

VANDERBURG METHODIST CHURCH CARRYING THE CROSS



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THE MAN AND THE BIRDS

PAUL HARVEY'S CHRISTMAS STORY
By PAUL HARVEY, ABC RADIO

Unable to trace its proper parentage, I have designated this as my Christmas Story of the Man and the Birds. You know, THE Christmas Story, the God born a man in a manger and all that escapes some moderns, mostly, I think, because they seek complex answers to their questions and this one is so utterly simple. So for the cynics and the skeptics and the unconvinced I submit a modern parable.

Now the man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a scrooge, he was a kind, decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas Time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus Story, about God coming to Earth as a man. "I'm truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, "but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve." He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And so he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper.

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THE MAN AND THE BIRDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud. At first, he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window.



Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it.

Quickly he put on a coat and

galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.

And then, he realized, that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him. "If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to safe, warm ...to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand."

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells – Adeste Fidelis – listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.



VANDERBURG METHODIST CHURCH

1809 Charlotte Hwy
Mooresville, NC 28115



Alternate:
P. O. Box 294
Mooresville, NC 28115

www.vanderburgchurch.org
704.663.1690
vanderburgchurch1870@gmail.com



Interim Pastor Buddy Compton
704.791.1189 call/text

Staff:
Jill Lowe - Church and Finance Secretary
Worship Leader - Lisa Zeggert

 Follow Us on Facebook!
[@vanderburgofmooresville](https://www.facebook.com/vanderburgofmooresville)

Watch our 10:00am services each week on our channel at  [@vanderburgchurch1809](https://www.youtube.com/@vanderburgchurch1809) or stream it later in the week on our website.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends met on Monday November 3rd with 11 ladies in attendance. Susan Fogelman delivered a deeply touching devotion while Jeanne Miller provided tasty treats to enjoy.

Officers reports were given with the Bake Sale/ Basket Sale showing a large profit and the Blood Drive had 12 participants. Thank you to all who have worked and contributed to make these events successful.

We started planning for 2026 deciding on a set meeting calendar for 2026 and to move our meeting time to 6pm. It was decided to plan a Feb/ March dinner for our church and are brainstorming quarterly events for our circle to embrace. For outreach, the Circle is providing drinks and desserts for our Methodist Men's Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday November 23 in addition to providing desserts for Felicity Manor's Thanksgiving meal delivery on Thanksgiving Day.



Our next meeting is Monday December 1 at 6pm where we are all bringing goodies to share as well as toys and/or food for the Freedom Connections Christmas Outreach. All ladies are invited to join in the fun and fellowship!

Blessings to all,

Stacey Pierce

ALL SAINTS DAY

On Sun. Nov. 2, we were blessed to honor those in the faith that had gone before us during the service. This year, we honored 4 individuals.

Matt Black - passing Nov. 24, 2024

Linda Mundy - passing Dec. 24, 2024

Sonja Beaver - passing May 3, 2025

Django Rosenbaum - passing May 23, 2025

A candle was lit by Pastor Melanie as each name that was read and stayed lit throughout the remainder of the service. Members also had the opportunity to recognize other friends and family members.

VETERANS DAY SUNDAY

On Sun. Nov. 9, we honored our Veteran's with a special recognition. The altar was adorned with patriotic flowers and our American Flag. Pastor Keith shared a special children's church message on freedom, and afterwards, each child was able to present a gift of a commemorative coin and candy to all the Veterans present. Following children's church, the worship team shared a special video of Vanderburg men and women who have served in the armed forces during their lifetime.



MEETING

Mon. Dec. 1 | 6:00 PM
Jack Overcash Fellowship Hall

The Circle of Friends women's group that meets monthly to enjoy a time of fellowship, ministry and prayer. They are integral to the mission of the church, and you will find them at work at most every church event.



Christmas

AT VANDERBURG

Christmas... Sing the Joyful Song!



