



Dear Church Family,

The world was a dark and dangerous place, much like today, with tyrants and death. People lived in fear with little or no security. Most embraced hope for a better life and a brighter future, but with so much oppression how could it ever get better? Then those angels showed up! I like to think that the angels appeared to the temple shepherds, because those sheep were not going to be needed anymore!

Suddenly, hope was real! Life had a chance and things could get better. Maybe not on the outside every time, but peace could come on the inside in spite of the outside. When the Wise Men came they discovered the same thing. Peace had been born into the world and hope was the fare of the day. The world finally had a haven and an advocate.

Today, the world is torn and in ruin. America is torn and in spiritual ruin if no other way. We have lots of love though, because we love to hate! Never has retaliation been so rampant. Lawlessness reigns with no regard in some for "obeying the laws of man" (Titus 3:1). True love calls for a higher standard. Thanks be to God there is a better way. God's love conquers man's hate. We don't have to search like the Wise Men or wait like the shepherds. Christ has come. He is already here. We only have to open our hearts and peace will come right in. Everything is brighter with Christ. Jesus brings new life, love and forgiveness. He loves us and restores us and keeps us in relationship with the Father.

Advent and Christmas are another opportunity, another chance to get it right. That means leaving our own way and choosing His way. Embrace the love, peace, kindness, and hope that the Christ Child still brings. Celebrate with friends and family sharing God's great love with all. Let Christmas change you this year and leave you more like Jesus.

May it be the best ever and lest we forget....MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Grace and His peace,  
Pastor Ralph

## Note from Nichole

In just a few weeks our Children's ministry will perform the Christmas musical, *All About That Baby*. It's an endearing story that follows four playful sheep on a journey to meet the newborn Savior. There are no fancy sets or elaborate costumes, as this story takes place in a field some 2000 years ago. Instead there are sheep, shepherds, angels, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph, and a children's chorus full of grins and innocence. The message is clear, it's all about *That Baby*.

It really is all about That Baby. The Baby who grew into a Man sent to save us all from eternal separation from God. In our world of hustle and bustle, where more is better but better isn't good enough, many of us have lost sight of the simple message of Hope, Life, and Redemption found in Christ. What better time to reflect on this truth than at Christmastime?

*"For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6-7*

Jesus is our Prince of Peace. Our Wonderful, Mighty God. He is our Counselor regardless of what is on our shoulders. He is our Everlasting Father. The things of the world will come and go, but the love of Christ is everlasting. As we move from a season of thanks, into giving, into renewal, let us intentionally strip away the busyness, bulk, and burdens of our earthly world and place our focus Heavenward. Like those shepherds and wise men 2000 years ago, we too need to follow the Light of that Bethlehem star and remember that *It's All About That Baby*.

This Christmas and every day, may you feel the everlasting love and peace of Jesus Christ. Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

In His Love,

Dr. Nichole Huff  
Director of Children and Family Ministries

## Children & Youth

**Children & Youth Updates:** Weekly updates are sent to parents of Pathfinders, Youth PAC and Children. If you do not currently receive these or need them sent to a different or additional e-mail, contact [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) (Pathfinders), [nichole@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:nichole@nashvilleumc.net) (children) or [ps1powell@suddenlink.net](mailto:ps1powell@suddenlink.net) (Youth PAC).

**Pathfinders Winter Retreat 2017:** The retreat is January 13-16 @ Massanutten Resort. Sign-ups will begin the week after Thanksgiving. Space will be limited and reserved first for those who participated in the Boston Butt sale. Stay tuned for more information!

**Sunday School:** Build lasting friendships while exploring and learning strong Biblical teachings. In this group, you'll feel free to join in discussions of Bible topics and share your insights. High School meets in the Basement, Middle School meets upstairs in A201, and Children meet in the classrooms behind Braswell Hall at 10am every Sunday.

### **Preparing for The Children's Musical**

**Saturday, December 10 from 1:00-3:00pm:** Full rehearsal in Braswell Hall for all children participating in the Christmas Musical.

**Sunday, December 11 @ 10am and 6pm:** Children should report to Cockrell Hall during Children's Church. The first performance will begin at 10:00am. Children should return to Cockrell Hall at 5:15pm for the evening performance, which will begin at 6pm. We will not have youth activities on this night. Instead we encourage everyone to come out and support our children in the 2016 Children's Musical, *All About That Baby*.

### **Christmas Parties**

**Gingerbread House Party:** We hope you'll plan to join us on December 18 from 3:30pm - 5:00pm for our second annual Gingerbread House Party! We are partnering with Candy Cottage again this year for each family to purchase their very own reusable "gingerbread house" that is theirs to keep. Cost per family is \$10 if you already own a Candy Cottage, and \$30 if you need one. This is a fun-filled family event, so sign up online by December 11 to reserve your spot. We'll supply the icing, candy, decorations, and refreshments! And tons of Christmas Cheer! More information and a link to register can be found online.

