

FRANCIS ASBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
725 ASBURY ROAD
PO BOX 67
CANDLER, NC 28715
828.667.3950
faumc1@bellsouth.net
www.FAUMC.com

We are thankful for:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
Sunday - December 25th Christmas Day!
No Sunday School. Worship at 11AM.

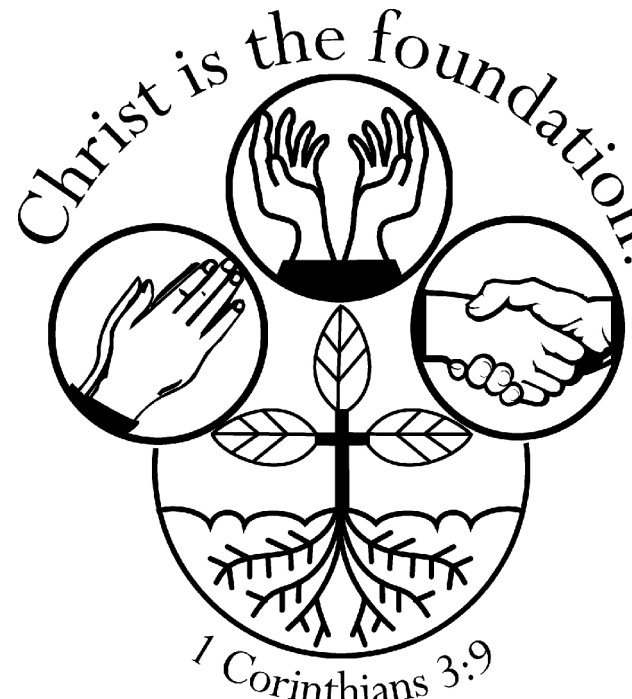


Come in your flannel pajamas & robes (no kidding) for a celebration that God is with us...all the time!

Would God accept me in my pajamas?
Scripture: John 1:1-14

Christmas Carols & Christmas Tales
featuring Vance Ashe, Story Teller
Service culminates with a
Birthday Cake for Jesus!

THE COMMUNICATOR



Francis
Asbury
United
Methodist
Church

December, 2011
Volume XXIX Issue 12

*"For we are God's
fellow workers;
you are God's
field, God's
building."
1 Corinthians 3:9*

IN MINISTRY

Minister	Veranita Alvord
Lay Leader	Brenning Shook
Choir Director	Jess Mills
Admin. Asst.	Danya Sellers
Custodian	Glenda Shook
Nursery	Sharon Lutz
Nursery	Amy Dayton
Ushers	Beth Arrowood
	Cindy Crook
	Carol Dixon
	Betty Wilson
Acolytes	12/4: Taylor Turner
	12/11: Sydney Roberts
	12/18: Rafe Conner
	12/25: Russ Conner
Greeters	Bob & Dotty Lamb

As our Christmas gift to the community, we will be collecting as much food as possible by **Sunday, Dec. 18th** for the Hominy Valley ABCCM.

HOMINY VALLEY ABCCM Needs:



**dry milk, jelly, oil,
saltine crackers,
grits, cornmeal,
instant potatoes,
dry cereal, corn,
toilet paper,
dish & laundry
detergent.**

Please take items to the Lloyd Penley Room. You may place monetary donations in the offering plate. Help us bless our neighbors in Hominy Valley this Christmas!



Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent!

*28 days to watch for the Child of Mystery
in your life and in the world.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!? The Christian year just began! The First Sunday in Advent (which was Nov. 27) is the Sunday in which Christian time starts all over with the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. The Christian year follows the birth, life, ministry, trial, death and resurrection of Jesus whom we claim to be Messiah, Emmanuel—*God with us*. We repeat the cycle of Jesus' life each year and find that our relationship with him deepens and grows through this practice and repetition.

Our worship theme this Advent is *Waiting on the Child of Mystery*. Families are invited to take an **Advent Calendar** home, put it on the fridge and try to follow each day's suggestions for prayer, activities and service. This is a fun, easy & different way to prepare our hearts for the coming of the child in addition to decorating our homes and buying presents. *Copies are available in the Narthex.*

Children were given a story book last Sunday called *On the Way to Bethlehem*. This book contains the Christmas story as well as a maze and an Advent calendar with stickers to build the anticipation toward the birth of the Christ child. *Copies are available in the Narthex.*



ADVENT MINI-CLASS
"Simply Wait"-Cultivating
Stillness in the Season of Advent.

It's not too late to join in!
This class meets on Dec. 4th,
11th & 18th in the FAB Room.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Veranita will lead this study that will focus on the Gospel stories leading up to Jesus' birth. In the Conference Room on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM.



