



# Insights

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

504 West Chapel Hill Street

Durham, NC 27701

MARK W. WETHINGTON

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ISSUE 40

ROBERT H. EDWARDS

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

All of us are aware of how individualized and privatized our faith tends to be. This fact, in part, is rooted in the nature of religion in America. We respect the "freedom to believe" and are generally not inclined to invade another's "privacy of faith." But such a notion is quite contrary to how we ought to relate to one another as members of the Body of Christ. True community requires that we be open and honest with one another. Pretense and deception inhibit growth in grace and prevent reconciliation. Christian maturity and the formation of sincere Christian discipleship requires a willingness to be held and to hold others accountable for the way we live out or fail to live out our faith.

The "class meeting" of early Methodism was a very concrete way of assisting persons to form holy habits of Christian living in a context of "mutual accountability." Class meetings were small groups consisting of about 12 members each. They met together once a week in order to be accountable to God and to one another for their discipleship. At these weekly meetings they sang hymns and prayed together. But the main agenda was to testify to the work of God's grace in their lives and to give an account of their discipleship during the past week. Their accountability was in no way judgmental. As John Wesley put it, they "watched over one another in love." The early Methodists knew that they all faced the same challenges, temptations, and pitfalls in their journey of faith in this world; they experienced similar joys, strengths and victories. To be mutually accountable was to help each other along the way.

Today in United Methodism the class meeting has been re-traditioned and we now call it Covenant Discipleship. Here at Duke Memorial, we presently have 6 Covenant Discipleship Groups (CD Groups) which are meeting weekly for mutual accountability. Those who have been a part of Covenant Discipleship have found it to be extremely helpful in their Christian journey.

On Sunday, December 11th, we will form new CD groups. Some groups may decide to stay together, some will re-form, and there may be other church members who will want to join a CD group for the first time. Anyone is invited to become a part of Covenant Discipleship. With around 6-8 in a group, each group spent part of January writing a covenant together ( e.g. I will pray for 10 minutes each day.... I will read the Bible for 15 minutes each day ... I will give at least two hours per month in an outreach ministry of the church, etc.). All commit to meeting together for just 1 hour per week for a year at a mutually agreed upon time to give an account of how it's going and to pray together (some groups share in Holy Communion). Most groups are formed on the basis of who can meet when.

(Continued on back page.)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1994

### Second Sunday of Advent

Food Pantry: Meats

8:45 - 9:25 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:55 a.m.

12:15 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Early Worship - Bradshaw

Church-Wide Pancake

Breakfast - Whitford Hall

Fellowship - Whitford Hall

Logos Class - Bradshaw

Following Christ in a

Consumer Society -

Katie Johnson Room

Sunday School for all ages

Sanctuary Choir -

Sanctuary

Ringing of the Tower Bells

Worship Service -

Sanctuary

"INSIGHTS" information

due (Dec. 11 - Dec. 17)

U.M.W. Christmas Meeting

JOYBells - Handbell Room

DMYF - Youth Lounge

"Parenting For Life" -

Bradshaw Room

Finance Comm. - Library

12 Step Al-Anon and A.A.

Community Life Center

**SERMON:**

Mark W. Wethington

**SCRIPTURE:**

Malachi 3: 1-4

Luke 1: 68-79

Philippians 1: 3-11

Luke 3: 1-6

**ANTHEM:**

Wesley Singers:

"Once in Royal David's City" - Shirley McRae

Sanctuary Choir:

"Two French Carols" - Dede Duson

Bethany Bells:

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" - Douglas Wagner

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" - Cynthia Dobrinski

**USHERS:** Tom Hargitt (Captain), Herschel Caldwell,

Jr., Bob Cox, George Davis, Holly Eggleston, Neal

Grubbs, Ed Hammond, Chris Howlett, Bill Sewell,

Tom Worsley, Vernon Averett, Arthur Whitehurst,

Patsy Whitehurst, Bob Weynand.

**GREETERS:**

Ben Mixon

Polly Mixon

**ACOLYTES:**

TBA

**NURSERY:**

Susan Grubbs

Cathy Shepherd

**S.S. GREETERS:**

Asbury Class

**CROSS:**

TBA

**ALTAR GUILD:**

Linda Wilson

Para Drake



Hospital

Jeanne Robbins - Duke N 9109  
 Herbert Chappell - Home  
 Barbara Mullis - Charlotte Pres. Hospital  
 (Chris Allen's mother)  
 Dottie Ritchie - Home  
 Sara Jeffreys - Wilmington  
 Omar Fink - Home  
 Mary Bell - Home  
 (Martha Brown's daughter)  
 Lee Commander - Home

Sympathy

To the family of Annie John Williams upon her death.

