

The Bethlehem Star

“I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly!” John 10:10b

One lump or two?

Hey, whoa, I'm talking sugar here!

Aren't sugar cubes delicious all by themselves? In England, where I lived until I was four, that is how sugar was served. My dad was stationed there in the Air Force where we lived for a time.

Have you ever just taken a box of sugar cubes and eaten one or two, or more, do tell! Sugar high anybody? Put some in front of small children and watch the frenzy unfold - frenzy before and circus after!

If you're a coffee drinker, have you ever added sugar and forgotten to stir? You drink it wishing you had added more sugar until you get to the last sip. That last sip is something else! It's then you realize you forgot to stir the coffee.

For me, God's goodness is like that last sip of coffee. It only has to be stirred. We go about our lives and then all of a sudden, we have a God moment. Something stirs in our hearts. When we hear good news,

when we hear of good things in God's name being done or lived out, when god's goodness is realized in something that happens to us, it stirs faith and joy in our hearts. Life sugar in coffee, our faith is activated and makes our lives better. It is amazing in God moments how everything changes and we see life in a new way. It awakens our spirit. This the way it is with the goodness of God. This is the abundance Jesus spoke of that he had to give, "And I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly!

This is not to gloss over that life can be really hard at times. I remember offering a prayer to God some years ago: "Lord, you told me life could be hard, but you didn't tell me just how hard it could be!" That resonates within all of us. Jesus stated clearly, "I have said these things to you so that in me you might have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good courage, for I have overcome the world" (John 16:33) That's the ticket! That's what's stirring. It is our choice whether

we will reach out and grab hold of it or not. We can become bitter or better, we can live in resentment over what could have been or live in gratitude for everything we have enjoyed. There is nothing that compares to the goodness of God and God's promise of eternal life. It is this hope that gives us joy, hope and courage.

Sometimes we need to be reminded of God's presence. God has a way of doing that. Just like that last sip of coffee, we have a moment when we are reminded of the goodness of God. It stirs in our hearts and in turn, is stirred up in the hearts of another, as we share the goodness of God with others.

So, what's stirring in your heart?

I want to have more God moments, do you? God promises to bless those who seek him. I believe that promise, do you!

Specifically, I want to have more God moments with you, to experience God with you, to sing and see God's presence on each other's face, to

know God's love with you, to lift up and pray for each other with you!

What better place than worship where we can all be in God's house in one place? Just imagine...you come, others come, and more come and we have a

GOD, YOU & ME

MOMENT —

TOGETHER!

It is God's promise! Promise to pray for me and lift me, Rebecca, and all worship leaders up. I want to experience God with you!

Cokie

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UMW Report...

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

October turned out to be a busy month for us with the IMPACT Community Day and the 50th class reunion. November and December are looking the same as always!

Nov. 1 is the Executive Committee Meeting. There are lists and schedules we need to update for 2012. All officers and Circle chairs are asked to please come.

Nov. 8 is the General Meeting. Officers for 2012 will be installed. Trudy will have the Pledge Service. Reminder to Circles to have World Thank Offering service at November meetings.

The Special Mission Recogni-

tion Committee met and chose names for 2012. Circles have voted and these will be presented at UMW Sunday next year.

Nov. 19 will be a busy, busy day for us. We will fix and deliver Thanksgiving baskets to our Sunshine List. It is also **Officers' Training at Highland UMC in Hickory.** I haven't quite figured out how I will be at both places. On that day we will also be taking part in the **Iredell Cancer Fund Annual Holiday Food Sale at Christ Blvd. UMC.** Food items need to be in Poston Hall by 12:00 noon on Friday, Nov. 18, so they can be delivered to Christ Blvd. I have labels for the food if needed.

Other Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 8th -
Lion's Club Christmas Dinner

Dec. 13 -
Adult Christmas Dinner

Dec. 18 -
Christmas Program

So STAY STRONG! Thank you for all you have done and will do!

Love in Christ, Betty



November Mission Report...

PACK SHOE BOXES

Get an OCC brochure in the narthex or your Sunday School room and begin packing shoeboxes. Be sure to PRAY over your shopping and packing. Need a box? There are some in the mission room.

I will be taking pictures in the narthex on October 30 and November 13 to put in your shoebox with a note from you! Don't forget to include \$7 traveling fee with each box.

RING THE BELL FOR SALVATION ARMY

Yes! Already! The date is Saturday, Nov. 19 at Bi-Lo at Shoppes on Broad Street.

The sign-up sheet is on the office door or in the narthex...just sign on one sheet please. Take your pick of hours from 12:00-8:00 p.m. It is really fun to do and a blessing for many. Plus, this year we beat the Thanksgiving and Christmas rush!!

