

NEWSLESTER

Lester Memorial
United Methodist Church
Post Office Box 626
Oneonta, Alabama 35121
(205) 625-5681
www.lester-memorial.org

Rhonda Teal, Editor
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MINISTRY TEAM AND STAFF

BARRY HALLMAN
PASTOR

ANDREW GAMBLIN
YOUTH MINISTER

TYLER WOODHAM
MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

RHONDA TINNEY
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

ELAINE GARGUS
SECRETARY

PATRICIA HARVEY
BOOKKEEPER

BEVERLY ELLIS
MUSIC DIRECTOR

MARTHA BURDETTE
ORGANIST

LORI MCKOY
PRAISINGER DIRECTOR

SONNY TOLBERT
CHURCH HOST

ROGER WESTERMAN
MAINTENANCE

MONICA GREEN
DAY CARE DIRECTOR

DONNA SELF
KINDERGARTEN DIRECTOR

JENNIFER SANFORD
NURSERY ATTENDANT

Better from our Pastor

John Beukema shares the following story:

A little girl came home from Sunday school waving a paper for her mother to see. "Look Mommy," she exclaimed, "Teacher says I drew the most unusual Christmas picture she ever saw! Her mother took one look and had to agree with the teacher. Hoping her daughter could explain her creation, the mother asked, "Why are all these people riding in the back of an airplane?"

"Well, Mommy, that's the flight into Egypt."

Accepting that, mother asked another question: "Who is this mean-looking man in the front?" Her daughter answered quickly and knowingly: "That's Pontius, the Pilot."

Looking at the picture even more closely, the mother said, "I see you have Mary and Joseph and the baby. But who is this large man sitting behind Mary?"

"Can't you tell?" the little girl asked, beginning to shake her head in disappointment. "That's Round John Virgin."

Children often give us humorous interpretations of many of our well known stories. It would be helpful if we could all read the old, old stories with the freshness and innocence of a child. Otherwise we run the risk of missing the impact of what really happened. Take the birth of Jesus narrative for example. We adults, because we have read and heard the story over and over, sometimes pass by the significance of God becoming human. If we had come to the manger this year with the freshness and innocence of a child we might have been captivated by the wonder of God entering human history to save us from our personal failures (*who knows, we might even have found Round John Virgin*). What more could God do to communicate His love to us? The story of Christmas is the story of how **God so loved the world that He gave his only Son...** I know I know Christmas Day is over. However the coming of Jesus to save us is never over. I pray that during this New Year we will be captivated by God's story with the freshness and innocence of a child. Remember, GOD LOVES YOU! And, so do I.

Barry

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2012 was a great success. We received 92 commitments for a total of \$570,776.00. This represents an increase from 73 commitments and \$421,000.00 for 2011.

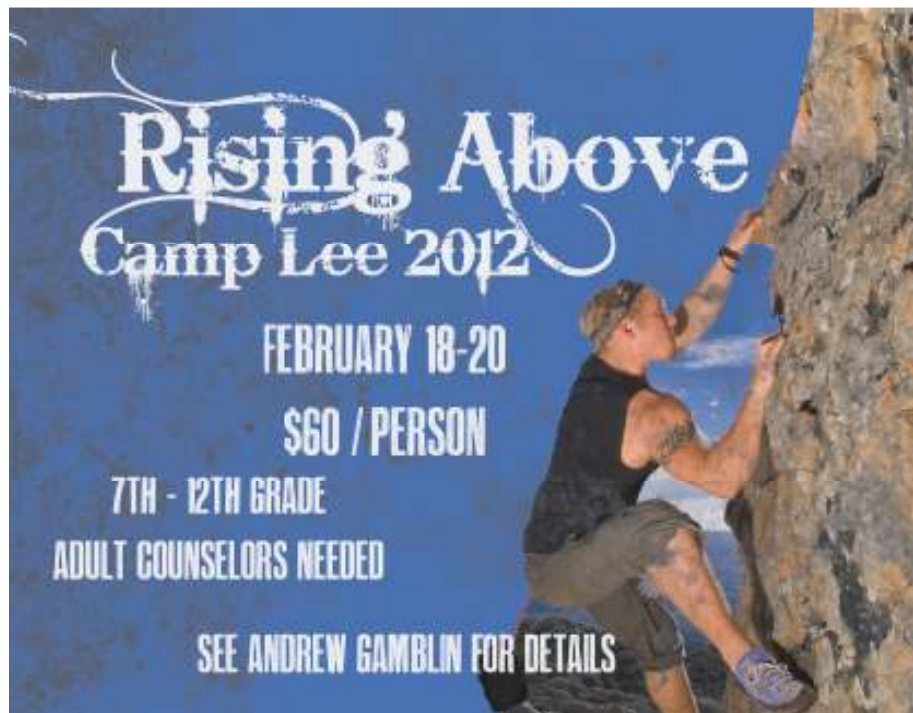
Thanks for your faithful support of the ministries of LMUMC.



