



THE MESSENGER

The News of the Centreville United Methodist Church December 2006

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

Pastor Grier

The Christmas rush is on! What the stores have been pushing for several weeks now (they've been decorated for Christmas since October - - even before Halloween) is finally being realized by the general public. Christmas IS really coming, and SOON!

Soooo ... "What do you want for Christmas?" I can remember being asked that question many times when I was a young child. Of course, the only one who really needed to know what I wanted for Christmas was jolly 'ol St. Nick. I could sit on his lap, whisper in his ear, and Christmas happened. No fuss, no worry, no doubt. Now that I'm grown, the issue is more complex. I can't just tell one person anymore what I want for Christmas. I have to tell my wife, my children, my mother, my in-laws, and my sister and brother-in-law. And I have to be sure I don't tell them all the same thing. The other night Joel asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I told him about something he could get me, something I could use, and immediately he wanted to know how many other people I had told the same thing. I told him he was the only one. Now all I have to do is remember and really not to tell anyone else the same thing.

This traditional Christmas question got me to thinking. What if God asked me, "Wayne, what do you want for Christmas?" What would I reply? To be sure, I would be tempted to ask for those material things, like, say, "How 'bout a million dollars!" That could pay off our church mortgage, Erin's college loans, and then some. But with more reflection, what would I say to God if He asked me, "What do you want for Christmas?" Deep down inside of me, I know that spiritual things, and not material things, would be the better things to ask for.

So what would be on my list for God? Very simple: Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love. I would ask for Peace, not only for inner peace, within my own life, but also for an outward peace for the world, which is torn by so much strife and hatred and war these

days. I would ask for Hope, something to look forward to, something to anticipate. I would ask for Joy because there's so much unhappiness around. People look to material things to make them happy, but the joy found in material things is a fleeting joy, never a lasting joy. I would ask God for a lasting joy. And I would ask for Love, not the feeling, but the experience; not the illusion, but the reality. I would ask for Love so that all might know that they really do matter, and that someone cares.

If I ever were asked by God, "Wayne, what do you want for Christmas?", and if I should reply, "Lord, I want Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love," then the Almighty would say to me, "Wayne, I've already given you those gifts- - they're found in my Son, Jesus!" Whatever may be found under your Christmas tree on Christmas morning, I pray that, above all, Jesus may be found in your heart. I pray that by your faith in Him, God's blessings of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love may abound in your life because you have accepted God's gift, made especially for you, whose name is Jesus. Christmas blessings!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Barbara Erickson

The UMW have been invited to the home of Mary Ethel Dye for our December 13th meeting at 1:30 .

This winter we will carry on with our Bibs, Bags and Blankets as many materials are on hand...many ready for assembly. Watch the bulletin for workshop dates, or you may pick up items and work at home during this long winter. Call Barbara Erickson and she will be glad to help you get started.

Our Cookbooks are still available for holiday giving....contact any UMW member or the church office for copies.

FELLOWSHIP HALL BLINDS

Mary Ethel Dye

We have had some problems with the blinds in fellowship hall. We are requesting that you do not raise and lower the blinds. If you need the light adjusted, use the rod that adjusts the slats.

These are special order blinds and are heavy. We do not want anyone to get hurt.

We do have a professional who takes care of them when there is a problem. Please notify the church office or Mary Ethel Dye 410-758-4230 if there is a problem.

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING PANCAKE BREAKFAST

December 9th - Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 a.m.

Children's shopping from 9-11 a.m.

Bring the entire family and enjoy your breakfast while the little ones shop for the holiday. All gifts are priced at \$2.00. The pancake breakfast is sponsored by VIM and the cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and children.

OUR HAVEN UPDATE

Larisa Thomas

First a reminder to all those who volunteered to take shifts at the winter shelter. There is a mandatory volunteer training December 5th from 7-9 pm at the Kent Island UMC. All must attend. Mary Walker from Faith Tabernacle will be handling contacting our volunteers about what specific shift they will be staffing in January, based on information we have obtained.

Thanks to all who have offered their services with Our Haven. I am really touched that so many want to help. There is a food sign up sheet on the bulletin board for specific breakfast and lunch items needed in January. I will be contacting people to arrange the dinners. I will get a team of 2 volunteers for each dinner (although families are welcome to do it). These people will be cooking or just reheating the dinners in the KIUMC kitchen at 6 pm to be served by 7 pm They will also need to clean up afterwards. VIM members are available to step in and serve if the volunteers are not able to be at the shelter. Just a reminder, there will also be 2 nights in the week of Feb. 11th -18th that we also will be covering. The exact date will be announced. There will be another food sign up sheet posted for those dates later.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Larisa Thomas

It is fall again, and almost winger. Just a reminder that Volunteers in Mission are here to help those in need in our community. That could be raking leaves, shoveling snow, minor house repairs....If you need help or know of someone that does, please drop a note in the cardboard church outside of the church offices, or contact Robin Pilli at 410-758-1126.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Ed Parry

The Methodist Men heard Jim Maloro, a member of the Chester River Conservancy, speak on the organization and its purposes at the October meeting.

An interesting talk and slide show was given at the November meeting by church member Greg Torchio, an architect in town, whose firm is doing the architectural work for the church addition. His talk included the background of other buildings he and his firm have designed over the years. He is building his own office on Water Street at the present time.

