

## Wednesday Musings January 9, 2019

Happy New Year to one and all. Margot and I had a good trip out to Colorado, the only drawback was my catching a pretty bad cold while out there. On the mend now and hopefully will be completely better soon. Many thanks to Jamie Fonville who led worship last Sunday and also to Keith Miller who oversaw repair work to the lights in our sanctuary. You'll recall that on Turkey Day we held a cake auction to raise funds for lighting repair. It was difficult to get the "light people" on this, but because of Keith's persistence, things are much brighter, both in the choir loft and pulpit.

This coming Saturday we will gather in the sanctuary to take down our decorations. Meet at 9 am. Also, there were a number of unclaimed poinsettias this past Sunday. We will move those down to the Bray Hall on Saturday. Please help yourself to any that you would like or can use following worship. Before worship this Sunday there will be a meeting of the Official Board at 8:30. Then, during worship there will be a ceremony of baptismal renewal. As a part of this ceremony Eleanor Lovgren and I will be lightly sprinkling the congregation with water from pine boughs during the service with the words, "Remember your baptism and be glad." Sunday afternoon, the Rev. Eddie Weathers will be installed as our Association's Minister for Church Affairs at 3 pm at the Melfield UCC in Haw River. All are welcome to attend. Then, on Monday, Eddie will meet with members of both the interim and pastoral search committees to begin the process of seeking new pastoral leadership for the church in the future. Eddie is the Conference's placement officer for our association.

Next Wednesday we will be assembling our 2018 Annual Report. If you can lend a hand, stop by the church office any time after 10 am. Reports will be available to the congregation on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and remember to mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting following worship on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 27<sup>th</sup> will be my final service of worship before retirement. It should be a special celebration. Rev. Weathers will be on hand to participate in the service as well. Then, following the service, there will be a special, catered meal in the Bray Hall. You'll find reservation forms in our bulletins the next two Sundays. Or, if you'd prefer, you can just call the church office to let us know if you are coming. Because the meal is catered we need to know how many to anticipate.

Finally, you'll notice a picture of the Moravian Star at night in our sanctuary. The Little's let us borrow their star for our Advent/Christmas season. And on Sunday, Hellen said that the church can keep the star for future use. It really was a perfect accent to our decorations, especially during a season when we celebrated a Moravian Lovefeast. And thanks to Matt Rice for sharing his wonderful picture.

On the prayer concern front: Mary Menefee's sister and Benjie Terrell's aunt, Leona Terrell Chandler, passed away last week. In addition, Kevin May's sister and Mark Garrison's aunt also passed away during this same time frame. Lee Whitfield was transferred to the Burlington Hospice House this morning. His condition is critical as all of his systems have been shutting down. Harvey Sharpe has been fighting off a bronchial infection. And a bit of good news, Elsie's son, Stanley Haithcock, became a

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grandfather. His daughter gave birth on Tuesday. Both mother and child are doing well. In addition, please continue to keep in prayer, Nancy Thomas, Margaret Turner, Louise Walters, Donna Freeman and Anna Gerow.

This Sunday in worship we will be looking at Is. 43:1-7 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, the baptism of Jesus. Hope to see you there.

Mark

