

# Tidings

**Clover Presbyterian Church**

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church  
Larne, Northern Ireland



*Advent, 2011*

## ***Things You Need to Know:***

- During the season of Advent, which begins on November 27, our **worship services** will be consolidated in the sanctuary at 11:00 each Sunday morning. Join us as we light the candles, assemble the banner, keep awake and vigilant for the returning of Christ in glory this season.
- The Clover Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 at the Jerusalem Baptist church on Farris Road.
- The church is preparing to go live with our system for **automated donations** at the beginning of 2012. Starting in January you will have the option of having your **church offerings drafted automatically** from your checking account. It's as easy as filling out the attached form (p. 9) and turning it in to the office. Only the church secretary will see the information included.
- Thanks to everyone who sponsored a child for our **Birthday Party for Jesus** this year. All of the angels have been claimed off the tree. Please have the filled shopping bags returned to the church by Sunday, December 4th.
- **CAAC immediate needs:** Tomato based products, canned meats, soups, rice, pasta, canned beans. Thank you for helping us feed our neighbors!
- **The youth** are once again providing a day of **free child care** for the families of the congregation to provide our moms and dads time to attend to their shopping needs during this busy season. Saturday, December 10 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm we will take care of your children so that you can take care of Christmas joy!
- **Celebrate Advent at Home** with one of our Advent devotional resources available on the table outside the parlor. Mark these holy days of waiting, repentance, and expectation with readings from scripture and family prayers guided by these devotions. Reflect on the meaning of this season and the hope of this story in preparation for the renewal of Christ's love in the world at Christmas.
- **The Children's Christmas Pageant** is Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 am. Come and enjoy this retelling of the Christmas story through the sights and sounds of our children. **Rehearsal** will be Saturday, 12/17 at 9:30 am.
- Join us for the **Christmas Cantata** on Sunday, December 11th at 11:00am.
- The **Chancel Choir** will join with the choirs from First Methodist church and Providence ARP from Gastonia to present a special **Christmas Concert** on Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 at First Methodist, and 7:00 at Providence ARP.
- **Updated results for Consecration Sunday:**

Pledges:	59	Pledges Increased:	27
Amount Pledged:	\$263,190	Pledges Decreased:	7
		2011 Pledges still outstanding:	32

Thank you for your faithful stewardship throughout the year. If you are one of our 32 outstanding pledges, or you need a blank commitment card to make your pledge, our planning for 2012 needs as much support from the congregation as possible.



Keynotes:

# OccupyBethlehem

*...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel  
Whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.*

Micah 5:2

First, let me be clear, Michael Bloomberg is not Herod.

And the Occupy movement that has grown up around the country is not an act of God. It is (probably) a social movement like many others that expresses something real about the frustration and anger of a particular segment of the population, but that is not sufficiently coherent, cohesive, or focused to enact any real change. It can at times manage to critique the status quo, but it offers no vision of the alternative, proposes no solution, makes no demands. This makes it a blank slate, in many ways, onto which others can project either their hopes (rise up!) or their fears (Hippies! Run for the hills!).

It is a curious thing, though, to witness thousands of people willing to suspend their lives indefinitely to let the powers that be in the world know that they have had enough and are fed up. They don't know how to fix it, but they know in their bones that it is wrong for 10% of the people control 70% of the wealth and for 1% of the people to earn 25% of the income. Whether they are right or wrong about that conviction is beside the point. Clearly, they are deeply convicted.

And they have chosen to express that conviction by occupying public space as a form of protest utilizing what Gary Dorrien calls, "a distinct blend of nonviolence and outrage." It's as if they can't stand to sit at home and write letters to their congressman any more. Their angry blog posts and tweets are not sufficient for the level of outrage that burns in their innermost parts. So they have decided to go down there and see if they can't do something about it. Far from a traditional Peasant Revolt, it looks more like a Peasant Milling-about. There are no torches or

pitchforks. Just a boatload of earnestness and concern for the trajectory of history.

You don't have to agree with anything the Occupy movement stands for to see the connection to Advent. Over the next month we are going to spend a lot of time thinking about the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of the Son of God, Emmanuel coming to dwell with us. With Mary we are going to ponder in our hearts what it means that God would take this step, would take on flesh, inhabit our world, risk rejection and suffering, in the interest of our redemption. We are going to hear the angels proclaim this as good news for us. We are going to remember the parables, though, and suspect that God leaving heaven and coming to earth might not be such good news for all of us. We are going to wonder what God thought when he first walked through the marketplace; sat in on a Sabbath service at the synagogue, was mocked in his own hometown.

