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Pete Berntson Pastor

Serving God through *Caring* for all God's creation *Sharing* the Good News of Jesus Christ *Preparing* for the Kingdom of God



The Open Line

2011



Reflections

Pete Berntson

Sunday, November 27, marked the start of a new year in the Christian church, and the start of the season of Advent. I find the Advent season to be one of my favorite times in the church. During these four weeks we are challenged to avoid the cultural pull of a consumption-oriented, frantically paced, dizzying-scheduled ending of the calendar year. Instead we are encouraged to practice the holy art of anticipation-based preparation for the unveiling of God's kingdom. We are to use our energy to tiptoe in the exciting space between "now" and "not-yet" "here" and "not-fully".

So we slowly turn our attention and efforts as we focus on the promises made by God and the events that unfolded in the tiny town of Bethlehem. Knowing fully the awe and wonder of what we will find there, we still take time to properly prepare our hearts and our homes so that we may more completely appreciate the gift of Emmanuel – God with us – as we welcome Jesus, the Christ, first to the manger, then to our world and then into our lives.

We began last Sunday with the grand tradition of Hanging of the Greens. Recalling the promises and prophecies of scripture, we will place a variety of symbols in appropriate positions in our worship space. In doing so, we start our individual and collective gaze towards the eventual birthplace of Christ. Come be a part of the faithful who know this time of Advent as a time to be *Looking Towards Bethlehem!*

See you in worship this Sunday.
Thrilled to be your pastor on this journey!
Pete



Our next Stephen Ministry meeting is our Christmas luncheon, Dec. 21 Noon, at Truffles in Bluffton. This is our annual social gathering – see you there. January we will continue our study of The Good Listener with Barbara Carnal as facilitator.

Patty Smith



All Leaders and Team members of the church are invited to attend a training session scheduled for Sunday, December 11 at 3pm at the Carteret Street UMC, 408 Carteret Street, Beaufort, SC. Below are the training opportunities and facilitators scheduled to lead us.

Trustees- Rev. Judson King
Church Council- Rev. Neil Young
Lay Leader- Pamela Goodwine-Glover
Nominations- Rev. Ernest C. Etheredge
SPPRC- Rev. Bruce Sayer
Outreach- Rev. Curtis
Young Youth- Daniel Griswold
Children- Connie Borgianini
Communications- Rhonda Jones

The 2011 Charge Conference of Church of the Palms was held Monday, November 7, with the Rev. Ernest Etheredge, District Superintendent of the Walterboro District, presiding. Among the actions taken at this conference were the acceptance of a composite report on the activities and achievements of the church, as presented by Dr. William (Bill) Burg, Chair of the Church Council, and acceptance of the pastors' report.

Rev. Etheredge commended Church of the Palms for being faithful in achieving 100% of its connectional giving in 2010, a status that Church of the Palms has achieved every year since being chartered in 2001. The Charge Conference also approved a slate of officers and committee members and approved the salary and benefits for the pastor. By vote, the conference also affirmed Pastor Pete as a continuing candidate for ordination and Lee McSavaney, Dan Mabey, and Paula Willingham as Certified Lay Speakers. Additional reports from the Trustees and Finance Committee were accepted, along with the 2011 ministry and mission plan (budget.) The meeting concluded with a short video highlighting the past year at Church of the Palms followed by a benediction by Rev. Etheredge.

A service with formal recognition of all elected officers for 2012 is planned for Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Charge Conference: First Reading of Inactive Members Names The names of the following inactive members were read for the first time at the 2011 Charge Conference. All inactive members are routinely written to, or e-mailed, annually, to request whether they wish to remain on, or be removed from the Membership Roll. The people listed have either not responded to our correspondence, or mail/e-mail has been returned as undeliverable. Names are read at three successive Charge Conferences before being removed from the Church Membership Roll. If you have any information that may be helpful in contacting anyone listed please see Selma Patrick, Membership Secretary. **First Reading of Inactive Members:** Chuck Ashby, Sarah W. Baird, Lydia Drennon, Tim Gray, Dianne Haithcock, Brad Hunter, Sandy Hunter, Nikki Longworth, Elizabeth J.L. (Jody) McDavid, Daniel Mooney, Rebecca Mooney, Virgil Maurice Woods, Allen (Al) Wortz, Patricia (Pat) Wortz.

All documents and reports are available for review in the church office.



From Norma

I want to express my appreciation for the warm welcome I have received from all of you. It means so much. I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to come and join the choir. I know there are some that say they can't sing a note, but I know better. We all love to sing and "make a joyful noise to the Lord". The choir practices on Thursday from 7-8 pm. We are beginning to practice the Christmas Cantata and if you would like to take part, you are welcomed.



we will have several exciting guests that will share their talents with us.

Dec. 4 – The Sun City Brass Quartet will provide music for the prelude and offertory.
Children's Program "Cookin' Up Christmas" at 3 pm.

Dec. 11 – The Sun City Chimers will provide music for the prelude and offertory.

