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Office of University Communications

November 18, 2011

Community Invited to Participate in this Christmas Tradition



BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – In 1985, Gardner-Webb University first ushered in the Christmas season with a "Festival of Lights," a community-wide celebration of the birth of Christ that has become an annual tradition in Boiling Springs. This year's Festival takes place in the Dover Theatre, inside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Seating is limited for this event, and seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The doors open at 6:15 p.m.

The concert event features a variety of music devoted to the Advent season by the GWU concert choir, chorale, and handbell ensembles, under the direction of Dr. Paul Etter, director of choral activities at Gardner-Webb. GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner will offer the traditional reading of the Christmas story.

Then, the GWU family and greater Boiling Springs community will stroll along illuminated campus paths to light the GWU Campus Christmas tree, a symbol of the University's Christian identity. Afterward, everyone is invited to a refreshment reception at O. Max Gardner Hall.

"As we walk along paths lit by luminaries to light the tree," says Dr. Tracy Jessup, Gardner-Webb's vice president for Christian life and service, "we remember that we, as Christ's followers, are the light of the world. The festival is about anticipating the coming of Christ's light, and remembering that we are being transformed as agents of light as we go out into the world."

Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request ten working days prior to the event. Please call 704-406-3549 to make a request.

More information about this event is available through the Office of Communications at 704-406-3221.