How messed up did human history have to get to make God finally resolve to come down here and do something about it? How corrupted were our motives, how far astray were our goals and intentions, that he had to leave heaven and come down here in person to straighten us out?

That's what happens in the manger of Bethlehem. God's verdict on the course of human history is so alarmingly negative – he finds that left to our own devices we commit such horrendous acts of violence and exploitation – that our sin is so pervasive and powerful – no other remedy will assure our salvation except that he comes down here and does it himself.

The good news is that he comes and occupies the manger, and risks friendship and



Keynotes:  
**OccupyBethlehem**

enmity with us, and conquers fear and death on the cross for us, and makes us ambassadors of this alternative future for him. The not as good news is that it got to this point. That our hearts became so callous toward our neighbors, that our knowledge of his love for the world grew so dim, that our zeal for sharing our bread with the hungry grew so cold, that he had to take on human form and ransom us from ourselves.

That's what happens in Bethlehem. That's what God's love looks like. That is the extent to which he will go to rescue us.

Let us keep a holy and reverent Advent as we await with joy and thanksgiving his coming to us again that we might know life far more abundant and peaceful than the life we would make for ourselves.

Peace,

*Join us  
At the  
Birthday Party  
for Jesus*

*You'll be glad you did!*



*Advent, 2011*

## ***People Who Need Your Prayers:***

The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; The leaders of our world and nation, the men and women in the military, our President - Barack Obama, our Governor - Nikki Haley, our Mayor - Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams, Tony & Connie Johnson and Billy and Sara Turner in Mozambique.

**Our Known Sick:** Frances Bowman, Susie McLean, Kimberly Sanders, Joe Thomas, Jean Jackson, Brad Robinson, Gene Bowman, Ollie Robertson, Taze & Ruby Bennett and Grant McLean.

**Those unable to worship with us:** Mary Alice McCarter, Beth Hinshaw, Dean Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Lou Sifford, Gene & Mary Sifford and Jim Westmoreland.

### **Friends and Relatives:**

JoAnn Barnes , mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith, dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Jake Pritchard, grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence, friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Elizabeth Barnett, mother of Tom Redmond, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel—sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell, friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Bruce Clark, friend of Kathy Key, Ernest Cagle, grandfather of Mike Carpenter, Dian Timms, mother of Paula Clayton, Cam Robinson, brother of Brad Robinson, Joan Blalock & Jennifer Brown, friend of Hartsoe family, Ronnie Bell, uncle of Terry Swanner, David Patterson, friend of Jessica Swanner, Kristin McDonough, friend of Scott & Holly Frisk, Don Dawes, father of Marc Dawes, Sara Anderson, sister-in-law of Tammie Anderson, Rex Pritt, cousin of Lois Talbert, Sharon Fitch, friend of Alisa Johnson, Dan & Mildred Hartsoe, parents of Don Hartsoe, Anna Adams, niece of Katie Bowman, Frankie Walker, friend of Susie McLean, Ruth Smith, aunt of Don Hartsoe and Keith Sanders, son & brother of Dorothy & Jeff Sanders.

Worshiping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

*Advent, 2011*

## ***Places You Need to Be:***

- **Worship in Advent** ~ Sundays @ 11:00 in the sanctuary
- **Sunday School** ~ 10:00 am Sundays (except for Christmas Morning).
- **Clover Community Thanksgiving Service** ~ Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 pm, at Jerusalem Baptist Church.
- **Christmas Cantata: "Night of the Father's Love"** ~ Sunday, December 11, 11:00 am.
- **Children's Christmas Pageant** ~ Sunday, December 18, 11:00am.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service** ~ Saturday, December 24, 5:30 pm.
- **Worship Only on Christmas Morning** ~11:00 am ~ informal ~ joyful.
- **Choir Practice** ~ Wednesdays @ 7:00. & at First Methodist, November 30.
- **Christmas Childcare** ~ Saturday, December 10, 11 am - 3 pm.
- **Food, Migration and Faith:** dinner discussion, December 13, 6:00 pm @ the Manse. Book for December Discussion: *Just Coffee*.
- **Youth Christmas Bonfire** ~ Sunday, December 4, 5-8 pm.
- **Wednesday Night Fellowship Resumes:** January 11, 2012, 5:30 pm.