**Youth PAC:** Meet in Cockrell Hall from 5-7:30. Bring a wrapped ornament and appetizer or dessert to share for our annual Christmas Party and Dirty Santa.

**Pathfinders:** Look tacky, sing some carols, and be completely silly – if you do all these, you will fit in just fine. We we celebrate and have one last time together for the year on December 4 at 4pm in the basement. Bring your coat for a chilly hay ride in downtown Nashville! Students should bring a gift of \$10 or less for White Elephant gift exchange along with \$5 to help with the cost of food and beverages.

## Events & Announcements

**Attention Parents:** In partnership with Nashville Elementary School, your family is invited to experience an evening filled with entertainment and motivation for learning on Monday, December 5, with Mr. Larry Bell. Bell, the author of *UNRAAVEL* and *The 12 Powerful Words* is a Citadel graduate and a 30+ year veteran in education. He is a dynamic and entertaining speaker who has worked with hundreds of schools across the nation sharing his strategies with educators, administrators, and parents helping them increase their students' achievement. This is a family-friendly presentation. Nursery is provided for children under 4 years old. The event is FREE but seating is limited. You must RSVP by December 1. Pizza will be served from 5-6pm and Mr. Bell will present from 6-7:30pm.

**Costa Rica:** **It's not too late to attend the** Costa Rica Team for their mission trip on January 19-30. They will be working on construction as the Fuente de Gracia church expands. If you are interested in going, either the entire week or just part of the week, contact Reid Hildreth at 373-1131 or Dennis Coggins at 908-4033.

**Outreach Opportunity:** Our ladies are joining together on the 2nd Saturday of each month to support La Estrella Mission Outreach by serving lunch. Help out by donating menu items and/or help serve lunch at La Estrella in Stanhope. Contact Meredith Luper at 252-382-7429 for more information.

**Methodist Men's Breakfast:** All men are invited on December 11 at 7:30am in Cockrell Hall for great food, fellowship and a short meeting to discuss upcoming ministry events.

**Men's Bible Class Christmas Party:** Our Men's Bible Class will be having their Christmas Party at 6:30pm on Friday, December 2 in Cockrell Hall. This is a joyful celebration that the class looks forward to all year!

**Children's Musical:** Invite your friends and family to our Children's Christmas Musical, *All About That Baby*, on Sunday, December 11. We'll have a performance at 10:00am and an Encore Performance at 6:00pm.

**Weekday School Christmas Program:** The Church family is invited to the Weekday School Children's Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 14 at 7pm in Braswell Hall. A reception with cookies and punch will follow in Cockrell Hall. Support our WDS by helping supply the goodies. Sign up in the Gathering Area or call Denise Calloway 459-7636.

**Christmas Cantata:** The NUMC Chancel Choir is will present a Christmas Cantata, *Go Sing it on the Mountain*, on December 18 at the 11:00 service. Come hear our choir sing your favorite hymns and some new ones!

**Angel Tree:** Our Angel Tree gifts will go to the children of La Estrella. Tags with gift requests are available in the Gathering Area. Select a tag and return gifts by Sunday, December 11. Everyone is invited to the La Estrella Christmas Celebration in Stanhope on December 17 at 6:00pm.

## Events & Announcements

**Christmas Eve:** Join us for our Christmas Eve services on Thursday, December 24. We'll have a family friendly service at 5:00pm in Braswell Hall and our traditional service at 8:00pm in the Sanctuary. Our Conference Christmas Offering will go towards Hurricane Matthew relief.

**Christmas Day Combined Service:** We're blessed to have the opportunity to worship on Christmas Day this year. We will have a combined service on the 25th at 10am in the Sanctuary. In respect for our volunteers, we will not offer children's or youth Sunday School. Adult classes can make a determination if they would like to meet as usual.

**ASP Sponsorships:** Everyone can support our 2017 ASP team through tax deductible sponsorships. Gifts can be made through the church offering, online by visiting the NUMC website [www.NashvilleUMC.net/give.shtml](http://www.NashvilleUMC.net/give.shtml), or mailed to NUMC, PO Box 86, Nashville, NC 27856. With a sponsorship of \$50 or more you will receive a 2017 T-Shirt. Just indicate your t-shirt size with your donation. If you have any questions about ASP, contact Lewis Smith, at 252-903-9848 or [eatnsnake4u@gmail.com](mailto:eatnsnake4u@gmail.com).

**Library:** Please check out the new DVD's recently received by the church library. The bookcase in the Gathering Area features many new DVD's including "Gods Not Dead, Coat of many Colors, Return to the Hiding Place, Unbroken and Risen. There are many other uplifting books in the library for all ages. Come in and browse.

### prayers

Do you have a prayer request or want to pray for those in need? Join our **Prayer Chain**.

Contact our office at 459-7178 or [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) to be added to the e-mail or phone distribution list.

