

December 2011



**I heard the bells  
on Christmas Day!**

## Hand-in-Hand in the Rock Hill District

*Thoughts from Our District Superintendent*

It's the time of year for bi-annual membership. You know who I mean, the folks who are only present on Christmas and Easter. The folks who make up the majority of our membership rolls will most likely be a part of some worship experience in your congregation this holy season. It's too easy to dismiss their presence – as I heard a number of folks do recently – as negligible in the life of the congregation. In reality, their presence has community and theological significance for us. Studies have found that most people who leave regular participation in a local congregation do so for three particular reasons: first, some major life event is so traumatic to them that they do not feel worthy of church; second, they feel like they have become “wheels in the cog” not valued contributors to the life of the community or third, their lives are so hectic that something must give and church life is chosen as the sacrifice (this is currently counted as the greatest challenge to the life of the church in 2011 by some studies). Over all of these reasons is the reality that unless the congregation shows them that they are valued they will be gone as regular attendees in as little as a month and they are hard to return to the life of the congregation.

Folks who return to our churches over this holy season do so with the full knowledge that they have chosen to move away and yet something or someone calls them back and they choose to return. It's a mini parable of the salvation story isn't it? We know that we often times choose to move away from all that Jesus offers and yet he still calls us back and doesn't turn away when we return. It's a simple understanding but I'll stand by it.

With the birth of the Christ Child, we all have a reminder that God daily breaks through in our lives; moving from heaven to earth, moving us from despair to hope, moving us from darkness to light and moving us from “far off” to “heirs.” Numbers of people will choose to move into our churches this holy season. It is a chance for us to be the link between their lives and the life of the Christ Child. May God equip us to move toward every one of them and toward the Savior who is reaching out for them and for us.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year,  
*Sara*

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*District Meeting . . .*

**Christmas Gathering for District Families**, Thursday, December 1, 6:00 - 8:30 P.M.. Location: Mt. Harmony UMC, 6268 Ridge Road, Lake Wylie, SC 29710.

*Around the District . . .*

**ST. PAUL UMC  
1550 ST. PAUL CHURCH ROAD  
CLOVER, SC 29710  
803-684-2493**



**Christmas Eve Drop-in Communion**, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

**FIRST CLOVER UMC  
124 BETHEL STREET  
CLOVER, SC 29710  
803-222-3496**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion and Special Music**, 5:00 and 11:00 P.M.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL UMC  
1130 PHILBECK ROAD  
YORK, SC 29745  
803-684-2493**

**Christmas Eve Drop-in Communion**, 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

There is no greater joy than celebrating the birth of Jesus. We invite you to join us as we celebrate his birth through the sharing of the Lord’s Supper. You may come to the sanctuary for a time of meditation and communion served by the pastor.

**FRIENDSHIP UMC  
1200 NEELY STORE ROAD  
ROCK HILL, SC 29730  
803-324-0172**

**Save Room for Dessert**, Saturday, December 3, 6:30 - 9:00 P.M. See details on page 5.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** , 11:00 P.M.

You do not want to miss this service! This is one of the highlights of the entire Christmas Season. Come and take part in this special service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and God’s love for each one of us. It is a very touching service; one people look forward to attending at Christmas. Bring your family. It is OK if the little ones come already prepared for bed.



LYNNWOOD UMC  
1753 LYNNWOOD DR.  
LANCASTER, SC 29720  
803-285-5472

**Book Study: Outlive Your Life**, Sunday nights, 5:30 P.M.

**Worship: Advent Series**, Sundays: 11:00 A.M.

**The Bridge**, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M.

Come and join us for a contemporary praise and worship service at the Bridge each Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. at Lynnwood United Methodist in Lancaster, SC. The Bridge is in mission to serve spiritual and physical needs of the surrounding community. A food and clothing pantry is available after the service. Since March the Bridge has shared over 10,000 lbs of food, much clothing and over 2000 meals to those in need. The Bridge is also a spiritual anchor for those without a church home.

Current needs: Bibles (prefer Common English version), toiletries, baby diapers, men's cloths, larger size women's clothes, winter clothes, new socks, blankets, food (cereal, pancake mix, syrup, pasta, pasta sauce, beef stew, rice, salmon, grits, powdered milk), school supplies. We are also in need of a computer monitor for an older computer.

We are not currently serving the meal because of building issues. If your church would like to partner with us in this ministry, please contact Betty Kay Hudson, 803-285-1068 or 803-283-7857 or email [behudson@comporium.net](mailto:behudson@comporium.net).

**Songs and Carols**, Sunday, December 18

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**, 7:00 P.M.





