

The Glad Tidings

February 23, 2012

Volume 11, Issue 2



AMF WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP –
 February 29; March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2012 ~ 7PM
 “Holden Evening Prayer Service with Holy Communion”
 Theme – *“Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,
 and uphold me with a willing spirit” - Psalm 51, verse 12*

Wednesday 12/Noon Community Lenten Services
“People at the Cross”
Cook’s Memorial Presbyterian Church
 3413 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road; 704/399-7735
 followed by a 12:30PM meal in the Fellowship Hall
February 29; March 7, 14, 21, 28; & April 4, 2012



Food Collection for
Thrift United Methodist Church’s
Food Pantry ~ Sunday, March 18
 Please leave your donations
 in the grocery cart located in the narthex.
Thank you for your support!

Come & enjoy! Come & see! Come & meet! 3/3 from 5-7PM ~ this coming weekend!
 {covered-dish dinner included} Saturday, March 3rd, 2012,
 A Mighty Fortress members will host an ‘ULTREYA’ – that is a gathering of
 folks who have gone or are interested in attending a Via de Cristo
 weekend. Everyone is invited to share in this gathering! Come - especially if
 you have heard or are interested in learning more about the VdC weekend’s
faith-filling GRACE experience.

OUR MISSION: A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers
 serving God’s call by joyfully proclaiming the Good News of Christ through
 discipleship, celebrating the Word and sacrament, reaching out in love, and valuing
 the diversity of all people.

OUR VISION: A Mighty Fortress enthusiastically celebrates the warmth, intimacy,
 and uniqueness of our growing, enriching, and influential church fellowship and
 ministry.

Sunday Worship
 Coffee Fellowship ~ 8:45 am
 Adult Sunday School ~ 9:00 am
 Worship Service/
 Joyful Journeys for Kids ~
 10:20 am

Wednesday
 Ensemble Rehearsal,
 5:00 pm
 Chancel Choir,
 6:30 pm

Church Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday
 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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Church Staff

- The Reverend Dr. John F. Merck
Pastor Emeritus
- The Reverend John L. Petry, III
Pastor
- Jonathan W. Greene
Choir Director
- Penny B. Damron
Organist
- Gail G. Reynolds
Office Administrator

Ministers . . . 109 confirmed,
 communing and contributing voting
 members and all 305 baptized adults,
 youth and children of AMF.

A Mighty Fortress
Lutheran Church
 8200 McClure Circle
 Charlotte, NC 28216-1125
 704.392.6214
 Fax 704.392.6224
 amfgail@bellsouth.net
 www.amightyfortress.org

A community of believers where:

- All are welcome here
- Making Christ known
- Forgiven by Grace

“Building up & growing the body of Christ Jesus”



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God’s work. Our hands.
 elca.org/nclutheran.org

“Worship”

+ Pastor John Petry

Dear AMF Partners in Christ Jesus,

When I (most folks experience the same kinds of emails) check my ‘email’ several times within any day, there’s usually an email from some company or website offering me **“outstanding savings!”** on some product or service. Since I’m not a big consumer of massages, island getaways, duct cleaning, or detailing a car – those ads get tossed without much of a glance.

Unfortunately, this is the same way Sunday morning worship is treated by many in society and even by members of A Mighty Fortress. Getting up on Sunday morning and attending worship is sometimes seen as “if my parents visit, I made some New Year’s resolution or I need to talk to pastor about my upcoming surgery – I know where to go, but until then, like an offer for duct cleaning, I’ll pass.”

Passing on faith as a community of faith, worshipping within the Body of Christ, living a life of discipleship and making a difference are **not** online or postal fliers that we can take or leave or toss-out. Worship is our touchstone with the larger church – beyond-our-self/ves – and a source of growth and support for us throughout all that life brings. The Gospel of Christ touches us in the Word & Meal, and to think this is something to do when we feel like it or every six months like cleaning the car or carpet is to miss something *more* than important.