Here is the schedule for the study:
December 7: John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 14: Luke 1:26-38
December 21: Luke 1:39-56
Bring your favorite bible!

**Advent 2 –
Sunday, December 4**
Christmas Carol Communion
How can we prepare the way of the Lord? Scripture: Mark 1:1-8
Our Communion Offering will go to "PROJECT AGAPE".

ADVENT TEA AT 3pm!



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING!!
MEET @ THE CHURCH @ 5:30pm!**

Advent 3 – Sunday, December 11 "Child of Mystery"

Composed and Arranged by Jess Mills IV



Choir Cantata 11:00 am

Following Worship, the Choir & their families will be going out to eat lunch together.

*An encore performance of the cantata will be presented at **Pisgah Villa Retirement Center at 2:30PM.** You are welcome to attend!*



Advent 4 –

Sunday, December 18
11 am



Children's Christmas Play
"A Mouse Christmas"



Tadpole Youth Play
"Christmas Compadres"



FROG Youth Skit-"Rescue"

*Service followed by a meal
of potato soup, salad &
sub sandwiches.*

**PLEASE BRING A
DESSERT TO SHARE!**



The FAB Women are hosting an **Advent Tea**

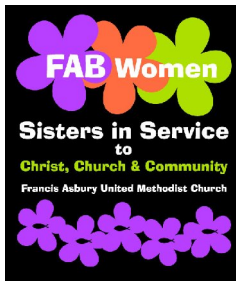
in Anticipation & Celebration of the birth of

our **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

Sunday, December 4th
at 3 o'clock in the afternoon
FAUMC Fellowship Hall

All Ladies welcome!

Please call 667-3950 ASAP
so we can save a place for you!



OUR LAST MEETING: was held at the Parsonage. Our many thanks to Pastor V for being a wonderful hostess. Yummy & impressive Cranberry Ginger Ale with REAL Raspberries in it, an excellent cup of Joe made by Joe, delicious chili & home-made cornbread by "Just Beth" & apple dumplings of deliciousness made by

Charlie Milroy. Oh yea, and don't forget the also impressive platter of nuts-complete with hot wasabi peas (unknown to many tryers) and chocolatey goodness. Pam shared a great devotion with us about being "Thankful". We can find something to be thankful about in all situations! If your car gets totaled...be thankful you weren't injured. This was quite a meeting and made one's head spin around a time or two. Lots going on...Advent Tea...Christmas Party...Advent Tea

FIRST STEP FARM: FAB Women support the First Step Women's Farm all through the year. If ANYONE would like to donate: small containers of laundry detergent, new or gently used clothing, please leave them in the FAB Room. We will be delivering Christmas Gift Baskets to the girls the week of December 4th. **Hey FAB Girls—Please don't forget to bring your 15 items for the Gift baskets by this Sunday!**

NEXT MEETING:
FAB CHRISTMAS PARTY- This Friday, **December 3rd, 6pm** at the home of **Veronica Crook. Devotion by Cindy Crook.** Don't forget to bring a **tasty dish** to share, a wrapped **Christmas ornament** for the Ornament exchange and **your donation** to the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund!** Be prepared for a fun night ladies!!! **All Ladies are WELCOME!!!!**



WOW Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec. 6th @ 11:30 am



All the ladies of the church are invited to join WOW for a wonderful time of fellowship at Ryan's Steakhouse on Brevard Road.

Please RSVP to Dot Peebles at 665-1443.

Christmas Ornaments- Remember your loved ones during this advent season by purchasing ornaments in their memory or honor. You may choose from 3 different ornaments: Beaded Cross-\$5, Nativity Heart-\$4, or Crystal Angel-\$3. Each ornament will be labeled with the year, your loved one's name & your name. Stop by the Tadpole Youth table in the Lloyd Penley Room to see samples & for order forms. *Tadpole Class Fundraiser.*



FROG Youth Christmas Card Delivery Service

Let our youth help you with your Christmas cards. Just stop by the FROG table in the Lloyd Penley Room and give them your Christmas cards for people in the church. They will deliver them for you. No need to address or stamp. Just a name will do. Cards will be distributed in a timely manner. Donations accepted. FROG Youth Fundraiser.

Snip-it from Sandy:

I have always loved **CHRISTmas** and it's not all about the presents either. I have always **LOVED** to give gifts to my friends and family. What a wonderful feeling to know that you can give someone a material item that not only shows your love for them, but also gives them something they need or want or maybe something they could not buy for themselves.

