

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 2/3 First Friday– 11 am
- 2/4 Habitat for Humanity Workday
- 2/5 Hospitality guests arrive  
Souper Bowl of Caring  
Super Bowl Parties– Sojourners, Youth, Singles– various locations
- 2/9 Senior Adult Rally– Wrightsboro Baptist
- 2/12 Valentine’s Banquet– 6 pm– Gym
- 2/17 Children’s Museum Trip– 3:30 pm
- 2/17-2/20 Ski Trip
- 2/21 Deacon’s Meeting– 6:30 pm– Seekers
- 2/26 Child/Youth Volunteer Mtg– 9:45 am– Sanctuary  
Couple’s Group– 6 pm– Youth Building
- 2/29 Child/Youth Volunteer Mtg– 5 pm– Gym
- 3/1 Lifeline Screenings– 8 am-5 pm– Youth Building
- 3/2 First Friday– 11 am
- 3/3 Habitat for Humanity Workday  
Pinewood Derby– 8:30 am
- 3/4 New Believer’s Class for Children begins

**REGULAR SCHEDULE:**

- Sundays– 8:30 am Connect Worship  
10 am Sunday School  
11 am Traditional Worship  
5 pm Youth Small Groups  
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- Tuesdays– 6:30 pm Yoga Class– Issues Room
- Wednesdays– 2-6 pm Library Open  
5 pm Dinner  
5:30 pm Youth Band Rehearsal  
5:30 pm Instrumental Rehearsal  
6 pm Praise Team Rehearsal  
6 pm Child/Youth/Adult Studies  
7 pm Worship Choir Rehearsal
- Thursdays– 6 pm Connect Rehearsal

*Please contact the church office to find out if a space you need to use is available when you plan to use it.*

**STEWARDSHIP**

Tithes and Offerings:		
<u>Needed on budget weekly</u>		\$10,550.00
<u>Received on budget</u>	12/25/11	\$16,489.00
<u>Needed on budget weekly</u>	“2012”	\$10,542.00
	1/01/12	\$8,196.50
	1/09/12	\$11,438.41
	1/15/12	\$8,233.50
	1/22/12	\$11,200.00
<u>Received on Building Fund</u>	12/25/11	\$22,036.00
	1/01/12	\$505.00
	1/09/12	\$1,605.00
	1/15/12	\$344.00
	1/22/12	\$424.00
<u>Building Relief Fund</u>	To date	\$50,385.35

**ATTENDANCE**

	Sunday School	Worship
<b>1/25/11</b>	NA	138
<b>1/1/12</b>	149	197
<b>1/8/12</b>	210	311
<b>1/15/12</b>	184	299
<b>1/22/12</b>	185	262

**SUPERBOWL PARTIES:** Sunday, Feb. 5

**Sojourner’s Class:** Contact Judi (395-9991)  
**Youth Group:** Contact Jonathan (777-9515)  
**Single Adults (working age):** Contact Larry (655-3552)



Our annual **Adult Valentine’s Banquet** will be Feb. 12 at 6 pm in the Gym. Childcare is provided at no additional charge. Cost is \$10.50/person. Please make your reservation by February 5.

**MASONBORO SOUNDS**

*Gordon Wright, Jr., Senior Minister  
 Larry Knowles, Associate Minister  
 Jonathan Hale, Minister of Youth  
 Brenda Flowers, Minister of Music  
 Shirley Womble, Minister of Children & Families  
 Sheryl Hartwell, Director of Noah’s Ark*



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Dear Friends:

This past Thursday, January 26, the next phase of our “Future Story” began. Karen Blazek, Cailey Kosh, Brad Kornegay, Carrilee Monroe, Jimmy Moore, David Walters, Jinks Whittington, Judi Wright and members of the church staff met with George Bullard. After voting to embrace the theme “Inviting and Assimilating,” we took a break to celebrate Christmas. With the Spirit’s help, the next phase begins for planning to become a church that is intentionally attractive and winsome in the way that it welcomes guests while also being deliberate about not just “dunking and dropping.” Assimilation involves helping newcomers find a place to belong, grow and serve. This will be quite a challenge requiring the best effort and creativity from all of us.

I don’t have to tell you that many modern trends hinder active church involvement. Here are a few that are mentioned in *The Other 80 Percent: Turning Your Church’s Spectators into Active Participants* by Scott Thumma & Warren Bird. Many are already obvious to you.

Church is not the center of community life anymore. Because families are so scattered, church is no longer the place where multiple generations of the family worship and serve for a lifetime. Travel to visit relatives affects regular church involvement.

The line of denominational distinctiveness has been blurred making people more willing to move to other brands of faith. Since loyalty to a brand is out, people are more willing to switch churches frequently when something does not suit them. Relational depth of the person and church suffers.

Increasing individualism in everything from custom fit clothing to beds with two settings means that we are accustomed to getting just what we want. When personal wants are primary over consideration of the give and take required for living in community many perpetually church shop or drop out completely.

Sacred time is non-existent. The Sunday 11 o’clock hour faces competition from family time, travel, work, sports, etc. and loses more often than not.

Modern people are less inclined to join civic organizations—church included. In general face to face social connectedness is trending downward.

Thumma & Bird say that churches contribute to the trend of non-attendance and dropouts by emphasizing membership over committed discipleship, prizing numbers over attending to the spiritual health of individual believers, being content with one hour a week rather than 24-7 Christians and our failure to treat spiritual growth as a lifetime task.