New Born

We express our love and joy on the birth of Cory Thomas Cranford on October 14, 1994. The proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Cranford, Jr. of Las Vegas, NV. The proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Cranford of Durham.

New Members

David Tillotson  
 Wendy Tillotson  
 15 Warbler Lane  
 Durham, NC 27712

Meghan Froehlick  
 (Affiliate Member)  
 1315 Morreen Road, 25-L  
 Durham, N.C. 27705

Birthdays - December 4 - 10

4 Tom Adkinson	Christopher Guth
5 Brad Bailey	Jean Weynand
6 Sherry Knight	
7 Ann Evans	Nancy Hall
Meredith Worsley	
8 Hannah Moore	
9 Julie Allen	James Lancaster
Alexander Leone	Lyda Mihalyi
Andrea Moore	
10 Gloria Stevens	Catherine Whanger

\* December 14 Lottie Lawrence will be 106 years old. The Today Show will show her picture.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY MEAL**

December 7 -  
 Spaghetti, Salad, Bread and Dessert

December 14 -  
 Baked Ham, Apples, Green Beans, Rolls, and Dessert.

Events of change in God's creation dictate the seasons of nature. Events in the history of our Christian faith dictate the seasons of the Christian year. The church year begins with Advent, the anticipation of the coming of our Lord. Our Children in Worship Education have been learning that Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. It's color is purple which reminds us that, like Lent, it is a time of preparation and waiting. In the words sung by our children, "Let's get ready! A Saviour's coming!"

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

If you have access to computer paper (written on or not), please bring to church for Children's Division or let Ann Stallings know, 683-3467.

**WHITE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**DECEMBER 11**

**4:00 P.M.**

Do you know what has a baby in Bethlehem, two parents proud, three fine kings, four prophets bold, five candles bright, six shepherds shouting, seven stars a-shining, eight doors a-slammng, nine gifts of glory, ten words of wisdom, eleven children singing, and twelve angels praising? Well, come to the annual White Christmas Program on Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary to find out. Be sure to bring a gift wrapped in white tissue paper for a child. We will have a festive reception in Whitford Hall following the program.

**VISITATION**

Visitation Days are Friday, December 2nd, visit at 9:45 a.m. (eat at Papagayos for lunch at 12:30), and Friday, December 16th, visit at 9:45 a.m. and meet for lunch at Bullock's, at 12:30 p.m.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Have you ever had a friend who was grieving or depressed and you wished you knew what to say or do? Has anyone ever called you to talk about a problem, and you did not know how to respond? There are basic skills and insights that you can learn for being compassionate with hurting people - these skills are taught in Stephen Series training.

As one Stephen Minister said about the training: "It has brought me to a deeper spiritual relationship with God and family. I see God in most everyone, and love and reaching out to one another is contagious." Interested? Call Ann Stallings at 683-3467 or Sue Clifton at 596-0497.



**FIRST WEDNESDAY FORUM  
ABORTION  
DECEMBER 7, 6:30 P.M.  
BRADSHAW ROOM**

The December Forum will address the issue of abortion. The invited speaker will be Stanley Hauerwas, a theological ethicist in the Duke Divinity School. Dr. Hauerwas will present his views on this complex and divisive issue. Following his presentation there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Come, and be prepared to be challenged!

**FROM OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**

In reviewing the costs of our project of painting and putting down new carpet in the rear Sanctuary Hall, I found one bill for services rendered had not been received. I called New Wave Carpet Cleaning to ask if they had sent us a bill for the two rooms they had cleaned. Not only did they do an excellent job on these two rooms, but they donated this service to our church.

In this age, where money seems to rule all thinking, it is refreshing to find a small business who has charitable feelings toward others. The owner, Mr. Tommy Jones, is not a member of our church. I can highly recommend his work.

Louis Robinson

**ADVENT BANNER**

The Liturgical Arts Committee has enhanced the season decor with a stunning new Advent banner. Our recognition and appreciation go to Susan Teer, Alice Walker and Helen Fink for their work in creating this beautiful banner for the sanctuary.

Thank You.

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

The Mission Committee will, as in past years, offer the congregation a selection of alternatives for those seeking more meaningful gifts this Christmas Season. Leland Phelps will be in the central entrance near the offices before and after church each Sunday until Christmas with information and materials for the Heifer Project, Blanket Project, Mark's Peru Project and Habitat for Humanity.

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**1994 CONTRIBUTIONS**

January 8, 1995 will be the last day we can accept contributions for 1994. Any funds received after that date will be applied to your 1995 contribution record.