I fondly remember **CHRISTmas** Eve when I was 15 years old. We went to **CHRISTmas** Eve service at 10:30pm, just as we always did. I had a new midnight blue dress, my hair had been fixed at the beauty shop and my braces were off. I was coming out of my awkward stage and becoming a young lady. :) Our Youth Group served as acolytes, carried in the Bible, altar candles and also helped with the offering. It was an honor to be asked to do these tasks and I always felt important. On this particular night as I was taking up the offering, there was a young man sitting in the pew that had never been to our church before. His eyes lit up as I passed the plate to him. You see, I had gone 'steady' with him in middle school but we now went to different High Schools and I had not seen him in a long time. I felt so good inside, because not only did I feel I was doing something for God and my church family, but I finally felt pretty. Mom and Dad sang "O' Holy Night" and I was so proud of them. My brother and sister were with me, and my church friends. We lit candles and sang "Silent Night". It was the most Holy night of the year and I didn't think it could get much better.



We got home that night around Midnight thirty (I just like saying that). Anyway, Daddy had recently bought our family a new Video Tape recorder so we could tape special family moments. We talked Mom and Dad into letting us open a few small presents. They gave me a small box and I thought it was going to be jewelry. When I opened it, my emotion took over and I lowered my head and started to cry. And of course, my Mom, being my Mom, also...started to cry. It was a red clasp-like keychain with **SANDY** on it

with keys to our family station wagon. To my family, it was just a little gift, but to me it meant that I was now trusted to have house keys and car keys. I felt important, I felt grown-up and trusted.

So, you see, it's not all about spending hundreds of dollars on people, it's the little things. It's about sharing time with family, friends and love. It's about remembering to always keep **CHRIST** in **CHRISTmas!** I recently read a quote that says a lot. "Don't miss out on a blessing today because it isn't packaged the way that you expected. Take notice of the blessings around you!"

Blessings to you this **CHRISTmas** and always! Big Hugs ~Sandy

God has given gifts to each of you...Manage them well so that
God's generosity can flow through you. ~1 Peter 4:10



FROM THE PASTOR

The leaves have let go with the last few rain showers. It finally looks like our yard has been raked and blown clear rather than the same orange-brown mottled carpet of leaves falling day after day. Recently Joe commented that the only person he ever knew who waited until the last leaf fell was William Nabors. Joe and I have wondered if William was right to wait for the last leaves to fall or is it better to work on the leaves as they fall, little by little?

William was a crotchety, pragmatist (practical guy) married to Margaret whose voice was so syrupy it disguised the articulate, intelligent woman she was. It was always a surprise to receive a note from Margaret describing how she noticed the way Joe phrased a certain thing in his Sunday sermon and what that said to her about God. While Margaret was as sweet as pie, William could be bitter, sour even. He had definite opinions about what was happening to the once rural farm land on the west side of Atlanta and those opinions were ugly. He weighed in on everything from the Mayor to the military installation at Fort McPherson. On more than one occasion, Joe made the trek over to William and Margaret's house to smooth things over or to hear a rant or to make concessions about some church decision.

Tough as nails, William had a surprising hobby: making clocks. He could take an old dinner plate or an old plank from the fallen down mill across town and turn it in to a time keeping masterpiece. His favorite thing to take was religious art and put a clock on it. We have DaVinci's Lord's Supper painted on a rectangular piece of wood with a clock ticking in the upper right hand corner & a picture of the crucifixion with a clock at Jesus' feet. Once in his ferreting through a yard sale, William found a traveling communion set in the shape of a cross that you can open up and place candles in for your own mobile altar. It even had little communion

Cups, a container for the bread and a crucifix to hang from the cross between the candles. William couldn't turn that into a clock, but he would have if he could have.

We often got a laugh out of what William made, it seemed corny-- hokey sometimes. But now, as the time comes for us to mark Jesus' birth again, to wait with the clock ticking for the One, I hear something more in William's clocks. Maybe because I understand that William felt that life could be unbearably long and full of disappointments and that counting the seconds, noticing the hour can help you stay focused. It can focus you on the important stuff like keeping awake, even as Jesus holds out his hands at the supper saying, "Come and eat." Keeping time at the bottom of a picture of the crucifixion can help you remember that God is still suffering and will continue to suffer, that the poor we will always have with us and that every time we falter, God's sacrifice through Jesus is still there, tick-tocking for our sake and for the sake of the whole world. God's eternity never ends. God's clock does not run out. God's time never runs short. We are no longer raking the leaves every day. We are counting the days toward Christmas, we are keeping time...let us make sure we are focused on the Light that shines in the darkness, on the One coming to set us free now and forever. Maybe William was right. About the leaves and the time.