We have a tough and exciting job ahead and are working against significant cultural barriers. Keep listening to the Good Shepherd on Masonboro’s behalf.

Grace and Peace, Gordon

**Summer Camp  
Options for Children:**



Children's Ministry

**Mother-Daughter Camp**— for girls who will have completed 1st-6th grades and their moms. June 18-20 at Camp Mundo Vista. \$145 for 1 mom/daughter or \$185 for 1 mom/2 daughters. Deposit of \$25 is due February 5 and the balance is due March 18.

**Father-Son Camp**— for boys who will have completed K-5th grade and their dads. July 5-7 at Camp Caraway. \$106 per person. Deposit of \$25/person is due by February 5 and the balance is due March 18.

**Student Life for Kids Camp:** Current 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders are reminded to sign up for camp July 21-24 **ASAP**. Camp will be in Toccoa, Georgia and is \$269/person. Deposits of \$65 per person are past due and the balance will be due March 18. Fundraisers will begin soon.

**Volunteers Needed:** Interfaith guests arrive Sunday, Feb. 5th. There are many opportunities for people of all ages and/or families to help with this valuable ministry. A sign-up sheet is located on the board across from the ladies' restroom or you may call Sheryl Hartwell at 350-3515 or the church office.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT:** All women are invited to attend the Women of Joy Conference in **Myrtle Beach May 4-6**. The Group Rate for the conference is \$89/person. Please sign up on the bulletin board and make a \$25 deposit by February 5. Visit [womenofjoy.org](http://womenofjoy.org) to learn more.



Noah's Ark has had a quiet beginning to the new year. We have been learning about winter and all types of arctic animals. February brings learning about healthy habits, especially dental health and good food choices. We also look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with our friends and loved ones.

Happy "Love" Month,  
Sheryl, Carrie, and Betty

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

We extend our sincere sympathies to the following who have lost loved ones:

- Carole Whipp, who lost her mother.
- Grady & Carolyn Windham, who lost his sister.

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Plans are underway to create a new pictorial directory for our congregation. A current directory helps us to stay connected with one another and build relationships with newer people. More information will be coming soon!

**CELEBRATIONS**

**New Members:** We welcome Jacob and Lindsey Garner to our fellowship. The Garners joined on January 22 and are awaiting baptism.



**New Baby:** Alexander Glenn Tew was born to Glenn and Leslie Tew on January 12. Conner Tew is Alexander's big brother.

**Newlyweds:** Congratulations are extended to Jonathan and Ashley Hale who were married on January 6.

Over the past several weeks and into February as well, our church's sermon series, adult Sunday school series, and high school youth ministry series has focused on the Book of James. In this book, all Christians are challenged to live out their faith, demonstrating it with their actions and their love toward their neighbor (which is, of course, everyone around us). This month, as we celebrate love, especially on Feb. 14th, let us remember to not only love our family and friends who are easy to love, but also those with whom we come into contact during the week who may not be easy to love and who may not be able to show any reciprocation for the action of love we demonstrate to them. May we ALL demonstrate our faith with our actions in loving ALL around us!



**February Opportunities:**

- **Feb. 5:** SOUPer Bowl of Caring collection for Nourish NC. Please bring cans of soup and/or cash donations.
- **Feb. 5:** \$50 deposits due for youth mission trip to Charleston, SC.
- **Feb. 5:** SOUPer Bowl Party for youth (and their parents, if they wish) at the home of Jonathan and Ashley Hale. Invitations with directions are available on the youth ministry table. Soup/Dips will be provided. Please bring tortilla chips or a drink. Party begins at 6pm.
- **Feb. 8:** Mission project to Good Shepherd Center from 6:00-8:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTICE THE TIME DIFFERENCE. We will be doing a Valentine's Day party for the residents.
- **Feb. 17-20:** Ski Trip to Snowshoe, WV! All youth going should see Gordon for your to-bring lists and details.

**Music Notes...The Words We Sing**

*"A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal."*

In the *Companion to the Baptist Hymnal*, William J. Reynold calls this hymn "the greatest hymn of the greatest man of the greatest period of German history." If Martin Luther had written this hymn back in Old Testament days, he might have used the word refuge instead of bulwark. Psalm 46:1 tells us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Bulwark means a hedge of protection; a fortification. It's also a nautical term, referring to a solid wall around the main deck of a ship for the protection of persons or objects on the deck.

In today's modern song lyrics we don't often hear the word "bulwark," but the sound of the word still has a way of signifying the enormous strength that our God possesses.

God bless, Brenda

**OUR KNOWN SICK & SHUT-INS**

**At Home:** Doris Wood, Carolyn Davis, Claude Ellison, Doris Farrow, Marie Frazier, Morris Mahn, Gary Skipper, Bernice Walton, Phyllis Boyd, Lena Rogers, Doris Holland, Tim Turner, Blanche Ambrose

**Hospice Care:** Dot Farrow and Howard Pepper (at home)

**The Woods at Holly Tree:** John De Chesere, Geraldine McGinnis, Lucille Andrews

**Brunswick Cove:** Helen Traister

**Autumn Care:** Brian King, Dot Chauncey

**Pacifica Senior Living:** Alton LeRay

**Wake Forest Nursing Home:** Doris Walton