DEDICATE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES Sun., Nov. 20

VOLUNTEER AT OCC IN CHARLOTTE Fri., Nov 25 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet in narthex or on office door. There are 16 slots left! Must be 13 to volunteer! This is such an incredible experience! Hope you can help out this year!

THE GREATEST JOURNEY

This is a discipleship book provided for each child in their own language and only costs \$6.00! Can you provide some of these? If you can, mark your envelope "OCC - The Greatest Journey". Thank you!

SHAMPOO FOR PRISON HYGIENE KITS

Help us collect up to 100 bottles of shampoo to put in hygiene kits. We need 18-20 oz., clear bottles so you can see the shampoo. The Dollar Store has VO5 and White Rain.



A Life Lived in Haiti...

by Teri Gunnink

Meet some of my new friends!

The past three weeks have been filled with a multitude of jobs. From finding a vehicle to purchase and a house for all of us to live in, to starting my jobs and learning Creole, it has been a busy transition. Instead of filling you with the little details of all of those things I want to introduce you to a few of my new friends. I currently live at our team house which is where our school is located. Each morning the kids show up around 7:45 to begin the day. I am usually ready and waiting for them. I have absolutely grown to love the mornings when the children arrive. There are two children in particular that I want to tell you about.

Meet Melanie*. She is 8 years old, lives in one of our residential homes and is mentally handicapped. Every morning she jumps off the bus and runs to give me a big hug. She typically stays attached to me until I tell her it is time to go get in line. More recently, her teacher has been sending her to me during the school day to help her learn how to write her letters



and numbers. This is an entertaining time. With my limited Creole, her lesson book in French and her inability to pay attention makes for a fun time trying to get her to do what I need her to do. We have fun though and I love showing her that someone cares about her and will take the time to help her. This is one of the highlights of my day.

Meet Andy*. Andy is also 8 years old. He lives in the community around our school. We have about 50 kids in our school that come from the community of Balan. My first week here I walked Andy and his 4 siblings home. We arrived at a small wooden house that was barely big enough for the 5 children and dad to live in. I don't know what the story is with his mother. His father used to leave early in the morning to go into town to try and make some money to feed the children. He would return late at night, so the oldest girl was pretty much in charge of the kids. Last week we were able to offer the dad a job helping to keep the grounds here at the school clean.

The first day Andy's dad came to work, Andy took me to introduce

me to his dad. His dad told me that Andy would often tell his dad that he had a new 'blan (foreigner)' friend at school. He was happy to meet me!

Every morning, without fail, Andy runs to me and gives me the biggest hug I have ever received. He then looks up into my eyes with this smile that



would melt even the hardest of hearts. It truly feels like I am looking into what I would imagine is the face of Jesus. I LOVE

getting Andy's hugs every day. Typically, I get several of them!

So these are a couple of the kids that I get to spend time with each day. I have loved working in the school alongside the teachers, helping them when I can. I am also in the beginning stages of starting English classes with the House Parents and the older kids who are learning English in public school.

It has been an enjoyable time so far learning my new roles and seeing where I might be able to help.

The rest of our North American team arrives next month. I am really looking forward to them being here and creating relationships with them!

**names changed to protect privacy.*



It's a Kid's Day In!



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13

Meet in Poston Hall after worship.

Lunch will be provided!

We will work on crafts and cards to give to our shut-ins and another project or two!!

It's going to be fun ... don't miss out!!

The Charlie Brown Trunk or Treat...

..... was amazing and the Great Pumpkin did indeed arrive! If you weren't here to experience it, you missed out. The cars were all decorated and looked great. Everyone had such creative ideas



and went the extra mile to turn them into reality. Three hundred hot dogs were served, and enjoyed, I might add, along with chips and soft drinks. A ton of candy was handed out ... in a

two hour time period ... to very close to 300 kids from our community. And we heard comments all evening about how much folks appreciated something like this being done for the community. Wow!!

It is incredible to see what can be accomplished to impact our community when everyone comes together to make it happen. It was exciting, and even though we all went home tired, knowing we would be getting up for work the next morning, it was worth it. Bethlehem, you did an outstanding job! Now, sit back and eat that piece of candy you slipped in your pocket, and relax for an hour or two! You know something else is coming soon! Thanks for the super effort!



Spirit of Christmas

Every year you open your hearts, Bethlehem, to the children at Celeste Henkel who may not receive much at Christmas without your help.

You have done so much, often giving and then giving again in order to help just one more child or one more family. This year the need is greater than ever. The school counselor already has a list of names ready... a list that I hope we can help with in a big way!

