



## Christmas Newsletter 2018

We come to the end of a blessed year at GUMC as we approach a Glorious Advent season in which we prepare to receive, with joy, the coming of the Christ Child. It is not only the first coming of Jesus in lowliness that we celebrate, but we look forward with hope and joy to his coming again and again in our lives.

How breathlessly children await the promise of Christmas morning! The days before this holiday shimmer with dazzling decorations, the smell of homemade goodies, and, of course, and the promise of brilliantly wrapped gifts.

These days excite the hearts of children and adults alike who long for the joy and peace that settles on the world as we celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Long ago, the people of Israel awaited the promise of Christmas as well. God had promised them a Messiah, a special man who would free them from sin and restore each person's relationship with God. For hundreds of years, prophecies foretold the birth of this Messiah, prophecies that Jesus' birth fulfilled. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). All people can rejoice that God faithfully kept His promise of Christmas. I pray that you rejoice in God's faithfulness this Christmas season.

Cheri and I greatly appreciate the open arms of hospitality you have welcomed a couple mountain people into your midst. Your love of God is manifest everyday in the way you share with us the many blessings of God. We appreciate your sacrificial giving all year to support the ministry of the Gospel. It continues to be a joy and an honor serving with you in the Kingdom of God. We want to invite our church family to the parsonage beginning at 5:00 pm on Thursday December 20, 2018 for our annual Christmas open house. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with your pastor's family. We are blessed to have the opportunity to worship together in two special services this year, the Christmas Cantata on Dec. 16 @ 5:30, Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 pm on Dec. 24. I look forward to a blessed and joyous Christmas season with our GUMC church family.

Love,  
Pastor Rick



### Tom and Nancy Ramsay

This month we profile Tom and Nancy Ramsay, two of our newer members at Gramling Methodist who began coming to this church in 2016. It didn't take them long to find their place here and to become actively involved. Tom now serves on the Board of Trustees and is a regular usher during Sunday morning services. Tom and Nancy are members of the Anne Fryga Sunday School class where Nancy has recently begun serving as Treasurer of the class.

Nancy is from Burlington, N.C. and grew up in an orphanage in Raleigh. During that time, she attended a Methodist Church. Tom is from Cleveland, Ohio and was raised in the Catholic church. He first came to this region when he was transferred from Cleveland to Charlotte, N.C. in 1982. He and Nancy got to know each other while working for the same firm there. Some time after Tom's first wife died, he and Nancy began seeing each other and were married in 1998 in a wedding ceremony in Dalkeith, Scotland. After they were married they moved to Fines Creek in the mountains of western N.C. where Tom already had a home. Although they liked the mountains they decided they didn't want to live there all the time. Nancy's sister lived in Spartanburg, so they decided to look for a place to live in this area. They eventually moved to Lake Emory, just south of Inman, where they live today. During the transition, they made numerous trips to and from the mountains, passing by a "little white church" on the Asheville Highway in Gramling. Attracted by its outside beauty, they decided to attend a service here as a first step in looking for a church in this area. They never looked anywhere else as they found Gramling Methodist to be a welcoming church where they felt like family.

Nancy likes to read and work in the yard. Tom enjoys watching football and helping Nancy in the yard. Nancy has two sons who live in North Carolina and Tom has one daughter who lives in Ohio.

We are glad that Tom and Nancy visited the "little white church" and are proud to have them as members of this family.

### 2018 General Tithes & Offerings, week 43

Budget needed to date: \$241,069.61 (\$5606/wk);  
General Offerings received to date: \$234,617.77

**Online giving is available at [gramlingumc.org](http://gramlingumc.org).**



**Prayer, Praises, and Concerns: Call Lin Fisher (864-420-6080) or Anne Carroll (472-9434) or email [newsletter@gramlingumc.org](mailto:newsletter@gramlingumc.org) and Lin will forward your request.**

*Are any in your community suffering? They should pray. Are any celebrating? They should sing praises to God. Are any sick? They should call the elders of your church and ask them to pray. James 5:13-14a*