Dec. 18 – Christmas Cantata

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service

Jan. 8 - Beaufort Youth Orchestra Brass Quartet will provide music along with the Children's Choir

We have many exciting presentations along with our own choir through the end of the year. There are many ways to worship God through music and hopefully these will be meaningful to you.

General Conference of United Methodist Church

When General Conference meets in 2012, delegates will take up proposals to alter the United Methodist Church's structure. They will consider legislation that includes consolidating 9 of the denominations 13 general agencies into 5 offices that will be part of a new United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

The proposed changes are to help general agencies work more effectively with annual conferences to support and grow vital congregations, say Neil M. Alexander and Illinois Area Bishop Gregory V. Palmer. They said one key component of the plan includes "renewed focus on the spiritual characteristics and training needed for vibrant clergy and lay leadership".

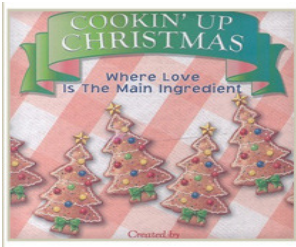
Reprinted from the Nov/Dec 2011 Interpreter

To learn more about "A call to Action Reordering the Life of the Church", visit www.umc.org/calltoaction
Or read the latest copy of the Interpreter



Prayers
Requested

Remember the Homebound: Mary Kirkman, Matilda Smith, Ann Kundrat, Ken Smith, MaryAnn Crone



Cookin Up Christmas

The 2011 children's Christmas musical and drama is scheduled for 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 4. The title of this year's program is **Cookin' Up Christmas!** The children and youth are cookin' up some treats to share with the community. Join Miss Paula Queen, Emerald Lasagna, Betty Rocker, Rachael Day, Bobby Grey, Martha Steward and Alfred Brown as they collect recipes, cook together, and wrap gifts. In the midst of great teamwork they learn about the real "recipe" of Christmas: God's love.

Please join us afterward for Chili and Salad, Cookies and Brownies!

New Member Sunday December 18

Church of the Palms will again receive new members during worship on December 18. We are excited that people are preparing to make Church of the Palms their church home and we rejoice in what God is doing among us. If you have felt God's urging to become a member, it is not too late. Simply call the church office at [843-379-1888](tel:843-379-1888). Lee, the church secretary, can assist you with the details and will arrange a time you can meet with Pastor Pete prior to the 18th.



What's on Your List?

A little smile, a word of cheer,
A bit of love from someone near,
A little gift from one held dear,
Best wishes for the coming year...
These make a Merry Christmas!
—John Greenleaf Whittier

What to give?

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all men, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
—Oren Arnold



What a wonderful turn out for our first Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show. The community mission outreach fund raiser netted \$1400.00 that we are able to split between our 6 charities; Access Network, Habitat for Humanity, Calhoun Station, Heart to Home Thrift, God's Goods and Off Island Thrift Store. Thank you to the committee, the men who helped serve, set up and clean up, the women who sponsored a table and all the participants for making this such a success.




Our December meeting/luncheon will be held on the 13th of December at the Oldfield Country Club. All ladies of the church are welcome. Please sign up on the UMW Bulletin Board deadline is Wednesday December 7. Checks are payable to Oldfield and the cost is \$25.00.



Our new president for 2012 is Lee McSavaney, the Secretary is Donna Bagley and the Treasurer is Bertha Mackes. We are still in need of a Vice-President (can co-chair). If you want to be part of this team, please contact Lee, either in person or by e-mail or phone at lee@palmsumc.org or (843)-379-1888.

Tags for Angel Tree gifts (listing gifts requested by a child nominated by ACCESS networks) are still available on the tree in the narthex. Please limit your gift to around \$25 in value and return gift wrapped, and with the tag attached, by Sunday Dec.18. Thank you!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note 1 Mondays 10:00-11:30 Upper Room Discipline</p> <p>Note 3 Thurs. 8am <i>The Brothers!</i></p> <p>Jan. 8 FPU @6pm</p>	<p>Jan. 2 Office closed</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Note 3 World AIDS Day service 12 w/lunch</p> <p>Emmaus 6 pm Choir 6:45pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 CYMT 10:00 am Dress Rehearsal</p> <p>Work Day II 8-noon</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Adult SS 9:15 Service 10:30 Communion Food Bank Children & Youth Christmas Musical 3 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Note 1 Advent Service Carteret St Noon</p> <p>Trustees Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Worship Meeting 10 am</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Note 3</p> <p>Emmaus 6 pm Choir 6:45pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Adult SS 9:15 Service 10:30</p> <p>Leadership Training 3 pm Carteret St UMC</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Note 1 Advent Service Carteret St Noon</p> <p>Council Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>UMW Luncheon 12</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Note 3</p> <p>Emmaus 6 pm Choir 6:45pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Adult SS 9:15 Service 10:30 Cantata: "Night of the Father's Love"</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Note 1</p> <p>Advent Service Carteret St Noon</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Note 2</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Stephen Ministry luncheon Noon</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Office closed</p> <p>Choir 7:00pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>"Oh What a Night!" Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 pm</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Adult SS 9:15 Service 10:30</p> <p></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Note 2</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Choir 7:00pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>