I encourage & invite you and your family to come and worship every Sunday. See just what a difference it makes in your walk of faith and your relationship with the body of Christ. No one person can be the “Body of Christ”. Join the AMF community, your church family and friends who are also called, enlightened, gathered, and sent-out into the community and world for risk-taking mission and service through corporate/joint praise, prayer and proclamation of God’s forgiveness, grace and mercy.

No coupon or Groupon required!

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make HIS face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May GOD give you grace to never sell yourself short;

grace to risk something big for something good;

*grace to realize that the world is much too small for anything but love
and much too dangerous for anything but truth.*

May GOD take your mind and think through it.

May GOD take your lips and speak through them.

And may GOD take your heart and set it on fire.

In the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

**2012 Via de Cristo Weekends – Camp Agape, Fuquay-Varina, NC (near Raleigh)**

May 17-20, 2012/Mixed #79; September 13-16, 2012/Mixed #80

Several AMF members have attended weekends: Ron Dimmer, Raneer Hedrick, Jon Greene, Jan Gardner (Jan attended the Women’s #1 weekend in 1976 and led as rector in 1980 and Stew attended the Men’s #1 weekend in 1976), Mary & Richard Lautensleger, Pam & Pastor John, and John Johnson, Judy & Mike Bozeman attended weekends in 2011. Also – Jon Greene, Pam & Pastor have served on weekend teams. Each weekend is a ‘faith-filling experience’ surrounded with joy and lots of good candy and food. Prayerfully consider ‘making your weekend’ in 2012!

In Memoriam of Stew Gardner ...a gift to AMF members

Stew Gardner loved his life in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In his life of service, Stew found joy, meaning and purpose through the Via de Cristo movement.

He told Jan and others that his marriage, his children and the VdC were the most meaningful things in his life. Stew was honored to have attended the first VdC in North Carolina in 1976.

Those who loved Stew gave a memorial gift to honor him. Through prayer and discussion with his children, Jan has decided to use that memorial money to offer a scholarship (amount based on need) to those AMF members who would like to attend a VdC weekend. What a joy it would give Stew to know that even in his death his is paying this gift forward. Many people in the VcC movement loved Stew, and the late Dean Nelson (from Advent Lutheran, CHAR) even named him ‘Via de Moses’.

Won’t you please give prayerful consideration attending a VdC weekend as the guest of *Via de Moses*. See Pastor John for further information.



LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION
Breakfast Meeting
Saturday, March 10
8:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Officers:

President: Richard Lautensleger
 Vice President: Scott Wood
 Treasurer: Chuck Mick
 Secretary: John Huber

Lutheran Men in Mission: www.nclmm.org



Sunday, February 26th
Bold Women's Sunday

After an extremely busy month of February, we are looking forward to March. Our meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13th with Edna Chirico-Huber as hostess. The Bible Study of Mark will also continue.

We have agreed to provide Baked Goods and sale help for the Paw Creek Elementary School's BBQ on Saturday, March 24th.

The group has identified material and will be working on window toppers for the FH this month...Saturday to be determined. If you can sew and have a portable machine, if you can cut and have a good pair of scissors or if you can iron and have an iron and ironing board-you can help make the toppers...and if you can't sew, cut or iron, you can fix lunch or hang the finished toppers ... we hope to complete the project in one Saturday.

We are starting to plan an event for Sunday, May 6th with the women of The Florence Crittenden Home. We have 3 committees starting to work, so if you are interested, please see Karen Bryant or contact someone on the committee you would be interested in helping with. The committees are: Coordinators/Publicity (Pastor Mary), Food & Decorations (Nancy Merck & Karen Bryant), and Games/prizes/gifts/program (Linda Meyer & Beverly Foster). We definitely need your help. We will be inviting the ladies to church and lunch following the worship service. We are hoping to pair each guest with someone from our church for the event.

Officers:

President: Karen Bryant
 Vice President: Sharon Johnson
 Secretary: Barbara Kutz
 Treasurer: Linda Meyer

www.ncwelca.org

www.womenoftheelca.org

Needle Ministry, 7:00 pm
Monday, March 19, 2012



AMF Needle Ministry meets monthly at 7 pm in the Conference Room. The meeting dates will be published in the bulletin/newsletter. We are a group who likes to knit or crochet. If you would like some needle time, fellowship with others who enjoy this craft and want to learn new techniques, then please join us! Contact Donna Kretschmer for further information at 704-394-6070.

