

**2020  
Administrative  
Board**



**2019 CHURCH  
OUTREACH GIFTING  
SUMMARY**



**WORSHIP SERVICE  
TIME CHANGE  
BEGINNING 01/05/20**

**MESSAGE  
FROM  
MARCUS**

## LAKE TOXAWAY

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#### 2020 Administrative Board

The Church has once again been blessed by having volunteers step forward to serve on the Administrative Board. As always, all members are invited to attend Board meetings.

**Council Chair**.....Tom Blackstock

**Secretary**.....Beth Holiman

**Treasurer**.....Andy Harvill

**Asst. Treasurer**.....Don McSwain

**Nominating Committee:**

Marcus Dodson, Chair

Judy Brubaker

Kay Blackstock

Lay leaders

**Board Members at Large:**

Judy Lefler

Doug Bailey

Chip Brown

John McColskey

**Trustees:**

John Holbrook, Chair

Don Guffey

Carole Guffey

Barb Kline

Sue Hester

Bob Fussell

George Bagwell

**Finance Committee:**

John Shoemaker, Chair

Chip Brown

Don Guffey

**Staff Parish:**

John Lefler, Chair

Paula Markert

Susan Bagwell

Becky Shoemaker

**Outreach Committee:**

Fred Markert, Chair

Gerrie McSwain

Char Holbrook

Cathie Fussell

Kay Blackstock

**Hospitality:**

Leslie Brown, Chair

Don & Carole Guffey

**DEVOTIONAL**

In Western culture, the Christmas season is a time for a revelry of gift-giving. A world-famous department store annually issues a catalog of gifts of value beyond extravagance. One of them was a \$10 million zeppelin-a 230-foot-long, 50-foot-wide airship capable of flying for 24 hours without refueling.

A gift like that seems unbelievably ostentatious-especially when we compare it to the lowly manger where God sent the gift of His Son. All too often, in the midst of our exchange of presents, God's gift is forgotten.

We can avoid this negligence by remembering to give from our heart. We can be inspired by love and gratitude not only for our loved ones but especially for the Supreme Giver of all good gifts-our heavenly Father.

Even the smallest, least expensive gifts can take our memories back to Bethlehem, where God gave to the world His love-gift of infinite value, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ

With each present we give and receive, we can say from our heart, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!".

## Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church On The World Wide Web.....

If you're away from Lake Toxaway or for some reason cannot make it to church on Sunday morning, never fear. The entire service is recorded and posted on the church web page each week. To view the web site and service go to: [www.laketoxawayumc.org](http://www.laketoxawayumc.org) click the play arrow on the recording you want to watch and enjoy being part of our fellowship.

Lake Toxaway Methodist Church also has a Facebook page that offers daily devotionals. Bookmark the Facebook link and enjoy these daily thought starters.

[www.facebook.com/laketoxawayumc](https://www.facebook.com/laketoxawayumc)

You do not have to be a subscriber on Facebook to view these devotionals.

## Around the Church Happenings



Top: Rock replaced in in the Memorial Garden

Bottom: Parking lot improvements in front of Church

### Comments from Tom Blackstock

Greetings to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ from Lake Toxaway UMC!

There is a sense of anticipation in the air! This week we had our annual covered dish dinner at the church to kick off the Advent season. Everyone brought an amazing diversity of dishes which fed 30 to 40 very well. Once we cleaned up the fellowship hall, we moved to the sanctuary where we decorated the tree and the windows of our church. Ruth led us in Christmas carols and shared the back story of several. She closed our service once she had us all singing "Go Tell it On the Mountain" close to her level of satisfaction. As we departed from this annual gathering of LTUMC there was an elevated sense of anticipation in the air.

Perhaps the sense of anticipation stems from Advent - hope, peace, joy and love. Perhaps the anticipation is coming from our new volunteers in leadership at the church who have taken on new roles and are excited about what they want to do in 2020. Perhaps the anticipation is about how much we have done in outreach this year and how much more we can do in 2020. Perhaps the anticipation is coming through our new sponsorship program for our scholars on scholarship who are just completing the fall semester. Or, perhaps the anticipation is all of the exciting programs and activities that are coming out of LTUMC for the glory of God!

**Effective Sunday, January 5, 2020, Church service  
will begin at 9:30 a.m. until further notice.**

## Outreach at Work

*Fred Markert*

Hopefully we all learned "it" in kindergarten, Sunday school or before; *share everything*. Paying it forward, feeding the hungry and consoling with hugs is only a small part of how God directs our individual and congregate actions within the church.

