

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2008
WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE/HOLY COMMUNION
MORNING WORSHIP ELEVEN O'CLOCK

*"On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and myrrh."
Matthew 2:11*

Prelude "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

The Light Enters

Greetings and Concerns of the Congregation

(Please join in THE RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP by signing and passing to your neighbor the attendance registration pad.)

*Hymn of Praise "Go, Tell It On The Mountain" No. 251

*The Apostles' Creed No. 881

*The Gloria Patri No. 70

The Children's Story Keith Smith

The Sacrament Of Infant Baptism: **HAYDEN THOMAS BELK** No. 39

The Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

The Giving of God's Tithes and Offering

Offertory "He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising"

*Doxology No. 94

Anthem "A Covenant Prayer" Patsy Riddle, Soloist

Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon "OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD" Dr. Fowler

The John Wesley Covenant Service/The Sacrament Of Holy Communion

*Hymn "We Three Kings" No. 254

*Benediction

*The Light Departs

*Go Forth To Serve

*Please stand, as you are able.

WELCOME to all who are worshipping with us today and especially our guests. Please sign the attendance registration pad and pass it to your neighbor.

The ministers, staff and congregation extend their deepest sympathy and sincere Christian love to the **WILLIAM (BILL) CHRISTOPHER CRANFORD FAMILY** and to **JANE CAMERON** on the death of her husband, **DANIEL ROSS CAMERON**.

Returned to Shaire Center: BEULAH WOOD

Recently Hospitalized: DON BAKER

SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITIES THIS WEEK:

Acolytes

Greeters

Nursery

Sound Technician

First Responder

Jonathan Greene, Forrest Bartlett

UMW Afternoon Circle

Larry and Nickki Absher, Edward and Susan Terry

Buddy Anderson

Fred and Bobby Fulmer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 6

8:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil –
Prayer Room

8:45 a.m. First Light Service – CLC

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

4:00 p.m. Education Meeting –
Conference Room

4:00 p.m. SS Leaders Meeting – Meeting
Room

5:30 p.m. Planning Meeting for new SS
Class – Meeting Room

6:00 p.m. Youth

(Summit money due)

7:30 p.m. First Flame Rehearsal

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Staples
Center

4:30 p.m. Celestial Choir

5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting – Conference
Room

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts – Scout Hall

7:00 p.m. Disciple III Study

Wednesday, January 9

12:15 p.m. Staff Meeting

3:00 p.m. Music Makers

5:30 p.m. Faith Lift

6:00 p.m. Chancel Ringers

6:15 p.m. Bible Study –
Staples Center

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Monday, January 7

12:00 Faith Link

Announcements Due

Faith Lift Reservations Due

12:15 p.m. First Lift Meeting

7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts – Scout Hall

Thursday, January 10

9:30 a.m. Beth Moore Bible Study

2-5 p.m. Trash & Treasures Receiving

Sunday, January 13

6:00 p.m. Youth

7:30 p.m. First Flame Rehearsal

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA**

CHURCH PHONES: 754-4922 or 754-4544

Dr. John W. Fowler - Senior Minister
Rev. Marietta T. Smith – Associate Minister

Keith Smith - Music Director

Aaron Horn - Youth Director

WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

INVITATION

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.
Christ has many services to be done.
Some are more easy and honorable,
others are more difficult and disgraceful.
Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,
others are contrary to both.
In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.
But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
It is necessary, therefore,
that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.
Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**Let me be your servant, under your command.
I will no longer be my own.
I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

**Lord, make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants.
He is the source of all salvation to those who obey.
Christ will have no servants except by consent;
Christ will not accept anything except full consent
to all that he requires.
Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.
Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:
First, set apart some time, more than once,
to be spent alone before the Lord;
in seeking earnestly God's special assistance
and gracious acceptance of you;
in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant;
in searching your hearts
whether you have already freely given your life to Christ.
Consider what your sins are.
Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are,
and whether you, after having carefully considered them,
are willing to choose them all.
Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant,
rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength,
so you can keep your promise.
Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful.
You have given to the Lord your hearts,
you have opened your mouths to the Lord,
and you have dedicated yourself to God.
With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.

Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven,
open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

The people kneel or bow.

**O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
see me as I fall down before you.
Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will,
for you have promised mercy to me
if I turn to you with my whole heart.**

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all,
covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life.
Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world.
In your power
I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you.
For my own righteousness is riddled with sin,
unable to stand before you.**

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again
if you would let him.

**Before all heaven and earth,
I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God.
I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion,
and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant,
to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ
as the only way and means of coming to God.

**Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ
as the only new and living Way,
and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him.
O blessed Jesus, I come to you,
hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked,
unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants.
I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head.
I renounce my own worthiness,
and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness.
I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide.
I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.**

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**I do here covenant with you, O Christ,
to take my lot with you as it may fall.**

**Through your grace I promise
that neither life nor death shall part me from you.**

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden.
All your laws are holy, just, and good.
I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions,
promising that I will strive
to order my whole life according to your direction,
and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

**O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today
without guile or reservation.
If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright.
And now, glory be to you, O God the Father,**

whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father.
Glory be to you, O God the Son,
who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood,
and now is my Savior and Redeemer.
Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit,
who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.
O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you have now become my Covenant Friend.
And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant.
So be it.
And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven.
Amen.