A special Christmas Cantata will be shared on Sun. Dec. 14th during the 10:00 a.m. blended service. Featuring a medley of traditional Christmas songs, our Vanderburg choir will usher you into the Christmas spirit!

All are welcome to join us at Vanderburg for this special service.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”



Advent Readings

Hope

Sun. Nov. 30

8:00 AM - The Fogleman Family
10:00 AM - The Stump Family

Peace

Sun. Dec. 7 (Combined Service)

10:00 AM - The Redling Family

Joy

Sun. Dec. 14

8:00 AM - The Fulbright Family
10:00 AM - The Harley Naas Family

Love

Sun. Dec. 21

8:00 AM - The Stephenson Family
10:00 AM - The Wayne Sherrill Family

FRIENDSGIVING

Vanderburg's Young Adults hosted our first event, Friendsgiving, on November 16th, 2025.

We had a great turn out with 18 attendees and over a half dozen additional guests. We enjoyed great food and fellowship, with our favorites being Cashion's smoked turkey, the Hoff's potato salad, and the Naas' homemade ice cream!

Together, we wrote and signed 150 Christmas cards for Iredell County nursing homes: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

A big thank you everyone who came to the event or supported it. We wish y'all a blessed and safe December!

- VMC Young Adults



MOVIE NIGHT



On Friday, November 21st, the Outreach Committee hosted its second Movie Night, featuring the children's film Happy Feet. Although a light sprinkle encouraged us to move the event indoors, the evening was still full of energy and joy. Families enjoyed popcorn, candy, and drinks while watching the movie together.

One highlight of the night was the children dancing along with the penguins; their excitement brought so much life to the room! We hope to see you at our next event!

- Outreach Committee

NEWS & EVENTS

NEWS FROM THE SPRC

As 2025 is coming to an end, I would like to thank the SPRC Committee for the work they have done in the past year. I know I have made mistakes, but they were not intentional. When I took the job as Chairman of this Committee, I said it would be spirit led and that is what I tried to do.

As all of you know by now, Pastor Melanie and Keith have left us and went where the Holy Spirit has led them to go. We thank them for what they have done for us and they will be surely missed. We wish them well.

A lot has happened in the last couple of weeks under the leadership of Will Van Wieren, the presiding elder of the Global Methodist Church for our area. The SPRC has acquired a new interim minister, Buddy Compton. Buddy is a Mooresville resident, and already knows several of our members. Buddy came out of retirement to serve us, and I am sure he will tell us how the Holy Spirit led him to be with us.

My prayer is that we support Buddy and his wife, Monte in all that they try to do for us. Let us use this time as a renewal in our church. We look forward to a revival in our church like we have never seen. Buckle up, because Buddy is fired up and ready to serve us!

Finally, I would like to thank you for entrusting the SPRC to serve you in such a way.

Thank You,
John Freeze

The SPRC Committee is made up of the following individuals:

John Freeze, Chair
Lynn Neill, Vice Chair
Sandra Sherrill
Phil Coleman
Sheila Moore

Katy Smith
Melissa Fulbright
Don West
Terry Pardew

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Vanderburg offers 2 weekly worship services on Sunday.

8:00 A.M.

A more relaxed service with contemporary worship songs.

10:00 AM

A blended service enjoys worship with traditional hymns & contemporary worship songs.

CHOIR



Our choir rehearses each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. Anyone with an interest in joining the choir, should reach out to our worship leader, Lisa Zeggert. We have a place for you!

Looking Ahead

Luke Brown will be leading a new GriefShare Group starting Jan. 14th on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. The classes will run for 13 weeks.

24

7

18

1

25

HELLO
december

1 The Circle of Friends Women's Ministry meets Mon. Dec. 1st at 6:00PM in the Jack Overcash Fellowship Hall.

7 There will be a combined worship service on Sun. Dec. 7th as we welcome and hear from Preacher Buddy!

8 The Trustees will meet on Mon. Dec. 8th at 6:30PM. This is a change for the regularly scheduled meeting on the 2nd Tuesday.