# *Serving the church in December*

*Closing* - Ted McCarley

## *Ushers ~ 10:00am*

- 04 Lillian Lawrence, Sally Mann, Ted McCarley, Bob Mann, Tommy McLean, Bill Brooks
- 11 Pat Lowe, Linda Henry, Ted McCarley, Mack Henry, Jack Scott, Eric Scott, Wes Spurrier
- 18 Millie Jones, Peggy Adams, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Tommy McLean, Doug Henry
- 25 Ann Goode, Barbara Corson, Ted McCarley, Mark Spurrier, Gary Love, Garrison Love

## *Worship Leaders ~ 11:00am*

- 04 Don Hartsoe
- 11 Janet Owings
- 18 Pat Lowe
- 25 Betty Westmoreland

## *Nursery Volunteers (11:00)*

- 04 Lillian Lawrence
- 11 Heather McCarley
- 18 Sammy Ann McCarley
- 25 Christine Gourley

## *Acolytes*

- 04 Laney Preston
- 11 Mary Grace Hopkins
- 18 Sydney Spurrier
- 25 Hannah Brooks

## *Children's Church 10:00*

### *3 & 4 year olds*

- 04 Buddy & Paula Clayton
- 11 Carl & Mary Adams
- 18 Phyllis & Allison Maynard
- 25 Scott Frisk, Garrison and Sue Love

### *K-2nd grade*

- 04 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley
- 11 Bill & Libby Brooks
- 18 Alice Aiken
- 25 TBA

## *Sunday School*

### *Ladies Bible Class ~ Ladies Classroom*

- 04 Kay Gordon
- 11 Alisa Johnson
- 18 Pat Lowe
- 25 Myrna Kosko

### *Men's Bible Class ~ Rec. Building*

- 04 Charles McLean
- 11 Dave Cyphers
- 18 Meet with Ladies Bible Class
- 25 J.S. Edmunds

### *Adult 1 Class ~ Church Parlor*

- 04 Lynn Campbell
- 11 Candy McCain
- 18 Donna Hartsoe
- 25 Jane McCall

### *The Seekers Class ~ Church Library*

- 04 Bruce Elliott
- 11 Jack Scott
- 18 Class member
- 25 Terry Swanner

## *Youth*

- 04 Christmas Palooza
- 10 Babysitting
- 11 Church-wide Christmas Party

*Advent, 2011*

## ***Things You Need to Do:***

- **Welcome** our new members and our visitors who worship with us and join us in fellowship every week.
- **Comfort** those in our community who have recently lost loved ones, or who are facing their first Christmas since a significant loss.
- **Return** your complete pledge card for 2012.
- **Support** our Community Choir Christmas Concert on December 18.
- **Pray** for peace on Earth, and good will among all peoples, races, and nations.
- **Remember** the church as you consider your year end giving and tax planning.
- **Join an Adult Sunday school class:** Adult 1 (Church Parlor), The Seekers (Church Library), Ladies Bible Class (Ladies Classroom), and Men's Bible Class (Recreation Building).
- **Don't forget** the needy among our closest neighbors. Drop something in the Deacon's collection boxes in the Atrium and help meet a need for CAAC!
- **Let the youth** entertain your children on Saturday, December, 10.
- Come to the **Christmas Party** on Sunday, December 11.
- **Sing** loud. Christmas carols are some of our favorite hymns. Don't let the season pass you by.
- **Sign up** for Automated Draft of your contributions beginning in January of 2012.
- **Contribute to the Joy Gift Offering** on December 11 to support retired missionaries and ministers and Presbyterian Higher Education.



We're getting ready  
for the

## **Church Christmas Party!**

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 pm

Dinner...

Caroling and...

**SANTA!**

Don't miss it!