PARISH LIFE NEWS

Lots of planning is our goal for bringing our AMF Family back with fellowship and love!!!

Join us on Sunday, April 1st, Palm Sunday
after the worship service for a covered dish lunch.
Bring your favorite dish and dessert to share.

ANOTHER UPCOMING EVENT:
GAME NITE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

YOUR HELP & TIME IS NEEDED ... For several years Chuck Lehr and Jeanna Sheldon have served as Treasurer and Financial Secretary, and they (no, Council is) are looking for two folks to work with each of them – they will ‘mentor/teach’ their replacements. Please consider volunteering to serve in one of these important positions in the life of the congregation.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep the books of account of the congregation and shall receive from the Financial Secretary all funds and disburse them on proper orders, making monthly remittance of benevolence receipts to the Treasurer of the Synod. The Treasurer with the assistance from the Financial Secretary, if needed, shall make written report of all financial transactions to the Congregation Council monthly and to the congregation, together with a satisfactory audit at the Congregation Meeting in January of each year.

Financial Secretary: The Financial Secretary shall receive and keep record of all income from contributing members and other sources and provide quarterly and year-end giving information to members and all contributors to the congregation's ministry and mission. Time required equals an hour per week, plus additional time to prepare and provide quarterly and end-of-year contribution statements.

Billie McGee wishes to thank everyone for making his 90th birthday so special!

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL ~ 2012**Glenn Collins, Council President**