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**CHRISTMAS DINNER  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18  
WHITFORD HALL**

It's almost time for our traditional Christmas Dinner. On Sunday, December 18, we'll gather in Whitford Hall, after morning worship service. We hope you will bring your favorite dishes to accompany the turkey and ham, which will be provided. After a splendid meal, we'll go caroling at the homes of our homebound members.

**THE CELEBRATION SINGERS  
ALAMANCE COUNTY**

Dear Friends at Duke Memorial:

We loved being with you (November 20) last Sunday! You made us welcome with your smiles, great food, wonderful piano player (Bob) and the generous love offering. The money will go into our travel fund and we'll use it on our next trip.

Thank you for "getting ready" for us in your newsletter, too. Your church is helping to knock down barriers so that all people can be together at God's Banquet.

In Christ's love,

Suzanne Smith

**DURHAM DISTRICT  
CHRISTMAS OFFERING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

This year our Christmas Offering will be used to help underwrite the cost of the Mission Saturation Event which will take place April 28-30, 1995 throughout our district. It is our hope that the money raised through the Saturation Event will enable us to provide a scholarship to a student at Africa University and to help build one or more churches in the mission fields of Africa. Due to the monetary exchange rate (approximately 40:1) a church can be built for only \$1,500. Please give generously.

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AGAINST  
VIOLENCE IN DURHAM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE STEPS**

In response to the record murder rate in our city, including the recent shooting death of two-year-old Shaquana Atwater, the religious community in Durham invites citizens to join in a witness for a safer Durham. Sponsored by Religious Coalition for Handgun Control, Durham Congregation in Action, City-County Violence Prevention Committee, Durham Chapter of North Carolinians for Gun Control.



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## CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 10

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries  
9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Weekday School Music -  
Whitford Hall  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - JOY Class  
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A.  
Community Life Center

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. DCIA Meeting - Middle Joy  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Study Group - Joy Class  
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A.  
Community Life Center

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries  
9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Parent Support Group - Rm. 241  
10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch - Whitford Hall  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m. Advent Devotions (Steve Long)-  
Bradshaw Room  
12:45 - 1:15 p.m. Advent Lunch (make reservations)  
Whitford Hall  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Fold "Insights" - Whitford Hall  
4:15 - 5:15 p.m. C.D. Group - Parlor  
5:30 - 6:10 p.m. Wednesday Meal - Whitford Hall  
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - Parlor  
6:15 - 7:00 p.m. Carol Choir - Aldersgate Room  
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Wesley Singers - Handbell Room  
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Youth Choir - Choir Room  
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - Open Door  
6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Disciple Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Forum - Whitford Hall  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Disciple I - Katie Johnson Class  
7:15 - 8:00 p.m. Liturgical Dance - Bradshaw Room  
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Bethany Bells - Handbell Room

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:15 - 8:15 a.m. Men's Coffee - Parlor  
9:00 - 12:00 p.m. Crafts of Hope - Whitford Hall  
9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries  
10:00 - 12:00 p.m. DCIA Exec. - Jr. Joy Class  
12:30 p.m. Lillie Duke Class Luncheon  
Whitford Hall  
12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Disciple I - Parlor  
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parent's Morning Out - Nurseries  
TBA Youth Talent Show - Whitford Hall  
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A.  
Community Life Center

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

No scheduled activities.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 9:00 A.M. - WHITFORD HALL

Prepared by Sr. High JOY Class to raise money to support a needy family in Durham for Christmas. Cost for breakfast is Adults (\$2.50) and Children, ages 3-11 (\$1.50).

## BLANKET SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Sponsored by Sr. High JOY Class for Durham County Mission Society. Bring new or used blankets to Sunday Worship. Help us keep others warm this winter.

## BETHANY BELLS, DECEMBER 4

Our Bethany Bells will present some special seasonal music in this Sunday's worship service. They will begin to play at 10:50 a.m. We hope you will make a special effort to get from your class to the Sanctuary in time to share in their musical offering.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONS 12:15 P.M. - DEC. 7, DEC. 14, DEC. 21 BRADSHAW ROOM

Please call the church office, 683-3467, to make reservations for the lunch following the devotions.

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 12:15 P.M. - SANCTUARY

All members of the Administrative Board, please note change in date and time of our next meeting.

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

(Continued from first page.)

Sign up for Covenant Discipleship for 1995 will be on Sunday, December 11 at the worship service, or by calling the church office before that or shortly thereafter. I will then bring the names together with possible meeting times, and groups will be formed and start meetings in January.

Please prayerfully consider whether you would like to participate in this program of Christian nurture and formation. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Grace and peace. - Mark