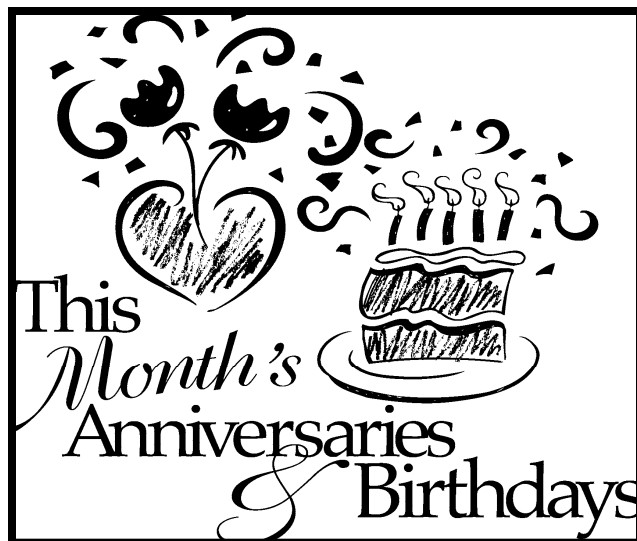
**Service of Candlelight and Communion**

**Friday, December 24 ~ 5:30 pm.**

# December 2011 @ Clover Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 8:00pm AA	<i>2</i> 8:00pm NA	<i>3</i>
<p><i>4</i></p> <p>10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Youth Bonfire 6:00pm AA</p> <p>BP4JC— Shopping bags due</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>7:00pm PW Council</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>5:30pm AA</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>8:00pm AA</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>8:00pm NA</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>11:00am—3:00pm Youth Child Care</p>
<p><i>11</i></p> <p>10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship ~<i>Cantata</i> 5:00pm Church Christmas Party 6:00pm AA</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>11:00am Circle 1  7:00pm Circle 2</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>5:30pm AA</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>8:00pm AA</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>8:00pm NA</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>9:30am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</p>
<p><i>18</i></p> <p>10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship ~ <i>Christmas Pageant</i> 3:00pm Community Choir Concert ~ First UMC 4:00pm Birthday Party for Jesus 6:00pm AA</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>5:30pm AA</p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>8:00pm AA</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>8:00pm NA</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>5:30pm Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p><i>25</i></p> <p><b>No Sunday School</b> <b>11:00am Worship</b> 6:00pm AA</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>5:30pm AA</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>8:00pm AA</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>8:00pm NA</p>	<p><i>31</i></p>

# DECEMBER



02 W.J. Miller  
Liz Zeibel

04 Ange Westmoreland  
Becky Adams

05 Mary Adams

06 Eric Scott  
Pat Lowe  
Rodney McAninch  
Diana Clayton

07 Christa Bolin  
Sara Bolin

08 Wes Spurrier

09 Sara Jackson  
Logan Frisk

10 Peggy Adams  
Maureen Wallace

12 Tyler Lowe

13 Bonnie Mason

14 Pat Pendleton

15 Lois Talbert  
Teeny Hall  
Betty Westmoreland

16 Gene Sifford

17 Dawn Dawes  
Kayla Gilham

18 Anna Flor Adams  
Tommy McCall

19 Chase McLean

21 Lyman Lawrence  
Scott Westmoreland  
Brayden Benton

24 Kay Gordon  
Christine Gourley

25 Nicholas Sanders

27 Frances Bowman  
Nick Partin

28 Jack Quinn

29 Carol Ludwig

30 Emma Gale Wallace

31 Sarah Brooks

04 Carl & Mary Adams

06 Tom & Susie McLean

07 Larry & Melanie Wall

08 Bobby & Donna Bolin

10 Tommy & Jane McCall  
Greg & Kristy Rowland

20 Mark & Sherer Hopkins

21 Bruce & Mildred Elliott  
Joe & Kay Gordon

23 Robert & Alisa Johnson  
Brian & Cherye Boling

26 Sam & Josie Bowman

28 Vance & Vic Stine





# Clover Presbyterian Church

## Authorization of Automatic Draft (ACH) for Direct Payments

I (we) hereby authorize the Clover Presbyterian Church to initiate debit entries to my (our):

\_\_\_ Checking Account

\_\_\_ Savings Account

indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, and to debit the same to such accounts. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. Law.

Depository Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be Debited: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: \_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until the Clover Presbyterian Church has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the Clover Presbyterian Church and the Depository Institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**www.cloverpres.org**

More information about events and activities available online:

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Director of Preschool:  
Wanda Whitesides  
*wandawhitesides@yahoo.com*

Organist/Choir Director:  
Barbara Quinn  
*barbq@carolina.rr.com*

Secretary:  
Pam Fowler  
*Pamtfowler@gmail.com*

Director of Christian Education:  
Debbie Dixon  
*bluehose1@yahoo.com*

Pastor:  
Douglass Key  
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