704.307.3850 Glenn.Collins@hexagonmetrology.com

Mary Holman, Council Vice-President

919.451.6692 maryeholman@gmail.com

Edna Chirico, Council Secretary

704.562.8847 echirico@greenmoose.net

Chuck Lehr, Treasurer

704.969.3123 chuckvicki1655@aol.com

Mike Bozeman

704.393.5205 mbozeman@carolina.rr.com

Dwayne Graham

704.726.8215 cypruess@msn.com

Barbara Kutz

704.392.1403 barbarakutz@gmail.com

Terry Saunders

704.399.8989 terryesaunders@bellsouth.net

Brian Wardwell

704.361.8493 bwardwell@carolina.rr.com

Jeanna Sheldon, Financial Secretary

704.391.0263 Jmspromise@aol.com

BOARD STEWARDS**Learning Board, Libby Holman**

704.392.3611 libholman@aol.com

Outreach Board, John and Sharon Johnson

704.392.1932

John: jjjohn@bellsouth.net

Sharon: sadj@bellsouth.net

Parish Life, Diana Graham

704.399.7243 southerngraham@msn.com

Property Board, John Huber

704.576.2993 jhuber@greenmoose.net

Resource Board, Chuck Lehr

704.969.3123 chuckvicki1655@aol.com

Worship Board, Amy Johnson

704.573.0731 a_johnson1@bellsouth.net

Lutheran Men in Mission, Richard Lautensleger

704.910.5403 richlaut@carolina.rr.com

WELCA (Women of AMF), Karen Bryant

704.398.2633 karenbryant@mindspring.com

Ministers . . . 117 confirmed, communing and contributing voting members and all 315 baptized adult, youth and children of AMF.***A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church******~ Sundays at AMF ~*****Coffee Fellowship** – we begin our day of worship with coffee and fellowship in the narthex, 8:45-9:00 am.**Adult Sunday School** – two classes meet each week at 9:00 am, which offer Bible study and biblical life applications.**Worship Service** – Festive Worship Service with Holy Communion, 10:20 am**Joyful Journeys for Children** – special worship time for our children (Bible stories and activities) following the Children's Sermon presented by Sage and Edna.Make a joyful noise with our rich and diverse **Chancel Choir and Instrumental Ensemble**. The Ensemble rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm and the Chancel Choir at 6:30 pm.
Jonathan Green (jonathanwgreene@yahoo.com)***~ Our Ministries ~*****Lutheran Men in Mission** – meet monthly on the second Saturday for breakfast (8:30 am/Fellowship Hall) and to coordinate community service projects at and around our church. Richard Lautensleger (704.910.5403) richlaut@carolina.rr.com**Women of the ELCA** – meet monthly on the second Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall or at a member's home. They support many projects on the local, state and national level and participate in the NC Women of the ELCA Mecklenburg Union Conference. Karen Bryant: 704.398.2633 (karenbryant@mindspring.com)**The Gathering Group** is our senior fellowship group which meets monthly for lunch.
JoAnn Dimmer 704.309.0768 (PJOANND@aol.com)
Barbara Kutz 704.392.1403 (barbarakutz@gmail.com)**AMF Needle Ministry** meets monthly at 7 pm in the Conference Room. The meeting dates will be published in the bulletin/newsletter. We are a group who likes to knit or crochet. If you would like some needle time, fellowship with others who enjoy this craft and want to learn new techniques, then please join us! Contact Donna Kretschmer for further information at 704-394-6070.***~ Fall & Winter Outreach Programs ~*****AMF participated in the Annual CROP Hunger Walk that was held on October 16, 2011.**Sharon Johnson, Coordinator, 704.392.1932 (sadj@bellsouth.net)**Room in the Inn** – weekly support of homeless neighbors' overflow on Friday evenings to Saturday mornings. (Dec.-March) John Johnson, Coordinator
704.392.1932 (jjjohn@bellsouth.net)

Members of Our Parish ~ Norman Burr, Ron Dimmer, Jan Gardner, Zoe Hoffman, Cheri Redding, Edris Robles, Harry Sheldon and Carol Stroup

Presbyterian Hospital/Huntersville (Room 210) ~ Carol Freeman

Members at Home ~ Dot McCraw and Brad

Huntersville Oaks (Room 413) ~ Betty Kleis

The Laurels at Highland Creek, Huntersville ~ Virginia Hensley / Jean Rockett (Room 107)

Olde Knox Commons at the Village, Huntersville, Room 101 ~ Alice Burr



Loved Ones and Friends

Jewel Bogans (Patrick's mother), Corky Bolton (Susan Whitesides' father), David Burr (Norman & Alice's son ~ Carol Stroup's brother), Lynn Cater (Ashley Greene's step-mother), Nadine Cater (Ashley Greene's grandmother), Tom and Gail Colley and Family, Raegan Cupp (friend of Rachel Moeller), Alberta Courtney (Becky Wardwell's mother), Don Davis (Helen Phillips' co-worker's husband), Martha Ensley (Pam Petry's friend/Speech teacher), Adam and David Felty, Quinten Garrett, Tina, Jackson, and Avery Gardner (friends of Peter & Stephanie Moeller), Virginia Gathings (Gail Reynolds' mother), Fern Geruschat (Dan's mother), Martha Greene (Jon Greene's grandmother), Lorri Grembowiec (Jennie Pitoniak's mother), Peggy Hall, Bill Hamlet (Virginia Hensley's brother), Anniginnia Harris, Lisa Hintz (Shirley Belongia's niece), Gary and Cindy Hogan, Lauren Holmes (State Dept., Cairo, Egypt, Pam Petry's daughter), Lynn Honeycutt (Becky Wardwell's aunt), Earl Jayroe (Heather Link's grandfather), Patrick Johnson (John's brother), Kathy (Edna Chirico-Huber), Shaun Kern (Jim McGee former roommate's son),

Lauren Killian (Melissa McGinnis' friend), Joel Lessinger (friend of Jan Gardner), McDaniels Family (Melissa McGinnis' friends), Dave and Katie McKinley (friends of Donna Kretschmer), Toni Marie (Melissa McGinnis' friend), Tony Michniak, friend of Hilary Holmes (Pam Petry's daughter), Nancy McClintoch (Jeanna Sheldon's mother), Christina Moretz (Nancy Merck's granddaughter and Ellen's niece), Jeff Nadeau and family (co-worker of Pete Moeller), Martha Price (Terry's mother), Chris Reinhold and family (John Johnson), Dr. Elizabeth Rinker (Penny Damron's friend), Terra Rollins (Jon Green's sister, UNC Chapel Hill Hospital), Jackie Rozzelle (Robbin Whitley's mother), Bruce Safrit (friend of Billie & Laura McGee, Salisbury), Gloria Sheets (Linda Meyer's friend), Harry Sheldon (Harry's father), Sherry Smith, Susan Whitesides, Margaret Williams (Terry Saunders' cousin), Logan Wingate (friend of the Wardwells) and John and Joanne Woods (Karen Bryant's parents), Gus' Co-Workers (reduction in workforce) Benji, David, DeWayne, Jennifer, Jody and Warren