As a congregation we can only do so much. Budget constraints leave us all wishing we could do more, but knowing we can't always manage it. With that in mind, we are planning a program called the *Spirit of Christmas* on Friday, Dec. 2nd. The community will be invited to an evening of Christmas music and skits in the Celeste Henkel gym. They will be asked to bring a new toy or to make whatever donation they can in return for an evening of fun entertainment. Hot dogs will be served at 6:00 p.m. at a minimal cost so that everyone can take advantage and join us. Santa will make an appearance and spend time with the kids. At the end of the evening I hope to have enough toys and money collected to help many more children on that long list! We will still do our Christmas Angels, but won't it be wonderful to be able to provide even more.

You will be hearing more details about this very soon. Cards will be available for you to pass out. Invite everyone you can. We need your help to advertise and get the word out! There will be other ways to help, but if people don't know what we are doing they won't come! Invite your boss & coworkers, your neighbors, your really wealthy uncle! 😊 Well, you get the idea! Stay tuned for more info and get excited! I think we're about to make another great impact on our community!

Memorials & Honorariums...

In Memory of **Brenda McDade**

by Judy T. Hudson
 Beverly Taylor
 Sherry Wood
 Nora Wyly

In Memory of **Robert C. Fulbright**

by Nora Wyly
 Hope Circle
 Sidney & Carol Alexander

In Honor of **Farris & Lois Ervin's 60th Anniversary 11/12**

by Tot & Laine Sherrill

JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



We will begin meeting together on Sunday, Nov. 20th in Poston Hall. *The Journey*, a study by Adam Hamilton, will focus on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The aim of this study is to help us better understand those events, to help us see more clearly the theological significance of the Nativity, and to reflect on the meaning of these events for our lives. You really won't want to miss out! Make a special effort to come together with your church family for this special Christmas event.

Iredell Memorial Park Christmas Luminary

Saturday, December 3rd
 (candles lit around 5:00 p.m.)



For one night the entire cemetery will be lit up with thousands of candles in memory of all who have passed. In exchange for a donation which we will give to local charities. Any donation is acceptable. Please feel free to join us by driving through the park throughout the evening. We will also host a service inside the Chapel Mausoleum that night at 6:00 p.m.

See bulletin board outside of church office for complete details.

(Rain Date: Sat., Dec. 10th)

NOVEMBER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

<p>Ushers: Chris Myers Kortney Myers</p> <p>Acolyte: Brayden Lester</p>	<p>Greeters:</p> <p>6 - Regina Bost Morris Roseman</p> <p>13 - Bill & Amanda Allison</p> <p>20 - Judi Shepherd Pat Hardison</p> <p>27 - Mark & Patsy Johnson</p>	<p>Children's Time:</p> <p>6 - Olin Isenhour</p> <p>13 - Suzie Davis</p> <p>20 - Pastor Cokie</p> <p>27 - Angela Sloan</p>	<p>Nursery:</p> <p>6 - Penny Wingfield Amber Williamson</p> <p>13 - Jane Waugh Amy Galliher</p> <p>20 - Patsy Johnson Phyllis Gibson</p> <p>27 - Barbara Lippard Laine Sherrill</p>
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Creamy Pumpkin Dip

Preparation Time: 10 min.

Ready In: 10 min.

Servings: 48

Sweeten your fall celebrations with this sweet, cinnamon-scented pumpkin spread that makes a delicious dip for crisp cookies or a sweet spread for warm breads and loaves fresh from the oven.

Ingredients

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 (7 ounce) jars marshmallow creme
- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Cooking Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, beat together cream cheese and marshmallow creme until smooth.
2. Fold in pumpkin and cinnamon. Cover, and chill in the refrigerator until serving.

Maple Butternut Squash

Ingredients

- 4 lb. (2 kg) butternut squash
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) butter
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) whipping cream
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp. (2 mL) salt

Cooking Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).
2. With a large, sharp knife, cut butternut squash in half lengthwise. Scoop seeds out with a spoon and place both halves, cut side down, in a shallow baking dish or cookie sheet with sides. Pour in just enough water to cover the pan about 1/8 inch (0.25 cm) deep. Place in oven and bake for 30 minutes. Turn the squash halves over and continue baking for another 30 minutes or until very tender when poked with a fork. Remove from the oven.
3. With a spoon, scoop squash flesh out into a bowl. If you have a food processor, puree squash with butter, whipping cream, maple syrup and salt until very smooth and creamy. (You may have to do this in two batches.) You can also beat butter, cream, maple syrup and salt into squash with an electric mixer, if you prefer. The squash won't come out quite as velvety smooth, but it will still be delicious.

Bethlehem United
Methodist Church

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