IN SPITE OF
A Christmas poem by Jody Seymour, 2015

In Spite of the darkness’
claim of victory
the light came in the
midst of a night
of
chaos

“Not enough room for
the light to shine,”
screamed the darkness
but in spite of the cry
the
light was born

There in the shadows
created by a shining star
the darkness cringed
to see a child
of light
who smiled at kneeling shepherds

“How could this make
any difference?”
came the last protest
from the darkness
but
in spite of no room
and dark shadows
the light
shined in the darkness
and
the darkness
could not overcome it

So the darkness waited
for a black Friday
that would
come
all too soon

But on this night Mary
smiled as she
held her child of light
and the darkness
crawled back
into its womb
of death
for life had overtaken
the night…
For yes,
in spite of
it all
it was Christmas
at last

Note: This will be the last issue
of The Dove for this year.
Publication will resume January 11.
Merry Christmas!
Christmas Eve Eve
An Early Christmas Eve Worship Alternative
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23 / 7-8PM / SANCTUARY
233 South Main Street, Davidson

A “come as you are,” family-friendly candlelight service accompanied by beautiful acoustic music.
(This service will have the same vibe as DUMC’s Saturday Night Worship.)

Cookies with Santa
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
10:00 A.M.—NOON • CHAPEL

The Christian Mothers United Circle invites your family to eat cookies, visit Santa (bring your camera!), enjoy music, and do crafts.

A $10.00 donation per family is requested for Children’s Hope Alliance (formerly Barium Springs Home for Children). Questions? Contact Brittany Viehmann (brittany.viehmann@gmail.com).

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
5:00 P.M. • SANCTUARY

The Youth Handbell Choirs, Middle School Choir, and Senior High Choir will lead a service that reminds us of God’s plan for our salvation throughout history. This service will feature familiar Christmas carols and anthems. Childcare will be provided.

ABCs of Christmas
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
6:00 P.M. • FELLOWSHIP HALL

In collaboration with our regular Saturday Night Worship (note change in location), this service will be a fun and interactive way for families and children to be part of the Christmas story—as an angel, shepherd, or magi.

Film & Spirituality
Tuesday, December 22
10:00—11:30 A.M. • ROOM 220

The movie for December is the true story, “McFarland USA.” Watch the movie privately ahead of time, then join the group for a guided discussion.

Newcomers always welcomed! Childcare provided.

Male Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer’s/Dementia
Thursday, January 14
10:00 A.M. • ROOM 215

Newcomers are always welcomed to join this all-male coffee and conversation group!

Questions? Contact Bud Katter (704-526-7977).

MAD Sunday
January 3

The Make-A-Difference collection for January will be new socks.

Place donations in the MAD baskets that will be available in the Gathering Space or in the marked bin outside the church office.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
HOUSE DEDICATION  

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20  
3:00 P.M. • 9918 PSALMS STREET, CORNELIUS

Whether you participated in this summer’s build or not, you are invited to help welcome the Enedas Ambrocio Family into their new home.

SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING  

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 • 7:00 P.M. • CHAPEL

Those who have lost someone special this year are invited to this informal service led by Rev. Dr. Jody Seymour which will consist of readings, quiet time, lighting a candle, and if you desire, a time to come to the altar and receive an anointing for healing. Childcare will be provided for this service.

Prior to the worship service, at 5:00 p.m. in the Molly McKay Youth House (adjacent to the Chapel), Rev. Dr. Mary Kinken will offer a supportive, small group experience for dealing with grief as we approach the holidays. For this workshop, please contact the church office if you need childcare.

End-of-Year Giving
If you are planning to fulfill your financial commitment to DUMC through securities contributions, you must initiate the transfer no later than Friday, December 11. All other gifts must be postmarked or received by December 31.
Questions? Contact Patti Waldeisen (pwaldeisen@davidsonumc.org) or Rev. Dr. Glenn Kinken (gkinken@davidsonumc.org).

PRAYER LIST
Names remain on this list for 30 days. To add your name or that of a friend or loved one, contact Jonna Eichorn (jeichorn@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277).