Our Prayer Partners

Saint Paul Lutheran Church, (Durham, NC)
Matthew Hofer, Missionary to Japan

Please send your prayer requests and updates to amfgail@bellsouth.net or call the Church Office 704.392.6214. Thank you, Gail

Remembering the Military and Their Families

- ♦ John Alexander (Melanie Brigman's friend), Army National Guard
- ♦ Marty Brownlee (Brian Wardwell's Brother in Law)
- ♦ Lt. General John Campbell (Ranee' Hedrick's friend)
- ♦ Nick Hersom (Stephanie Moeller's nephew)
- ♦ Major Heather Doerr-Jarosz
- ♦ Christopher Nichols (Donna Kretschmer's cousin), Afghanistan
- ♦ David Nix (Randy Hedrick's friend), Army
- ♦ Andrew Pierce, Navy (Robin Moore's niece's husband)
- ♦ Daniel Reilly (Mike & Anela Reilly's nephew), Iraq
- ♦ Joseph Tillson (Brian Wardwell's nephew), Spain
- ♦ Jace Waller, Navy (Robin Moore's nephew)



**Strength for Service
TO GOD AND COUNTRY**

DEAR GOD, let us gratefully keep in mind Thy promise of strength in accordance with our needs. May we meet each day's trials with high courage and confidence born of unquestioning faith. *AMEN.*

MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Renee' Collins
Ushers: Amy Johnson and Richard Lautensleger
Offering Tellers: Joe and Leslie Brigman
Communion Presenter: Amy Johnson
Communion Bread: Brian and Becky Wardwell
Communion Wine: Gus and Donna Kretschmer
Council Persons of the Month: Brian Wardwell/
 Barbara Kutz
Instrumental Ensemble: Charles Burton, Jon Greene,
 Katie Hughes, Robin Hussey and Anna Harrison

March 4

Worship Assistant/Crucifer: Gus Kretschmer
Communion Preparation: Libby Holman
Joyful Journeys: Libby Holman

March 11

Worship Assistant/Crucifer: Jim McGee
Communion Preparation: Barbara Kutz
Joyful Journeys: Edna Chirico-Huber

March 18

Worship Assistant/Crucifer: Brian Wardwell
Communion Preparation: Brian Wardwell
Joyful Journeys: Donna Kretschmer

March 25

Worship Assistant: Linda Meyer
Communion Preparation: Terry Saunders
Joyful Journeys: Edna Chirico-Huber

Birthdays

3 Cheri Redding
 14 Richard Allen Phillips
 Ti'mar Nazario
 17 Mary Holman
 20 Harold Phillips
 22 Chuck Mick
 28 Rane'e Hedrick
 Abby Bacon
 Jennie Pitoniak

Anniversaries

1 Greg and Penny Damron
 2 Howard and Buddy Boyd
 7 William and Diana Graham



If your name is not listed on the birthday/ anniversary lists, please call the Church Office (704-392-6214). Thank you.



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11.

On March 7, 14, 21, 28 ~ Chancel Choir Rehearsal will follow the Wednesday evening worship service.