## *District Scrapbook . . .*

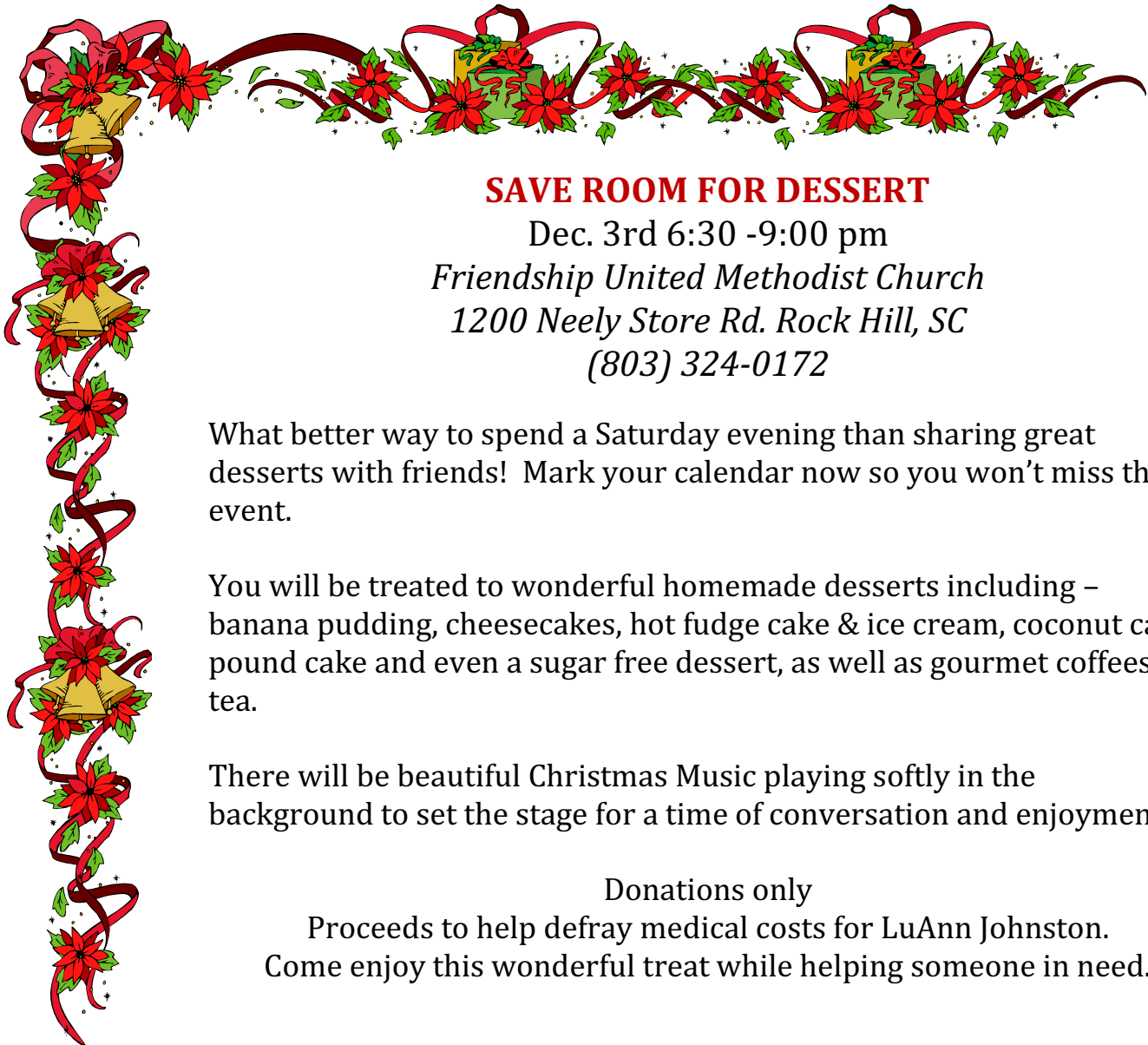
ALDRSGATE UMC HOSTED

### **TRUNK OR TREAT ON OCTOBER 29!**



*The event was a huge success with 130 children signing in and attendance estimated at more than 200. The winner of the Best Car/Trunk was The Pirate Car. Congratulations to the Farrington/Maurys for their hard work and creativity.*

***Newsletter information: We want to know all there is to know about your church's activities, news and upcoming events. So send your articles, announcements, pictures, etc. to Teresa Glass, [tkg278@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tkg278@carolina.rr.com) by the 25th of each month.***



**SAVE ROOM FOR DESSERT**

Dec. 3rd 6:30 -9:00 pm  
*Friendship United Methodist Church*  
*1200 Neely Store Rd. Rock Hill, SC*  
*(803) 324-0172*

What better way to spend a Saturday evening than sharing great desserts with friends! Mark your calendar now so you won't miss this event.

You will be treated to wonderful homemade desserts including – banana pudding, cheesecakes, hot fudge cake & ice cream, coconut cake, pound cake and even a sugar free dessert, as well as gourmet coffees & tea.

There will be beautiful Christmas Music playing softly in the background to set the stage for a time of conversation and enjoyment.

Donations only  
Proceeds to help defray medical costs for LuAnn Johnston.  
Come enjoy this wonderful treat while helping someone in need.



# Building U Conference April 14, 2012

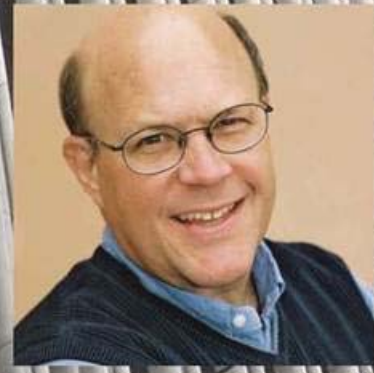
A one day training event for paid staff, volunteers, and **THIS YEAR student leaders** who work in youth ministry



Chad Norris



Shane & Shane



Duffy Robbins

Hosted by: Buncombe Street UMC in Greenville, SC

Only \$15 (includes lunch)  
Only \$10 for alumni and  
groups of 5+



For more info visit: [www.buildinguministries.com](http://www.buildinguministries.com)

Want more information or would like to help? Contact [john.fahrney@bsumc.com](mailto:john.fahrney@bsumc.com)