New Members

Jimmy Lanier, Keith Michaels, Angela Michaels,
Jacob McGhee, Christopher McGhee.

All joined by Profession of Faith.



how much Jesus loves them . . .

It was another blessed year for Lester Memorial as a Relay Center for Operation Christmas Child, with a grand total of 1,769 shoeboxes received from individuals and churches around the community. That's 1,769 smiles, 1,769 squeals of delight, and 1,769 opportunities for children to be shown in a tangible way how much we love them and, most importantly, how much Jesus loves them. On Nov. 20 our boxes were transported to Mountain Brook Community Church, where a team of 12 Lester-lings worked with teams from other churches to sort and pack the small boxes into large ones. These boxes were then labeled and loaded onto a truck to be taken to Atlanta, but not before they were given a proper send off, as volunteers prayed over them, asking God to use each one as a blessing for His children. It was a day of fun and success. Packing tape flew, laughter abounded, and everyone was able to put their jigsaw puzzle skills to good use trying to figure out how to fit the most shoeboxes into one big box. Thank you, to everyone at Lester Memorial and beyond for their help with this ever-important mission! We give boxes, but through the love of God, we hope these children will receive so much more.

Written by Abby Townson

Abby Townson Graduates

Abby Townson graduated magna cum laude from Auburn University on Monday, December 12, 2011. She received a Liberal Arts degree in Journalism, with a minor in English. While at Auburn, Abby wrote articles for the school newspaper, *The Plainsman*, and for *Auburn Magazine*, the university's alumni magazine where she worked part time as a student editor for two semesters, and completed her Journalism internship there during the fall.

Abby is the daughter of Rick and Lynn Townson.



Official Firefighter/Paramedic

Dalton Teal graduated from the EMT Paramedic program at Wallace State in May. He successfully completed 360 hours of training with Alabama Fire College in Fort Payne for Firefighter I & II. He received his badge in a ceremony November 11, 2011.

He has been working full time at the Oneonta Fire Department since January 2011. Dalton is the son of Albert and Rhonda Teal and brother to Zach Teal.



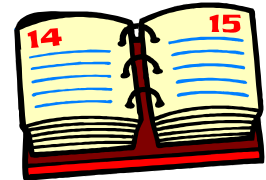
2012 CALENDARS ON SALE

AT THE CHURCH OFFICE \$10.00

to raise support for the Philippines trip this summer.

You can call the church office

at 625-5681 to purchase yours today!



BUS SCHEDULE

Transportation to Wednesday night supper/bible studies will be provided.

Jan 8	David Wilson	274-2478/Cell 625-8266
Jan 15	Scott Fendley	274-2438/Cell 438-0649
Jan 22	Neal Brooks	274-7203/Cell 559-2639
Jan 29	Joe Hastings	625-6052/Cell 446-0938
Feb 5	Russell Smith	625-5901/Cell 422-1692
Feb 12	Albert Teal	625-5063/Cell 353-8356



Christmas program

DVDs

now on sale.

DVDs - \$10.00 each

Call McRae Smith

at the church office

625-5681 or email

smith.mcrae@gmail.com



**January Memorials/Honors
November 18 – December 18**

IN MEMORY OF

Robert & Melita Kiley	Sue Cary
Diane Collier & Family	Smiley D. Veal
Jack & Peggy Bains	
Darlene F. Patton	