March 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH Starz Baseball BBO, FH Reserved, Thurs.-Fri.	2 Room in the Inn, FH Team #3 Church Office Closed	3 VdC, Ultreya, FH 5-7 pm
4 Coffee Fellowship, 8:45 Adult Sunday School, 9 am Worship Service/ Joyful Journeys for Kids, 10:20 am	5 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH	6 Girl Scouts, FH, 7 pm Queen City Ringers	7 Community Lenten Service/ Meal at Cook's Presby. Ch., 12noon Lenten Svc., AMF 7 pm Choir Rehearsal will follow the service	8 <u>April Newsletter Deadline</u> Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH	9 Room in the Inn, FH Team #4 Church Office Closed	10 Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast Meeting, 8:30 FH
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins Coffee Fellowship, Adult Sunday School, 9 am Worship Service/ Joyful Journeys 10:20 Worship Board Meeting, Council Meeting 5:30 pm	12 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH	13 Girl Scouts, 7 pm Queen City Ringers WELCA Meeting, 7 pm	14 Community Lenten Service/ Meal at Cook's Presby. Ch., 12noon Lenten Svc., AMF 7 pm Choir Rehearsal will follow	15 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH	16 Room in the Inn, FH Team #1 Church Office Closed	17
18 <u>Food Collection</u> Coffee Fellowship, 8:45 Adult Sunday School, 9 am Worship Service & Joyful Journeys, 10:20 am	19 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH Needle Ministry, 7 pm	20 Girl Scouts, FH, 7 pm Queen City Ringers Narthex	21 Community Lenten Service/ Meal at Cook's Presby. Ch., 12noon Lenten Svc., AMF 7 pm Choir Rehearsal will follow the service	22 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH	23 <u>Sanctuary/FH Reserved, March 23-24</u> Room in the Inn, FH Team #2 Church Office Closed	24 Paw Creek Elem School BBQ, 11 am-
25 Coffee Fellowship, 8:45 Adult Sunday School, 9 am Worship Service/ Joyful Journeys, 10:20	26 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH	27 Girl Scouts, FH, 7 pm Queen City Ringers Narthex	28 Community Lenten Service/ Meal at Cook's Presby. Ch., 12noon Lenten Svc., AMF 7 pm Choir Rehearsal will follow the service	29 Zumba, 6:30 pm, FH	30 Room in the Inn, FH Team #3 Church Office Closed	31

The minutes are copied as submitted:

A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church ~ Church Council Minutes January 8, 2012

Attending: Glenn Collins, Terry Saunders, Mike Bozeman, Barbara Kutz, Brian Wardwell, Mary Holman, Pastor John Petry, Dwayne Graham, Edna Chirico

Meeting convened at 6:30pm. Devotion by Glenn from duties of church council book

Motion by Brian, seconded by Dwayne to approve December minutes with two amendments. List John Huber in place of John Johnson under property and clarify office administrator vacation to specify 3 weeks (12 days). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Chuck, seconded by Brian to receive Pastor's report, passed unanimously. At the request of pastor – motion by Chuck, second by Mike to include the letter requesting additional giving to the NC Synod in next weeks bulletin. Discussion was held regarding January 1 service and confusion between the actual service and what was reported in bulletin. Request in future that a summary of how services without Pastor will be handled be reported via email to church council to assist with clarification.

Establishment of Ministry Board Stewards and liaisons

- Worship – Barbara Klutz will be liaison, Amy Johnson and Linda Meyer will remain co-chairs
- Learning – Mary will be liaison, Libby Holman will chair
- Outreach – Terry will be liaison, several interested committee members will seek chair
- Parish Life – will seek a chair and liaison
- Property – Mike Bozeman will be liaison, John Huber will chair
- Resource – Chuck Lehr will be liaison, Greg Damron will chair
- Personnel – Edna Chirico will chair, Mary Holman is liaison due to her position as Vice Chair of Council
- Youth – Brian Wardwell will serve as liaison, Gus and Donna Kretschmer chair.

Discussion was held and determination made to hold a ministry board information session and encourage recruitment for committees at the January 22 AMF Annual Meeting.

Board Reports:

- Worship – no report
- Learning – Schedule set for Joyful Journeys, Terry reported on continuing initiatives of Lyerly Class
- Outreach – Discussion on how to involve new members and expand outreach
- Property – Motion by Chuck, seconded by Brian, approved unanimously, to authorize spending of up to \$528 to replace TRAN HVAC unit motor. Mike will seek competitive bids. Dwayne volunteered for Property Board
- Resource – appreciation for continued efforts of Jeanna Sheldon and Greg Damron. Chuck is seeking replacement chair
- Personnel – Annual employment agreements have been signed including Jon Greene
- Youth – 2 attending national Youth gathering in New Orleans \$2300 is set aside in budget. Gathering is July 18 through 22.

