in your registrations, **BEFORE** you register, please read the HELPFUL HINTS created by our registrar. This will help to ensure your registrations are processed smoothly and without complications.

[Register Online](#)

(Online registration opens at 12:01AM on **August 15, 2008**)

[Print a Registration Form](#)

(Registrations will **NOT** be accepted prior to August 15.

Please read the HELPFUL HINTS if you are planning to mail in registrations.)

All Wild Women registrations are date stamped and are processed in the **ORDER** in which they are received.

The letter below is in response to the benefit concert hosted here at Becks Lutheran Church by Central High School Student Matthew Davis for his senior project.



SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
OF DAVIDSON COUNTY



October 28, 2008

Dear Matt Davis,

Thank you so much for your involvement for the Deaf awareness for the center through the concert. We got the donation of \$406.35. It will help our center to help those Deaf and Hard of hearing clients of Davidson County. We very much appreciate your kindness and thoughts into our center. Again thank you so much!

*Ginny Clark*

Ginny Clark  
Executive Director

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sdhdc@triadbiz.rr.com

# Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries

Newsletter information for December 2008

**Summer is coming!** We are searching for quality Christian young adults to serve as counselors on our 2009 summer staff. Applicants must be 19 years minimum, love kids, and want a fun and exciting challenge. Application is on the web site.

- **“O Holy Night” December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.** Evening includes dinner and the Christmas worship at the Lakeside Chapel. Singing Christmas carols and the Christmas story. See website for cost and more information
- **Saturday Safari January 10, 2009.** Vermipost –What? (it’s all about the worms) Cost \$7.pp \$35. Family maximum pre-registration required.
- Watch for the **summer brochure coming mid January.**
- The ministry is in need of a **mini-van for our summer day camp** program.
- **Book your retreat now for 2009.** Call to see what is available at both sites.

**Contact Camp Agapé: Telephone: 919-552-9421**

**E-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)**

**Contact Kure Beach: Telephone 910-458-0783**

**E-mail: [kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org)**

**Web site: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)**

## Davidson Medical Ministries

Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic Inc. (DMMC) is working hard to meet the health care needs of the 21.6% of uninsured residents of Davidson County. This percentage of uninsured roughly translates to the same number of people that live within the city limits of Lexington. In North Carolina, the number of uninsured tops 1.6 million. In or local emergency rooms approximately 29% of patients are self-pay (without insurance), but only 2% are actually able to pay their bill.

Health care costs are rising. More employers are finding it impossible to afford health insurance for their employees unless they share greatly in the cost and more people are unable to choose health insurance. Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic is the health care safety net for these uninsured.

How can you help? Sponsor a clinic for a day or an evening. Do so in memory or honor of a loved one or special event. Make an annual pledge for benefactor. Be a part of the solution at whatever level you are able. Make a difference. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Sandy Motley, RN

Carla Wilber Executive Director

Board of Directors

## CONFERENCE EPIPHANY SERVICE

**Tuesday Evening, January 6, 2009**

Hosted By: New Covenant Lutheran Church  
10445 N Main Street Archdale, NC 27263 (P) 336-431-7491

We have been invited to join with other Lutheran churches in our conference for an Epiphany Service. Some of the details are listed below. Due to limited parking at New Covenant, we should consider car-pooling from the church (consider meeting at the church on at 5:15 p.m. to arrange car pools). This is a great opportunity to worship with our fellow Lutherans and a unique opportunity to celebrate Epiphany.

### SCHEDULE:

5:45 Choir Practice

6:00 Dinner in Fellowship Hall

7:00 Service

(Cake to be served after worship)

### Details:

CHOIR: Joint Choir – see Stephen for details.

Choir Songs: *Let Us Light A Candle In the Darkness* by Richard Shepherd & *Out of the Orient Crystal Skies* by Richard Zgodava

DINNER: Pork BBQ as well as "King's Cake" for desert will be provided. **Please bring a side dish or salad to share.**

CHILDREN: Children are invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant. A parent or volunteer from Becks is needed to help with names for coordinating the pageant (contact Rebecca Moretz if you are interested). The children and volunteers will eat first and then practice their part in the sanctuary.

SERVICE: The service will start with the burning of the greens in front of the church. Then, we will move into the sanctuary. The service will consist of readings and songs with the children pantomiming the Christmas pageant during the singing, then will sit with their parents. The pageant moves into the candle ceremony symbolizing the spreading of the Good News to the disciples, the churches, and to everyone, with additional readings, songs and prayers.

### Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2008
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2008
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2008
  - First day of winter, December 21, 2008
    - Christmas Eve, December 24, 2008
    - Christmas Day, December 25, 2008
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2008

## *What is an Advent wreath?*

*As Christians, we use symbols to express visually the basic tenets of our faith and as reminders of the pilgrimage of our life in Christ. Symbols can have heightened meaning for us when associated with particular seasons of that journey. One such symbol is the Advent wreath.*

*The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the Middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world.*

*This symbolism can be just as strong for us today. As is the case with all symbols, they speak most loudly to remind us of God's promises of life when they are drawn directly out of our daily experience and environment. One should consider using only natural materials from God's creation when making an Advent wreath. Evergreens come in many varieties and may be treated with a flame retardant substance. Branches of holly, laurel, and other green shrubs, which retain their freshness longer than pine, may also be used. The circular shape, a symbol of eternal life, is most important. Using an alternative shape, such as a log, would diminish the meaning of the symbol, which is no longer a circle.*

*There is no one prescribed color for the candles, although several traditions are current. Four natural colored candles are always appropriate and symbolize the Light for which we wait. Four deep purple candles, a sign of the penitential nature sometimes attributed to the season, may be appropriate. Congregations that use blue as the liturgical color during Advent would be consistent to use blue candles.*

*Liturgical renewal in the last decades of this century has shifted the focus of these four weeks to one of hope and expectation of the coming of the Christ. This hope looks forward not only to celebrating the child in the manger, but even more to Christ's coming in glory at the end of time—a continuation of the eschatological emphasis of the last Sundays after Pentecost. Candles in rich royal blue are symbolic of this hope.*

*Coincidentally, these two colors, purple and blue, have long been associated with the same ideas: the symbolic colors of royal blood and of longing; the natural colors of the dawn before the sun rises and the deep shades of midnight.*

*The Advent wreath is also appropriate for daily use in home devotions. The making of the wreath can be a family activity, using materials gathered from the yard or garden. Resources for use of the Advent wreath in the home, including suggestions for assembling a wreath, are among those listed below.*

Source: [www.elca.org/worship](http://www.elca.org/worship)

## **Young at Heart**

The young at Heart met on Nov 5 at Lexington Style Trimmings. Nineteen members were present with one visitor. Wilma had the devotions entitled “105 Chairs” followed by prayer.

Old Business- no birthdays this month Lucille Rhodes send hellos to everyone. The trip to the mountains was enjoyed by all.

New Business- our December meetings will be a covered dish at the FEB at 11am, special project for Christmas-bring items for our Pantry to our December meeting. We enjoyed delicious desserts made by Donna Bartgis and Janice Warner.

Sincerely

Wilma Byerly- Acting president

Sylvia Beck- Acting secretary

## **Pastor's Pantry here in Lexington**

Greetings from Pastor's Pantry.

For the thousands of senior adults living in poverty in Davidson County, planning for the future means trying to figure out how they will scrape together a meal today, and deciding whether to buy food or required medications, as their finances do not allow for both. Many have worked their entire lives or emotionally supported a spouse doing so, yet how they are too old, too sick, or both to work to supplement their insufficient income. They are truly stuck in what this office calls "the land of the fixed income," a frightening place to be.

Pastor's Pantry is the only Davidson County food bank which provides monthly groceries to senior adults ages 60 and over, who prove themselves to be in long-term financial crisis. While the Pantry currently serves around 370 clients and emergency cases each month, its goal is to reach out to more of the thousands of hungry seniors in this county. As we have reorganized and moved to a new location that will allow us to expand, we are now poised to add additional clients in critical need of food assistance.

The Pantry provides approximately \$86 worth of food for each client per month. We have several options for financial contribution, should you elect to support our efforts, each listed on the back of this letter. Our popular **Adopt-A-Senior** program involves making an ongoing monthly commitment, either through bank drafts, credit card charge, or check. **Individual contributions** can be made in honor or memory of someone special to you, and can also be processed by credit card or check. Various levels of **Corporate Sponsorships** are also available, as well as **Business Buddy** partnerships (call 249-8824 for details).

Sincerely  
Jo Ann D. Poston, DMA  
Executive Director

## DECEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:30 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>Month of December</p> <p>Greeters: Lonnie &amp; Janice Warner</p> <p>Lector: Patti Lovell</p>	1	2	<p>3</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Young at Heart will meet in the FEB 12:00 Responsive Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Handbell practice 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Choir practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>FEB reserved 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>FEB reserved 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Junior Youth Lock-in</p>	<p>6 WELCA Shopping Day @ Centerclaire</p> <p>FEB reserved 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Decorating the Christmas Tree</p>
<p>7 Kent Beck Team</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Advent Youth Meeting right after Worship Service 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>FEB reserved 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:00 Responsive Prayer and Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship Board 6:00 p.m. Ed. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Handbell practice 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Choir practice</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Lutheran Men's Supper</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Middle/Senior Youth Lock- in</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Decorating with Garland</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Feed the Shelter</p>
<p>14 Gary Fletcher Team</p> <p>3rd Sunday in Advent Annual Congregational Meeting 5:00 p.m. Women of the ELCA meeting</p>	15	16	<p>17</p> <p>12:00 Responsive Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer No handbell practice 7:30 p.m. Choir practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Finance Comm. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Council Supper- FEB 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	19	20
<p>21 Ted Dorton Team</p> <p>4th Sunday in Advent Men Host the Shelter 2:00 Confirmation Class 3:00 Come as you are Christmas Pageant</p>	22	<p>23</p> <p>FEB reserved 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service FEB reserved 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	26	27
<p>28 David Aldridge Team</p> <p>First Sunday after Christmas</p>	29	30	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Handbell practice 7:00 p.m. Choir practice</p>			