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### GWU's Annual "Festival of Lights" Set for Dec. 4

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# GWU's Annual "Festival of Lights" Set for Dec. 4

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Office of University  
Communications

November 21, 2014

## *Community Invited to Event to Celebrate Christmas Season*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Gardner-Webb University invites the community to campus to celebrate the Christmas season with the annual Festival of Lights. This year's festive holiday event is free and set for Thursday, Dec. 4, beginning at 7 p.m. in Stewart Hall of the Tucker Student Center.

GWU first ushered in the Christmas season with a Festival of Lights in 1985, and the University offers the event as a gift to the community each year, shared Dr. Paul Etter, professor of music in the GWU School of Performing and Visual Arts. "The festival serves as a formal kickoff to the Christmas season," Etter explained.

The event will open with a concert featuring a variety of wind and string ensembles, including a choir, woodwinds, several brass groups, a string trio, and a larger ensemble that includes all of the performers.

The Christmas story will be read by GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner, and scriptures will be shared by Dr. Tracy Jessup, GWU Vice President for Christian Life and Service and Senior Minister to the University. Festival participants will also sing Christmas carols.

Following the concert, the community will walk to the campus Quad for the official lighting of the University Christmas tree.

Luminaries will then guide the public to the Tucker Student Center for refreshments and live music from several ensembles.

Seating is limited for the event, and participants are encouraged to arrive early. For more information on the Festival of Lights, contact the GWU Office of Communications at 704-406-3221.

***Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704-406-4264 or email [servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu) with your request.***

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for career success and for engaged, responsible citizenship in their professional, civic, and spiritual communities.*