Love-Veranita



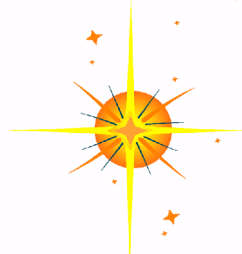
ATTENTION YOUTH!

You know you're going to get bored over Christmas break...so why not join us at Francis asbury on Wednesday, December 28th from 1:30-7pm for our "YOUTH CHRISTMAS RETREAT".

We'll have fun activities, watch "A Christmas Story", undecorate the church and hang out.

Youth are also invited to volunteer for the Hominy Valley Welcome Table that day from 11am-1:30pm.

Return to Bethlehem



A Journey of the Heart

Experience the exotic Bethlehem marketplace as it might have been on the day Jesus was born

Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Road

Thursday, December 8: 6—8:30 PM
Friday, December 9: 6—8:30 PM
Saturday, December 10: 2—8:30 PM
Sunday, December 11: 2—6:00 PM



Presented by
ABCCM

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Brasstown Ringers will perform their Annual Christmas Concert at First Christian Church, 470 Enka Lake Road in Candler on Sunday, Dec. 11th at 4PM. Everyone is invited!



Land of the Sky Chorus
“A Season of Harmony”
Saturday, Dec. 10th @ 7:30 pm
TC Roberson High School
An evening of live harmony & seasonal antics for the family!

Open seating: Adults \$15/Students Free

Christmas Love Feast
Montmorenci UMC
89 Old Candler Town Road
in Candler
Sunday, December 11th at 5pm



Pancake Breakfast
@ Fatz Café on
Saturday, Dec. 3rd
from 8-10am
for HVABCCM. \$7

The Penny Center Thrift Store

“Where Every 1 Counts”

Now Open

Tuesday thru Saturday
9:00am-3:00pm

A Ministry of Mt. Moriah
Wesleyan Church

1 Fairmont Road in Candler

Donations of all types are now being accepted.



Oak Hill UMC's daytime quilter group needs new members to continue to quilt. They meet Wednesdays at 9am—go to lunch—then quilt until around 3pm. If anyone would like to come quilt with them, they would be grateful for the help.



VBS? YES!!!!

On December 27-28, Oak Hill UMC will host their first Christmas Vacation Bible School from 10am-1pm. Come and hear the Christmas story re-presented, enjoy unique opportunities to serve your neighbor, participate in Christmas arts and crafts, enjoy some Christmas baking in the kitchen and share a lunch together. It's a two-day event. Invite your friends to come with you. You'll cherish the memories of this exciting time of Christian formation. The Christmas VBS is for children 3 years thru 5th Grade.

Events for January 2012

January 13-15 We host Red Bank UMC Youth
“Winter Spiritual Life Ski Retreat”
January 14 Church Vitality Tool Show
10AM-Noon Fletcher UMC
January 22 Light Lunch & Leader Training
after Worship from Noon-2:30
January 29 Super Dodge Ball 1-4PM



What's Up in Worship?

In January we are focusing on the actions of Jesus in the first Chapter of the Gospel of Mark. The Good News of God in Jesus in this Gospel moves fast! What does Jesus do? What do his actions indicate about him? Please try to read the first Chapter of the shortest Gospel to prepare for worship this month. ALSO! On January 29, we will be participating in a pulpit exchange with Oak Hill Church...you've heard about the preacher's husband, now come hear him yourself! Veranita will be preaching at Oak Hill that day.

January 1 Christmas Lessons & Carols
January 8 Reaffirmation of Baptism & Native American Salt Ceremony
(Mark 1:4-11) Installation of New Leaders
January 15 Beginning & Calling (Mark 1:14-20)
January 22 Healing & Traveling (Mark 1:21-28)
followed by Light Lunch & Leadership Training After Worship
January 29 Pulpit Exchange with Oak Hill: Guest Preacher, Joe Tarpley

January 8 Installation & Blessing of Leaders for 2012
Ministry Survey—Sign-up for ministries in which you would like to participate or begin or build at FAUMC. Ministries including Communion Carriers, Visitation Teams, Prayer Warriors, Bible Study, Student Tutoring, Becoming a Small Group Leader, Hospitality Hosts, Congregations 4 Children, New Sunday Small Groups, Long Range Planning, Barber Shop Relations, Weight Watcher Relations, Re-Creation, Family Ministry & MORE!

January 15&22 Ministry Survey

January 22 Light Lunch & Leader Training After Worship

Ministerial Meanderings

January 5th

Veranita will be away today with a group of preachers focusing on upcoming sermons for the Season of Lent.