Send prayer request to [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) or call 252-459-7178. Join our Prayer Warriors on Tuesday mornings at 7:00am in the Parlor for Prayers with the Pastor. They'll be praying for our community, country and all known prayer requests in the church.

### stay connected

Get schedules for Children, Youth and Adults at our Information Centers located at both entrances.

You will also find brochures on various ministry groups, Church Council Minutes and more.

Save a tree and postage costs by receiving your newsletter via e-mail or view the newsletter anytime at [www.NashvilleUMC.net/newsletter](http://www.NashvilleUMC.net/newsletter).



Nashville United Methodist Church  
Children at Nashville UMC



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# Facts & Figures

## Attendance

### Year-to-Date Averages

Contemporary: 252 Traditional: 91

Thursday Nights: 56

Sunday Night Youth Worship: 52

Average of all Services: 443

Includes combined  
and special services.

Contact the church office  
about getting your newsletter  
by e-mail or on the webpage.

Also, get prayer requests  
on our prayer chain.

E-mail [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net)  
to get on either or both  
distribution list.

## Love Offering

Christmas is a time to show appreciation to our church staff  
for the fine work they do each day for ministries at NUMC.

The Staff-Parish Relations Team asks that you consider showing your love and  
support of the staff by contributing to a love offering.

Please designate your donation to "Staff Christmas Love Offering"  
and submit by December 14.

## Weekly Events

### Sunday

- 8:30am Contemporary Worship
- 9:30am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Worship
- 6:00pm Small Group : Bus Garage

### Monday

- 7:00am WICK Emmaus : Hardee's
- 7:00pm Bells of Praise : Bell Room

### Tuesday

- 7:00am Prayers with the Pastor : Parlor
- 8:30am Men's Bible Study : Bus Garage
- 6:30pm Disciple III : Library
- 7:00pm Praise & Worship Band Practice
- 7:00pm AA : Bus Garage

### Wednesday

- 6:15am Youth Bible Study : Sheetz
- 6:30pm Choir Practice : Choir Room
- 7:00pm Rockfish Practice : Braswell Hall
- 8:00pm NA : Bus Garage
- 8:00pm NarAnon : Cockrell Hall

### Thursday

- 6:30pm Praise & Worship

### Saturday

- 10:00am La Estrella Ministry  
4118 W Hwy 97, Stanhope

### Do You Have an Announcements or Event?

Changes or additions to the bulletin and requests for Sunday morning announcements should be sent to the church office by Mondays at noon.

Newsletter deadline is the 10th. Visit the website under About Us for more info on submitting news, scheduling events and reserving rooms.

## Special Dates

Dec. 1 & 5 - Compassion Café

11:00am : Bus Garage

Dec. 2 - Men's Bible Class Christmas Party

6:30pm : Cockrell Hall

Dec. 4 - Full Children's Play Practice

5:00pm : Braswell Hall

Youth PAC & Pathfinders Parties

Cockrell Hall & Basement

Dec. 5 - Larry Bell Parent Event

5:00pm : Braswell Hall

Dec. 10 - Children's Play Practice

1:00pm : Braswell Hall

Dec. 11 - Methodist Men's Breakfast

7:30am : Cockrell Hall

Children's Play

10:00am & 6:00pm : Braswell Hall

Stephen Ministry

5:00pm : Men's Bible Class

Dec. 14 - Weekday School Program

7:00pm : Braswell Hall

Dec. 18 - Cantata, 11am : Sanctuary

Gingerbread Making Family Party

3:30pm : Braswell Hall

## Christmas Services

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm : Braswell Hall (Family Friendly)

8:00pm : Sanctuary (Traditional)

Dec. 25 - Combined Worship

10:00am : Sanctuary

### Team Meetings:

Dec. 6 Trustees, 7:00pm : Parlor

Dec. 20 WDS, 6:00pm : Chapel

Finance, 7:00pm : Parlor

## **Staff**

**Senior Pastor:** Ralph A. Brown

**Associate Pastor:** Luke Whitehead

**Director of Children & Family Ministries :** Dr. Nichole Huff

**Director of Welcoming Ministries:** Wayne Lamm

**Receptionist:** Jackie Swindell

**Administrative Assistant:** Dana Nehercutt

**Bookkeeper:** Dot Binkley

**Minister of Music & Worship:** Gary Rapp

**Contemporary Worship Leader:** Joanna Hale

**Thursday Night Praise & Worship Leader:** Kevin Shaw

**Minister of Visitation:** Jim Boehm

**Organist and Membership Secretary:** Ellen Ward

**Weekday School/Kidspace Director:** Denise Calloway

## **Connect:**

**E-mail:** [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net)

**Website:** [www.NashvilleUMC.net](http://www.NashvilleUMC.net)

**Phone:** 252-459-7178 (office) 252-459-7636 (Weekday School)



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209 E. Washington St.  
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Nashville, NC 27856

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