Treasurers Report: Jeanna is seeking replacement for financial secretary. Chuck will work on back-up strategy for financial reporting. Motion by Mary, seconded by Brian to accept treasurer's report, approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- Office computer upgrade will be completed this week when virus protection is installed
- Copy paper codes are being updated. Cost per copy has increased. Gail has been asked to reissue codes.
- Glenn will deliver list of Council Person of the Month for 2012 to Gail
- Council Retreat is set for February 12 from 6pm to 9pm, congregation will be invited and Mary H. will coordinate food.

New Business:

- Discussion was held on how best to coordinate sponsors for new members. This historically tied to Parish Life.
- Time was spent reviewing church directories and updates provided. Gail will use this version for annual reports.
- Glenn will use updated directory to update Shepherd List.
- Edna is in process of updating web site, requests assistance from each board to help design a simple page.
- Mike requested use of parking lot for fund raiser for friend who was just diagnosed with Lou Gehrigs disease. Determination was made that use of parking lot does not request council approve, but that all community uses were allowed, simply ensure property scheduled with church office.
Motion by Brian, seconded by Dwayne to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next council meeting is scheduled for February 12 at 6pm – our retreat.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Edna Chirico

The minutes are copied as submitted:

**A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2012**

Annual meeting was convened at 11:35am on Sunday, January 22, 2012 in the church sanctuary. Glenn Collins, 2012 Council President presiding.

Annual Reports were handed out to the members of the congregation present. Estimated attendance for annual meeting was 43.

Glenn shared his vision for 2012 with a vision of Jonah.

Glenn asked for additional support in leadership in the ministries of Outreach and Parish Life.

Glenn requested each member of the congregation get involved in a ministry to support our church missions and respond to him or a council member by no later than 2/11/12 if interested.

Gus asked for a review of the 2011 financial status. Glenn reviewed the financial documents within the Annual Report noting the year end actual was within \$2900 of budget.

Glenn asked for each member of congregation to check the church directory information for accuracy and respond to Gail with any changes as soon as possible.

Motion by Edna Chirico, seconded by Brian Wardwell to receive the annual report. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Chuck Lehr, seconded by Amy Johnson to adjourn the annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:50am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Edna Chirico, AMF Church Secretary.

AMF Website Note: Please visit www.amightyfortress.org. We are working in making regular improvements and would like your input and help in keeping our website fresh and inviting. We are asking for your photos and announcements. Please send anything you would like considered for posting to jhuber@greenmoose.net.

We are also working on an online directory – we will have a printed draft in your April newsletter for your review and approval. **Please let us know if there are any telephone numbers you don't want put on our website directory.**

If you are on Facebook – please friend our Facebook page. Thank you - Edna

Thank you ~ In response to our request at the Congregational Annual Meeting, the following people have offered to take a leadership role in our ministries. They each encourage your involvement, support and ideas as we seek to improve our family life and outreach ministries.

Parish Life – ***Diana Graham*** – please stay tuned for thoughts and ideas on how we can better serve our members. Please join Diana in volunteering your service to this ministry.

Outreach – ***John and Sharon Johnson*** – will serve as Outreach project coordinators. Anyone wishing to spearhead additional outreach programs should contact them to coordinate.

Room in the Inn Teams and Schedule: March 2 - March 30, 2012

Team # 2 03/23/12	Team # 3 03/02/12 03/30/12	Team # 4 03/09/12	Team # 1 03/16/12
Kirby Bryn 599-6312 999-6214 Jay Perkins 788-4484 Karen Bryant 398-2633 Edna Chirico 562-8847	Chris & Zack Smith 875-3260 Sharon Johnson 392-1932 Yona Kaplan 277-9629 Jimmy McGee 394-8853 Libby Holman 392-3611	Gus & Donna Kretschmer 394-6070 Chuck Lehr 969-3123 Terry Saunders 399-8989 Pete & Stephanie Moeller 822-8193 Barbara Kutz 392-1403	John Johnson 392-1932 Brian & Becky Wardwell 394-2204 Pastor John & Pam Petry 975-1744
<u>Alternate volunteers</u>			
Barbara Kutz Overnight 704-392-1403		Kirby Bryn Transportation and overnight 704-599-6312	
John Johnson Overnight 704-392-1932			