The members voted to give the Methodist Youth Fellowship \$2,000 to pay expenses for the group who will be attending the annual Youth Rally in Ocean City in January.

A nominating committee of Lee Dye and Will Harr was named by President Parry.

The members did not hold a Fall Chicken Barbeque, but will attempt to hold the fund-raiser in the spring.

As always, members are always welcomed from the church. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in Fellowship Hall with a fine meal at 6:30 p.m.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias will be displayed on the altar on December 17th and 24th. Poinsettias must be delivered to the church during office hours by noon on Friday, December 15th. They are to remain on the altar until after the 10 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. You may also choose to leave them on the altar until after the service on December 31st. Individuals wishing to participate are asked to purchase and make arrangements for delivery and pick up of their Poinsettia. Information for the Poinsettia bulletin is due by noon on Wednesday, December 13th.

MEMORIAL/HONOR TREE LIGHTS

There will be an opportunity again this year to have a loved one remembered or honored by placing a light on the outside Memorial/Honor Tree. Red lights will honor loved ones, white lights will be in memory of loved ones. The donation is five dollars, and the proceeds will go into the church Samaritan Fund which assists people in need throughout the year. Call the church office by December 20th, with your request and information.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 17th, joint service at 11 a.m., special musical program by the choir, praise team and drama team.

Sunday, December 24th, regular services in the morning at 8:45 and 11 a.m.

Sunday School Program at 6 p.m.

Contemporary Christmas Eve Service 8 p.m.

Traditional Candle lighting and Carols Service at 10 p.m.

ADVENT STUDY

There will be a four-session Advent Study on Wednesday mornings beginning November 29th and continuing through December 20th, at 9:30 a.m. The study will focus on some of the Advent themes, especially the Prophets, angels, and Mary. All are welcome to come and share.

EVANGELISM

Ann Harlan

December is here and there is so much to do. We will not have a Women's Morning Out this month but will start again in January with a wonderful photographer, Janet Summers. It will be the last Thursday of the month so please mark your new calendars now.

Advent is a wonderful time to take time with your family each day. Here are some ideas from the First United Methodist Church in Cuming, GA:

1. Gather around the Advent wreath each week of the season and read scripture lessons.

(www.gbod.org.)

2. Find a project to help others this Christmas as a family.

3. Make an Advent wreath for someone else.

4. Light the Advent wreath each night at dinner and pray for those you love telling what they mean to you

5. Ask everyone in your family to write notes to each other. Tell them how you love them. Wrap them in little boxes and put them under the tree for Christmas.

6. Place old Christmas cards or new ones in a decorated shoe box. Each night take one out and talk about how the person who sent it had brought you joy and pray for that person.

Have a joyous Christ - mas! Blessings to all.

ADOPT A BEAR

We have several names (boys) left for you to choose from....this is sooooo much fun!

You just take a name, shop for their gifts, wrap them and deliver them back here to the church by December 12th and you will make one child very happy.

The directions and names are here at the church office for you. Come on in, and we will be happy to help you!

COMING TOGETHER ON DECEMBER

17th

Jim Telepchak

On December 17th, 2006, all of the Music and drama programs of Centreville UMC will come together in our sanctuary, at the eleven(11) AM service, to present Pepper Choplin's, "Together for Christmas".

"Together for Christmas" explores and emphasizes the importance of the gathering of the family of God during the Christmas season, both emotionally and spiritually. Using the simplest of musical means, all will be drawn into this welcoming presentation of the story of the nativity. A blend of refreshing new music, beloved carols and traditional melodies accompanied by dramas and vignettes based on four themes: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

These themes have been made even more personal and relevant to the congregation by using the thoughts of our own congregation. Needless to say, this will definitely be a "BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY" or a Sunday to connect with those we haven't seen in a long while. We're looking forward to seeing everyone.

OPERATIONS CHRISTMAS CHILD

Fran Comegys

We want to thank all of you for participating in this much needed mission. You gave 57 boxes along with some donations of money. What a wonderful way to give back to the children all that God has blessed us with in America.

I want to also thank Nancy Williams for helping to carry the many boxes to the drop off point.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Fran Comegys

Jesus Christ is the same - Yesterday Today and Forever.

Children's Christmas Program will be December 24th at 6:00 p.m.

We are asking parents to involve your children in this effort to tell the story and the true meaning of Christmas.

The Sunday School choir, led by Katie Laing have started to practice the songs for the program at 9:30 a.m. right before Sunday School starts.

Please let your child's Sunday School teacher know if you can be there Christmas Eve. We do not want any child to be left out. Please contact me if you can help in any way. Thank you so much.
Fran - 410-758-1421.

CAMPBELL'S LABELS

For proof of purchase, Campbell's only want the UPC label from each package or can. They no longer want the entire label! Some products are worth more than others.....there is a flyer posted in the hall to assist you if you are interested.

PASTOR'S THANK YOU

The pastor would like to thank everyone for the many cards, well-wishes, and goodies he received during "Pastor Appreciation Month." Also, a special "thank you" for the monetary gifts to the Mortgage Fund in his honor. Your out-pouring of love and support are deeply appreciated.