14 The Vanderburg Methodist Men meet for their scheduled breakfast meeting on Sun. Dec. 14th at 7:00AM in the Jack Overcash Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

During the 10:00 AM Service, the Vanderburg Choir will present special music in celebration of Christmas.

19 All welcome for the Preschool Christmas Program at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and Jack Overcash Fellowship Hall

25

MERRY
Christmas

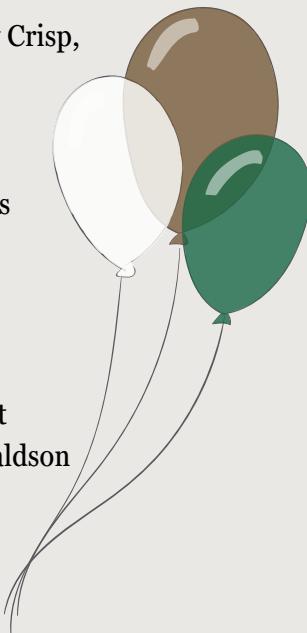


The Church Office will be closed December 23-25 in celebration of the Christmas Holiday.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS



- 1 - Randy Peltier
- 3 - Terry Pardew
- 6 - Rylie Downing & Kathi Harwood
- 8 - Chris Stutts & Lori Settemyre
- 10 - Don Byrd
- 12 - Marguerite Beyerle & Mike Bowers
- 15 - Russell Benfield, Keith Nichols, Robert Compton & Sarah Harwell
- 17 - Jessica Evans
- 18 - Frankie Sue Coleman, Amy Crisp, Ethan Wyatt & Parker Wyatt
- 21 - Billy Benfield
- 22 - Nick Drake
- 23 - Carey Church & Kelly Stutts
- 24 - Karen Barbee
- 26 - Andy Neill
- 27 - Kathy Meyer
- 28 - Dylan Bowers
- 29 - Rick Owens & Donnie West
- 30 - Mike Crisp & Gordon Donaldson



HAPPY
Anniversary

December 12
Dana & Joy Blalock

December 14
Joe & Dee Setzer

December 16
Jonathan & Ashley Jo Tyson

December 21
Jerry & Katy Smith

December 30
Jason & Ashley Pulver

Thank you for being God's guiding light, transforming the world through
God's unconditional love.



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School 9:00 AM hour offers classes for all ages! Choose from any of these classes geared to help you dig deeper in the Word!



We need volunteers to serve as the Safe Sanctuary person in the kids Sunday School class. We just need your presence. You will not have to help with the class or prepare a lesson. If enough are willing to serve, a schedule will be made.



As a church, we need to have a nursery available for visitors as well as church members. See Susan Fogleman if you are interested in helping with this ministry. The service is streamed live, for nursery workers to enjoy.

CHILDREN & PRE-TEEN



Our children use the series All-in-One Sunday School, designed for preschool-12 yrs old. The teachers have enjoyed combining the classes and learning together.

All children are welcome each Sunday. You will find them in room 115 on the Pre-school Hall.

Susan Fogleman and Sarah Davis will be joining the team to rotate teachers. This will allow for teachers to have the opportunity to enjoy being a part of a Sunday School class or take some needed time of rest. If you feel led to stop by and give the leaders a hand, they would appreciate it!

YOUNG ADULT CLASS

Vanderburg's Young Adult class is reaching out to the community and planning events and get togethers as they grow closer to Christ. Can't wait to see all the great things that they will be doing!

The class meets in room 107, and all young adult singles and couples are invited.

BOB COMBS CLASS

The Bob Combs Class offers a quarterly curriculum for older adults 60+. Dig deeper into Scripture with the Bible Studies for Life, a resource featuring in-depth Bible exposition on the passages studied in this book.