Paw Creek Elementary School will hold their 1st Fundraising BBQ prepared by John Johnson on Saturday, March 24, beginning at 11 am. Plates \$8.00 / 2 Sandwiches & Chips \$7.00. You can support our partnership with Paw Creek Elementary by enjoying some BBQ as you support the school. Eat in or take out.

The Meal That Makes Us Family and Friends

We all need to eat and drink to stay alive. But having a meal is more than eating and drinking. It is celebrating the gifts of life we share. A meal together is one of the most intimate and sacred human events. Around the table we become vulnerable, filling one another's plates and cups and encouraging one another to eat and drink. Much more happens at a meal than satisfying hunger and quenching thirst. Around the table we become family, friends, community, yes, a body.

That is why it is so important to "set" the table. Flowers, candles, colorful napkins all help us to say to one another, "This is a very special time for us, let's enjoy it!"

From the Henry Nouwen Society Daily Meditation
Wednesday February 15, 2012

The Girl Scout Troops, who are sponsored here at AMF, will be recognizing the 100th anniversary of the first Girl Scout meeting by Juliette Gordon Low on March 12, 1812. We are looking forward to worshipping with you on March 11 and praising God with a dance. We especially thank Mary Holman and Penny Damron for providing the music for our practice and to Katie Hughes for creating a praise dance that the girls are learning.

We appreciate all your help and we want to thank you for your sponsorship and for allowing us to use the facilities. We are planning a beautification thank you project by planting 100 pansies at the entrance to the church, so by the time you read this, hopefully the plants will be in beautiful bloom. Thanks to Amy Wood for helping the Junior GS troop plant the pansies. We appreciate Edna Chirico-Huber's expertise in planting.

Also, thank you for buying our cookies. The sale will end by March 15. The Cookies for the Troops will be sent straight from the bakery to the troops' commissaries for distribution overseas. If you are purchasing for a particular military person, please order and ship directly to that person. Also, do not forget the ones at home. This is the primary funding for our Girl Scout troops.

The troops are challenging themselves as they get to know each other and begin the journey into scouting. During the month of January, the Daisys created 48 special Valentines for a nursing home and the Juniors have done some planning for upcoming events and activities and read about the character roles in books and movies. The Brownies are working on several badges including the Brownie Quest, Snacks, The Girl Scout Way, Computer Expert, Dancer, African American History and My Best Self badges. Additionally, they are near earning their Meet My Customers badges, due to their ongoing hard work with cookie sales. They are really taking their leadership roles seriously, as each girl has planned to work on a badge on their own, by pursuing a Legacy Badge related to their individual goals. The Brownies and Juniors are making plans for a trip to Savannah, GA to the home of the Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low, the end of March. Finally, all troops began practice on the praise dance and the girls are loving it! So we will see you on March 11 if not before!



**Living To Do God's Work
Celebrating LFS Month 2012**

*For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.
Psalm 100:5*

The ministries of Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas (LFS) are celebrated in congregations around the state during the month of March. For 35 years, LFS, now affiliated with Lutheran Services for the Aging, has served vulnerable populations in North and South Carolina through special programs aimed at promoting healing and wholeness. These programs include child and youth services, such as foster care, special needs adoptions, and residential care for youth with developmental disorders, and services geared toward adults with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries, homeless veterans, and refugees.



This past year has been one full of financial challenges for the LFS ministry as it continues on its mission to do God's work for those in need. If you would like to make a gift to support the work of Lutheran Family Services, contributions may be mailed to P.O. Box 2369, Salisbury, NC 28145, or made securely online at www.lfscarolinas.org.

Thank you for being our partner, thank you for your support, and thank you for honoring the work of LFS this month and throughout the year.