Michelle Accetta  
Carrianne and Scott Allen  
Jeri Allison  
Joe Banks  
Sibyl Banks  
Kristen Bogunia  
Ed Boye  
Kim Browning  
Howard Burgin  
Flo Burt  
Isaac Coleman  
Titus Cooney  
Matthew Cosentino  
Lib Culler  
Nancy Sacrison Curtis  
Harry and Pat Delk  
Joyce Dellinger  
Jennifer Blumenthal Elmore  
Jim Elsmore  
Ann Ende  
Families of Fallen Veterans  
Charles Feezor  
Joe Foley  
Gadois Family  
Mary Gentle  
David Goodman  
Cleo Gray  
Hannah Greene  
Jeff Greene  
Mary Ann Gwilt  
Faye Hayes  
Lauren Hernandez  
Rose Marie Huffstedeer  
Ruth Krueger  
Kathy Ladner  
Janice Laughlin  
Kim Lowe  
Mary Mayo  
Becky Mittelman  
Woody Naman  
Charlie Nations  
Ruthie Naylor  
Charlie Norton  
Deanne Norton  
Gayle Olenik  
Nancy Parsons  
Tasha Pennell  
Lawrence Raymer  
Eddie Reynolds  
K. Richardson  
Kathy Rumble  
Boyd Russell  
Roz Skidmore  
Marjorie Smith  
Louise Speicher  
Paul Stimson  
LaVerne Szuski  
Alfred Taylor  
Brian and Tammy Trahan  
Hunter Vanderveen  
Stephen John Vose  
Randy Walker  
Kevin Wolford  
Jody Withrow  
Beth Wylie

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1  
Gifts: $74,371.04

November 7 & 8  
Gifts: $58,762.75

November 14 & 15  
Saturday service: 90  
Sunday services: 1015  
Sunday School*: 220  
‘Infants—Grade 12  
Gifts: $TBA

November 21 & 22  
Saturday service: 100  
Sunday services: 1284  
Sunday School*: 243  
‘Infants—Grade 12  
Gifts: $TBA

November 28 & 29  
Saturday service: 95  
Sunday services: 1095  
Sunday School*: 197  
‘Infants—Grade 12  
Gifts: $TBA

SYMPATHY TO…
The Family of Vera Turk.  
The Family of Janet Mowery.  
Beth Bledsoe in the death of her father.  
Russ Gillespie in the death of his sister.  
Melissa Wellman in the death of her father.  
The Family of C.D. Turner.  
Sheila Cothran in the death of her mother.  
The Family of Al Bryan.  
The Family of Nelson King.  
John Brauninger in the death of his daughter.  
Kevin Turner in the death of his father.
Looking ahead to January...

**QUIET SPACE FRIDAYS**
SECOND FRIDAY MONTHLY BEGINNING JANUARY 8
STARGETTE FARM RETREAT, STATESVILLE

Experience the power of quiet to revive, restore, and renew. This is your “free to do whatever” day—to read, meditate, pray, walk the labyrinth, ponder, rest. Coffee will be waiting for you; bring a bagged lunch. Space is limited to nine registrants per retreat day. Cost: $20.00, due with registration. Find full details at the Connect Center or www.davidsonumc.org/spiritualformation.

**RELIGIOUS SCOUTING AWARDS**
JANUARY 10, 24, & 31 • 10:45 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

God and Me (Grades 2—3) and God and Family (Grades 4—5) Awards may be earned by attending these classes, sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 58 and DUMC. Open to all Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, class sizes are limited. Cost: $17.00. Contact Heather Smith (hsmith@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277).

**DESSERT DAYS**
EXPERIENCING THE HOLY IN COMMUNITY & SOLITUDE
TUESDAYS, JANUARY 12, MARCH 8, AUGUST 9, & OCTOBER 11

The aim of these retreats is to create a sheltered time away from the outside world so that we may become more receptive and responsive to “a different wisdom.” Retreat days will include a guided theme with Scripture, reflective readings, prayers, journaling, time for speaking and time for listening, a space to regroup. Cost: $75.00 per retreat day or $275.00 for all four retreats. Lunch and dinner are included. Find full details at the Connect Center or www.davidsonumc.org/spiritualformation.

**WHISK AWAY THE WINTER BLAHS**
FUN LEARNING-MORNINGS WITH BETSY SEYMOUR
WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 13
9:30 A.M.—NOON • MOLLY MCKAY YOUTH HOUSE

The topic for this day will be bread-making. Come learn some tricks of the trade from Betsy—and bring your own tips to share! All are invited. RSVP by January 11 to Barbara Moore (bmoore@davidsonumc.org).

**THE BIG SILENCE**
JANUARY 17—20
ST. FRANCIS SPRINGS PRAYER CENTER, STONEVILLE, NC

This four-day, mostly silent retreat, will be grounded in the modern classic, *The Way of the Heart* by Henri Nowen. Cost: $525.00, includes tuition, private room, and meals. Three spaces remain. Find full details at www.davidsonumc.org/spiritualformation.