Assisted Living, Nursing Home  
 Joyce Evington . Wesley Ct. Assisted Living  
 Jean Johnson . Skylyn Place Assisted Living  
 Helen Burrell . Woodbridge Assisted Living  
 Carl Lane . Clemson Downs  
 Carolyn Brackett . Simpsonville Rehabilitation & Health Care  
 Barbara Runion . Golden Age, Room 110  
 Betty Jean Campbell . The Bridge, Hendersonville

Church: Gramling UMC/Rev. Rick Brown  
 Gramling Church Leaders  
 District Supt. Rev. Cathy Mitchell  
 SC Conference Bishop L. Jonathan Holston  
 District One Schools:  
 Administration, Teachers & Staff  
 Military and Civil Defense - Ed Hershberger,  
 First Responders & Local Folks

**Family & Friends**

Family of Liz Patterson  
 Polly & Wally Harper . Henry Gramling  
 Rev. Wayne Culp  
 Barbara Quinn . Bonnie Gramling  
 Natalie Honadel . Ed Hershberger  
 Rebecca Davis . Cindy Riddle  
 Judy Vanadore/Stan Hilly . Sandra Wingo  
 Travis Sloan/Thomas Reagan . Ben Gramling  
 Ryan Rosier - Mike Mitchell  
 Frank Martin . John Gramling II  
 The Shaw family . Julia Wilson  
 Cynthia Woodfin  
 Joan Mahaffey/Joni Mahaffey Rauschenbach . JoAnn Foster

Autumn Blackmon & Family . Paige Weissenberger  
 Al Rhoden/Bob Hogan & family . Gloria Surgenor  
 Frank & Ginny Martin . Gloria Surgenor  
 Turner Hammett . Lucy Granger  
 Kelly Keesling/Janne Thamis . Peggy Campbell  
 Christine & Tim Fisher . Cindy Riddle  
 Donnie Hodge  
 Andrew Tweedy . Rick Pruitt  
 Claircy (Gordon) Purrington . Ruba Nix  
 Donna Fowler . Paula Rhymer  
 Debbie Slack . Jenny Bryan  
 Max. Sr. & Mary Ballenger . Wanda Ballenger  
 Karen Horne/Joy Frazee . Colette Duncan

**December Birthdays:**

2 Sandra Wingo	10 Julia Wilson	18 Bobby Coley
2 Helga Knauz	10 Jacqueline Wasneiwski	18 Dewayne Carroll
4 Beth Edmondson	16 Chuck Bright	24 Sarah Spinsosa
4 Myrtle Ford	17 Georgianna Connell	29 Dale Brackett
5 Bruce Johnson	17 Sarah Carroll	29 Will Gramling

**January Birthdays:**

1 Lorna Burrell	9 Ben Lanford	24 Beth French
3 Ann Friend	12 Byron Barnwell	27 Kaitlyn Burrell
5 Troy Hodge	14 Frances Shults	31 Cindy Buff
6 Maria Goodwin	16 Brandon Johnson	
7 Nancy Ramsay	22 Joyce Evington	
8 Eric Nix		

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- December 9<sup>th</sup>- Christmas caroling at 4:30 p.m.; soup afterwards in the Social Hall.
- December 16<sup>th</sup>- Adult Christmas Cantata at 5:30 p.m.
- January 9<sup>th</sup>- Wednesday Night Live Resumes
  - We are excited to have everyone back for our weekly gathering.
  - Come enjoy fellowship and other activities. Everyone is invited!
  - **6 pm – Supper in the gym for all, at no charge.**
  - Enjoy a great menu with fruit and/or vegetables, along with a little dessert.
  - **6:30-6:45 – Devotion with Pastor Rick**
  - **6:30 Hand bell practice for all ages – children, youth, and adults!**
  - >>**Adult Choir 7 p.m.** in the main building<<

**Gramling United Methodist Church**  
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 Address Service Requested



*Pastor: Rev. Rick Brown*

*(want electronic copy only? e-mail [newsletter@gramlingumc.org](mailto:newsletter@gramlingumc.org))*