IN HONOR OF

Beverly Ellis	Bro. Barry & Cindy Hallman
James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)	James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)
Henry & Wilda Auth	Bro. Ed Self
James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)	James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)
Joe & Syble Brindley	Bro. Bert & Ella Goodwin
James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)	James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)
McRae Smith	Patricia Harvey
James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)	James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)
Elaine Gargus	The Boissel Family
James & Mildred Williams (United Methodist Children's Home)	David Lee (United Methodist Children's Home)
Lud & Chris Elsen	Bro. Bert & Ella Goodwin
David Lee (United Methodist Children's Home)	Jim & Jan Bess (United Methodist Children's Home)
Wendell & Celia Ellis	Darlene F. Patton
Jubilee Sunday School Class (United Methodist Children's Home)	Jim & Jan Bess
Dan & Darlene Driggers & Family	Sue B. Hunt
Darlene F. Patton	Nora Jernigan
The Bains Family	Darlene F. Patton
Darlene F. Patton	

*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night will never cease.*

Genesis 8:22

January Birthdays

- 2 Luke Bentley
- 4 Andrew Kelly
- 5 Forrest Cheney
Vernell Starkey
Henry Auth
- 6 Judy White
Janet Bailey
Judy Pinson
- 7 Sean White
- 8 Joe Hastings
Bob Bentley
Diane Housch
Annie Perrin Grisham
- 9 Lud Elsen
Andrew Gamblin
- 11 Tim Thomas
- 12 Lou Fuller
- 14 Mary Wallace
- 15 Joe Tipton
Mike Hicks
- 16 Jacob Patterson
- 17 Frances Barnett
Grace Ann Moody
- 19 John Hendrix
- 20 Jeff Goode
Bill Massey
- 21 Jim Littleton
- 22 Keith Bailey
- 24 Patsy Kendrick
Kristi Brooks
- 27 Rachel King
Cindy Lyle
- 28 Kevin Roddam
Ramona Brewer
Juanita Ryan
- 30 Jerry Cornelius

If your birthday or one for a family member is not on this list and should be or is incorrect, please contact the church office at 625-5681.

Many thanks for the cards, letters, gifts, and other expressions of Christmas joy during the Holy season.

My prayer for all of you is that you will have a Blessed and Happy New Year.

Bro. Ed

Aggie's Arts

Handcrafted jewelry with beads made from recycled paper in Kampala, Uganda. 100% of sales are used to buy more jewelry from this group of 17 women which helps them have a dependable, steady income and to fund an education assistance program called Kisoro Kids.

Jewelry available for purchase at our church office.

To schedule a program or for more information contact:

Cindy Hastings
205-625-6052 home or 205-446-0934 cell
cshastings@hotmail.com



JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall ASP Pancake Breakfast 8:30 a.m.	2 Church Offices Closed	3 1:30 p.m. UMW Conference Room	4 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice Sanctuary	5	6	7
8 Sunday Schedule Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. REFUGE 7:00 p.m. Band Practice	9 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Conference Room 6:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery Conference Room	10	11 4:30 p.m. Student Leaders 5:15 p.m.-supper 6:00 p.m. The Points-Youth Bible Studies Adult Small Groups Children's Programs 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir EMBERS	12	13 	14 
15 7:00 a.m. UM Men's Prayer Breakfast Sunday Schedule  5:30 p.m. REFUGE 7:00 p.m. Band Practice	16 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Conference Room 6:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery Conference Room	17 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Gathering Fellowship Hall	18 4:30 p.m. Student Leaders 5:15 p.m.-supper 6:00 p.m. The Points-Youth Bible Studies Adult Small Groups Children's Programs 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir EMBERS	19 10:00 a.m. Low Vision Fellowship Hall	20	21
22 Sunday Schedule 5:30 p.m. REFUGE 7:00 p.m. Band Practice	23 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Conference Room Blount County Methodist Club Antioch UMC 6:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall	24	25 4:30 p.m. Student Leaders 5:15 p.m.-supper 6:00 p.m. The Points-Youth Bible Studies Adult Small Groups Children's Programs 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir EMBERS	26 11:30 a.m. Young @ Heart Fellowship Hall Emmaus Cluster Meeting 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall	27	28
29 Sunday Schedule 5:30 p.m. REFUGE (Awards Dinner)	30 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Conference Room Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall	31				



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U.S. POSTAGE
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**GIRLS
RETREAT**

JANUARY 13-15
\$25/PERSON
7TH - 12TH GRADE GIRLS

**CONTACT LILA GAMBLIN
OR
BEVERLY ANDERSON FOR DETAILS**