They are led by Mark & Nancy Brawley & Susan Fogleman and meet in room 102.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

The Christian Outreach Class chooses a variety of topics; from Word studies on Bible Books or deciding on a study by a respected teacher. The group is made up of all age Adults.

They are lead by Marguerite Beyerle and Bradley Mills and meet in room 110.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class offers a quarterly curriculum for adult men and women. The study offers opportunities to deeper explore the truths found in God's Word.

Many help facilitate the weekly discussions and lessons. You can find them in room 104.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Your gifts and donations are greatly appreciated as we continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus! May God bless you abundantly!

Vanderburg budget funds to annually support FeedNC, Christian Mission and Samaritan's Purse. We regularly receive newsletters highlighting the work they do in support of individuals and families. In addition to these regular Mission contributions, our Circle of Friends and the Vanderburg Methodist Men make contributions to other worthwhile organizations.



1 Supporting FeedNC

At FeedNC, everyone is welcome to enjoy lunch at Donoghue's Open Door. From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. M-F, all are welcome to choose from their menu offerings and enjoy meals at community tables. There is no charge for the food, but donations are accepted. Last year alone, 50K meals were served.

3 Supporting Samaritan's Purse

Recently, Samaritan's Purse shared that the organization was prepared in advance for Hurricane Melissa that was to hit Jamaica last month. In addition to much needed supplies, they had an emergency field hospital up and running. The hospital has 30 inpatient beds, with staff and equipment to run an operating room, ICU, and emergency room. As of the update, they had treated 500 patients affected by the hurricane.

4 Supporting Christian Mission

Christian Mission recently shared that in 2024, they served over 6600 individuals, a 43% increase over the year before. They are grateful for the support of the community as they continue to help families move toward stability and self-sufficiency.

2 Our Daily Bread

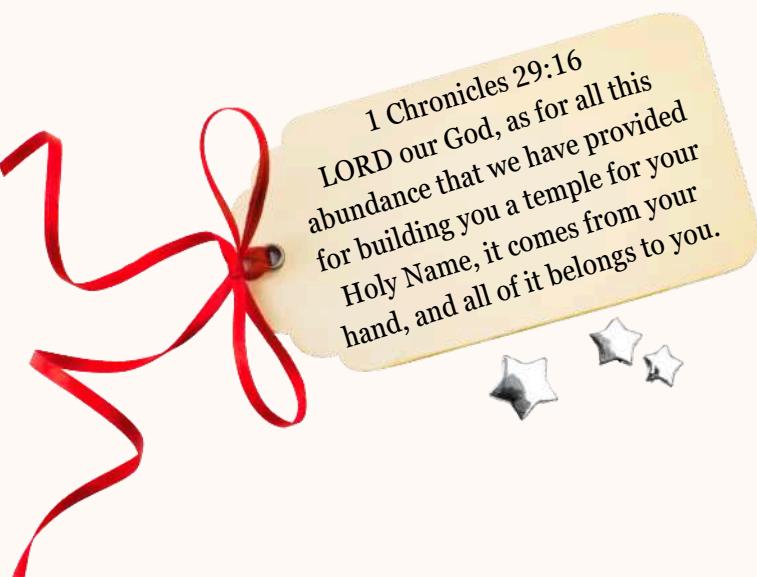
Did you know that because of your giving, we are able to support Our Daily Bread each quarter. More than just the daily devotion, a recent letter highlighted the work they do in prison ministry. Last year, to help alleviate loneliness, Our Daily Bread sent 65,000 Christmas Hope Packets that included a Christmas Card, an Armor Book and snacks.

5 Supporting Area Ministries & Organizations

Because of your generosity you, along with the Circle of Friends supported Freedom Connections, the ministry of our staff members, Jill Lowe and Lisa Zeggert, with canned food items and toys to be shared with families in the Appalachia's at Christmas. The Circle of Friends also provided desserts for the ministry's Thanksgiving Day meal delivery to area widows and our Meals on Wheels neighbors. Also for December, the Outreach Team, chaired by Melissa Fulbright, is leading church members to support the Preschool's Reverse Advent Calendar drive. Copies of the weekly food items requested are available in the Narthex or can be found on Facebook. Thank you for blessing all these worthwhile organizations!