This quarter's newsletter highlights one of Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church's outreach recipients, ***The Haven*** (Transylvania County, NC). The Haven provides an overnight shelter and food for those in need.

In 2020, our church will provide the weekend meals at ***The Haven*** for the following dates: April 17, May 29, August 14 and October 2. The meals included are Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast. The twelve to twenty-two residents are so grateful when a homemade or store-bought meal is delivered. Last year, one passionate woman greeted the delivery of hot meatloaf, with fork in hand, sharing, "I thought about this all night long. Bless you and thank you so much." Volunteers from our congregation that have provided a weekend of meals have said, "this small effort to provide meals meant so much more to me than those residents will ever know."

Please consider making The Haven part of your tradition in the mountains. If you would be interested in signing up for a weekend or just want more information, contact Char Holbrook at [ckh79@comporium.net](mailto:ckh79@comporium.net)

Our church encourages all to become involved in some outreach experiences. Below you will find a listing of some of 2019's church outreach efforts.

Close to \$80,000 has been distributed to the following community and world wide organizations.

Sharing House	Bread of Life	S.A.F.E.
Center for Women	The Haven	God's Way Food Pantry
Cops for Kids	Trans-World Radio	Rosman Food Pantry
Gideon's	The Children's Center	Wycliff
Rosman High Scholarships(14)	Samaritan's Purse	Mission of the World
Our Daily Bread	Friends of Israel	
North Toxaway Baptist Church Food Pantry		
T.C. Henderson Elementary School		

## Message from Marcus

### ADVENT, CHRISTMAS and EPHINAY SEASONS

The Season of Advent invites us to reflect on the prophetic voices of the Hebrew Scriptures that promise hope, joy, peace and love that will enter the Cosmos and usher in a New Son of David in the Royal City of Jerusalem. Christmas invites us to ponder with the Virgin Mary that incredible Incarnation of God as fully human in the Bethlehem Babe, Jesus. Epiphany invites us to look for the new manifestations of God among us and to shine Light into the dark spaces.

We, as a church and individuals, have various ways of preparing during Advent, celebrating Christmas, and receiving Epiphany insights. Last night at Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church, the smaller Winter fellowship gathered for a simple covered dish meal in the parish hall and then convened to the sanctuary to decorate for Advent and Christmas. We placed cross stitch ornaments on the Crimson tree. These ornaments were made by the Lake Toxaway stitchery group over 25 years ago. We placed wreaths in the windows. Finally, Ruth Cech, our organist, directed us in signing some familiar Advent and Christmas hymns. She read two hymn stories and concluded with a devotional. She also directed us in forming a choir to sing "Go Tell It on the Mountain." We reveled in the powerful grace of the moment. If you have never experienced this wonderful evening, plan to be with us on the first Wednesday in December. Christ was present in so many tangible ways! I can only imagine how better it would be if all of our church family could be present.

We serve a wonderful Lord who loved us so much that He willingly gave up his exalted place with His Father to come and live as fully God and fully human to provide salvation for us. As I considered what to write, I enjoyed thinking of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany because the full picture of who God came to love is present in the combined story: shepherds regarded as among the lowest of the social order and Persian Astronomers of great wealth. And I cannot fail to mention Mary and Joseph. All were called and invited to be used as God's vessels to bring Jesus to us and to receive God's gift of the Incarnation and to gather in worship of God's great gift.

I encourage you to look for ways in which Christ continues to appear among us. The Incarnation continues in us because Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit dwells within us who receive his forgiveness, mercy, and grace. This congregation at Lake Toxaway has been empowered to be a part of the body of Christ in our community that extends to the many places where our parishioners go and to the places where we participate in ministries of outreach. I hope that we as a church continue to capture the vision of finding ourselves in a position to give fifty percent of our offerings to outreach causes locally and worldwide.

Finally, receive my greeting of love and appreciation. I continue to find great joy in serving alongside you as your pastor or one of your pastors. As the psalmist said in Psalm 16, "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." I sing that line daily. I encourage all of us to participate faithfully in worship, prayer, Bible reading, tithing, and the other disciplines of our faith. God bless all of you who read this message and know how important you are to this pastor and more significantly, to God.

Faithfully,  
Marcus

**DECEMBER 08, 2019**

**WINTER NEWS LETTER**