January 23-27

Veranita will be at Duke Divinity School Study Leave for Ministry Professionals this week. She will be focusing on sermon preparation for the Lent-Easter Season (February-May). Rev. Joe Tarpley from Oak Hill Church will be on call in her absence.



- 1/3 Todd Cathcart
- 1/5 Calvin Dixon
- 1/5 James Hudson
- 1/7 Don Penley
- 1/12 Will Redmon
- 1/14 Melanie Hudson
- 1/15 Karen Parsons
- 1/16 Miranda Cathcart
- 1/19 Rose Case
- 1/19 Brian Smathers
- 1/21 Amy Dayton
- 1/21 Robby Scott
- 1/22 Sterling Trull
- 1/23 Carolyn Ledford
- 1/24 Jaime Taylor
- 1/26 Corrin Vinez
- 1/31 Bob Purcell

Happy Anniversary to...

- 1/10 Jim & Nellie Trull

WOW Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 3rd
at 1:30 PM

FAB Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 10

Youth Ski Weekend
January 13-15

UMM Breakfast
Jan. 15 & 29
7:30 AM



DECEMBER 2011

Francis Asbury
United Methodist
Church
667-3950




SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY																																											
DECEMBER CC TEACHERS  12/4: Emily & Mary 12/11: Veronica & Sandy 12/18 & 12/25: No Children's Church		January 2012 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							1 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers	2 All Ladies Welcome 6PM FAB Women Xmas Party @ Home of Veronica Crook Bring a Covered Dish and Wrapped Ornament	3 8-10 AM Pancake Breakfast @ Fatz for HVABCCM 9:30-11AM Weight Watchers
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4 ADVENT 2 9:45 Sunday School 10AM Advent Mini 11:00 Christmas Carol Communion 3PM Advent Tea 5:30 Xmas Caroling	5	6 6-10:30 Land of the Sky Barber Shop Chorus Practice	7 11:30-1 Welcome Table 1:30 Advent Bible 5PM Youth Practice 6-7:30PM A Mouse Xmas Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	8 2-6:30PM FAUMC Blood Drive in Gym 6-8:30 Return to Bethlehem 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers	9 6-8:30 Return to Bethlehem at Groce UMC	10 9:30-11AM Weight Watchers 2-8:30 Return to Bethlehem 7:30 Land of the Sky Chorus @ TC																																											
11 ADVENT 3 9:45 Sunday School 10AM Advent Mini 11:00 Child of Mystery Cantata 12 Choir Lunch 2:30 Pisgah Villa	12	13 6-10:30 Land of the Sky Barber Shop Chorus Practice	14 11:30-1 Welcome Table 1:30 Advent Bible 5PM Youth Practice 6-7:30PM A Mouse Christmas Dress Rehearsal	15 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers	16 5PM frog Youth Christmas Skit Dress Rehearsal	17 9:30-11AM Weight Watchers																																											
18 ADVENT 4 9:45 Sunday School 10AM Advent Mini 11:00 "A Mouse Christmas" & Youth Plays 12 Church Lunch	19	20 6-10:30 Land of the Sky Barber Shop Chorus Practice	21 11:30-1 Welcome Table 1:30 Advent Bible Study in Conference Room	22 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers	23 Church Office Closed	24 9:30-11AM WW 5PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Family Friendly																																											
25 No Sunday School 11:00 Christmas Day Worship in PJs Birthday Cake for Jesus will follow	26 Church Office Closed 	27 6-10:30 Land of the Sky Barber Shop Chorus Practice	28 11:30-1 Welcome Table 10AM Christmas VBS @ Oak Hill 11-1:30 Youth Volunteer @ HVWT 1:30-7PM Xmas Youth Retreat	29 10AM Christmas Vacation Bible School @ Oak Hill 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers	30	31 9:30-11AM WW NEW YEAR'S EVE																																											

- 1 Glenda Faye Shook
- 2 Peggy Milroy
- 7 R.D. O'Donnell
- 10 Bill Moody
- 19 DeeAnn Henderson
- 21 Kathy Brown
- 21 Christopher Davis
- 24 Olivia Tarpley
- 25 Lily Deel
- 26 Joan Shuford
- 30 Brandi Turner
- 31 Ally Darby

Happy Anniversary to..

- 7 Dewey & Paula Davis
- 15 Dale & Shelly Cloud
- 28 Dick & Connie Greene
- 30 Walt & Arlyn Martin



FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

Thursday, Dec. 8th
2PM — 6:30 PM