FINANCES



Oct. Financial Snapshot

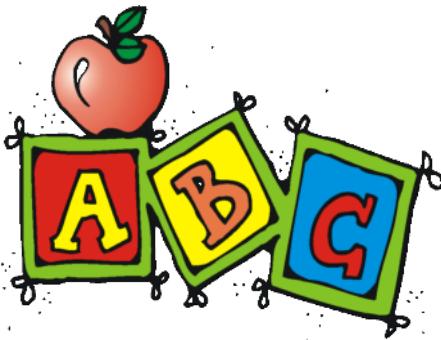
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|--------------------|-----------|
| Income | \$ 14,834 |
| Expenses | \$ 27,789 |
| Budgeted per Month | \$ 22,323 |

Monthly Finance Reports can be found in the Narthex the first Sunday of each month. If you have any questions, you can always direct them to the Finance Chair, Linda Wilhem.

If mailing your Tithes and Offerings, please send to:



Vanderburg Methodist Church
P.O. Box 294
Mooresville, NC 28115



Vanderburg Church Preschool

vumcpreschool@gmail.com

704.664.1625

Directors: Susan Fogleman & Angelene Nelson

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

What happened to November? The month was filled with fun and laughter. One of our grandparents provided a Thanksgiving meal for the children. We are thankful for the love and support from our families.



Our annual Reverse Advent event begins December 1. We invite our children, parents, and church members to join us by donating non-perishable food items. Items will be delivered to food banks. Items may be dropped off in the fellowship hall or at the preschool. See the bulletin insert for more information.

Parents' Night Out for our preschoolers and their siblings will be December 5 (6pm-9pm). We hope this will be an annual event/fundraiser. Our staff is planning crafts, games, and more!



Join us for our Christmas celebration on Friday, December 19 at 10:30am. We begin the festivities with singing in the sanctuary and then will move to the fellowship hall for crafts and cookie decorating. I've heard we can expect a special visitor from The North Pole!

Vanderburg Preschool's Reverse Advent Calendar 2025

This year, VMC Preschool is excited to host a Reverse Advent Calendar. We invite students, parents, and church members to join us by donating non-perishable food items according to each day of the month.

Thank you for blessing our community!

Drop Off: Vanderburg Preschool 704-664-1625

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| December 1 | December 2 | December 3 | December 4 | |
| | | | | |
| December 5 | December 6 | December 7 | December 8 | December 9 |
| | | | | |
| December 10 | December 11 | December 12 | December 13 | December 14 |
| | | | | |
| December 15 | December 16 | December 17 | December 18 | December 19 |
| | | | | |

SCHOOL BREAK

December 22-31:
Christmas Holiday Break

January 1:

New Years Day Holiday

January 2:

Teacher Workday

VANDERBURG METHODIST MEN
FUNDRAISER

Boston Butts

\$35

PICK-UP SAT. DEC. 20

**8 lb Hickory Smoked
Boston Butts
Perfect for the
Holidays!**

Order forms available in the narthex
or by emailing the church at
vanderburgchurch1870@gmail.com.
DEADLINE TO ORDER IS DEC. 14

VANDERBURG METHODIST CHURCH
1809 CHARLOTTE HWY | MOORESVILLE

Hickory Smoked Boston Butts



Methodist Men Bar-B-Q
Vanderburg Methodist Church
Saturday, December 20th

8 LB Hickory Smoked Butt Prepared

Quantity _____ \$35.00 ea.
Total _____

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Pick up at the church at 10:00 AM on December 20th. Leave a telephone number for earlier pick-up time on that day. Order by Sunday, December 14th.



Vanderburg Methodist Church
P.O. Box 294
Mooresville, NC 28115

TO: