

The Messenger



December 2007

Newsletter

December Events!

- December 1st - Pancake Breakfast and Children's Secret Shopping
- December 16th - Christmas Cantata
- December 17th - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- December 24th - Christmas Eve Services

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Pastor's Paragraphs by Rev. Wayne Grier

One of my favorite movies, which I enjoy seeing again and again each Christmas season, is "It's a Wonderful Life." Most of you are, no doubt, familiar with the story. The main character, George Bailey, has BIG plans for his life. He wants to go places and do things far beyond his hometown of Bedford Falls. However, circumstance after circumstance keeps George Bailey in Bedford Falls. George takes over the building and loan business in town after his father suddenly dies, and, little by little, his dreams of making it BIG in the world give way to the day after day business of life. He gets married, has children, gets involved in the community, but all the time believing he's missed out, that he's been kept from making his "mark" on the world. When a financial crisis hits the building and loan company, George panics, and determines to end his life by jumping off the bridge into the cold waters of the river below. He is rescued by an angel named Clarence. When George comes to the conclusion that it would have been better had he never been born, Clarence is able to show George just how much things would have been different had George not been around. In the end, George comes to realize that his life has had a BIG impact on his family and on the people in Bedford Falls. His brother sums it all up with a toast: "To George Bailey, the richest man in town!"

I think sometimes we're all like George Bailey. We have BIG plans and BIG dreams for life but they often get lost in the day to day business of living, and we think our lives aren't really making any difference. George Bailey discovered the same thing Dorothy did in "The Wizard of Oz," that you don't have to look elsewhere for your happiness because it can be found right in your own back yard. As Christmas comes this year, don't worry about BIG plans and BIG dreams. Instead, concentrate on making a BIG impact right where you are, and among those around you. Remember your family this coming Christmas, not so much with gifts, but with yourself, your time, and attention. Remember your neighbors have experienced difficult times this year—the loss of a loved one, health issues, the break-up of a marriage. Think of your neighbors and their needs this Christmas, and reach out to them and make a difference in their lives, in their Christmas. Remember the poor and the needy this Christmas. A lot of families around us are finding it harder this year to make ends meet. Rising energy, housing, and food costs are making for a slim Christmas for many. (Continued on Page 2)

Pastor's Paragraph's Continued

Find out who's in need and determine to do something about it. There are a lot of good groups around that can help you be involved with the poor and needy—Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Adopt-a-Bear, to name a few.

Above all, remember God this Christmas. Take time for worship, for prayer, for hearing once again the angel's joyful good news. "To YOU is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And remember to follow God's example of reaching out in love, making a difference in people's lives, impacting others for good. George Bailey was the "richest man in town" because he cared about others. May it also be said for us!

Pastoral Announcements By Rev. Wayne Grier

Thank You

Becky and I want to thank all the members and friends of CUMC who helped make Pastor Appreciation Month such a blessing to us. The outpouring of love and appreciation truly touched our hearts, and the many expressions of appreciation through cards, gifts, and goodies made us aware, once again, that CUMC is a church that truly cares. A special "thank you" to Ann Harlan for organizing the Italian covered-dish supper. The food was delicious, and the fellowship hard to beat. Also, thank you to Michael Cimba for sharing his musical talent during the time together. God bless all of you for the blessings you are to the pastor and family of CUMC!

Joint Service

On Sunday, December 16th, there will be one service of worship, a joining together of the contemporary and traditional services, as members of the Praise Band, Chancel Choir, Drama Team, and Sunday School present this year's Christmas musical program. This will be an opportunity for the whole worshipping community at CUMC to come together at 11:00 AM to celebrate the wonderful story of Christmas! You certainly won't want to miss it!

Memorial Tree Light

During the Advent Season, a Memorial Tree is lit outside of the church. You can purchase a light on the tree in memory of or in honor of someone. \$5.00 for Memorial Light. \$5.00 for Honor Light. Call the Church Office to have the name placed in the bulletin insert.

Poinsettias by Roseanne Phillips

Poinsettias for Christmas will be displayed on the Alter December 23rd and 30th. Poinsettias must be delivered to the church during office hours by noon on Friday, December 21st. Individuals wishing to participate are asked to purchase and make arrangements for delivery and pick up of their Poinsettias. Information for the Poinsettia bulletin is due by noon on Tuesday, December 18th. Please call Pat at 410-758-0868.

Christmas Eve Services

6:00 PM Sunday School Program
8:00 PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship
10:00 PM Traditional Carols and Candlelight Service

For more information, visit
www.centreville-umc.com.

New Members by Ann Harlan

Welcome Jean Morris!!!!

Welcome to our new member Jean Morris. Jean was born in Caroline County. She has lived in Queen Anne's County since 1959. She has a son and daughter-in-law, Wally and Sandi Davis, a daughter Susan Davis. Two grandchildren Craig and Beth Lister and two step grandchildren, who all live in Centreville. She lives with her Rat Terrier named Byler and enjoys crocheting, cooking, antiquing, spending time with family and friends, and her job. She is retired from Retail management and is presently employed by Price and Gannon. We are so happy to have Jean as a part of our church family.



Welcome Carol Hellman!

Carol was born in Columbus, Ohio and lived there until her father was transferred to parts of NY and other areas. They then moved to Severna Park where she graduated from high school and lived for 48 years until moving to Centreville a few months ago. Carol is transferring from Severna Park Methodist Church. She is happy to live near her daughter, son-in-law, and two grand daughters. Carol also says she is so blessed to still have her parents who live in Florida now. She enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, and entertaining. Carol lives in Symphony Village and we are so happy to have her with us!!! Welcome!



United Methodist Women by Barbara Erickson

Don't forget to bring Children and Grandchildren on December 1st for the V.I.M. Pancake Breakfast and Children's Shopping! There will be a very special guest from the North Pole to hear last minute and forgotten requests as well! Don't miss this wonderful event for all!

In our outreach, we contributed to the Legion to help sponsor a veteran for the Armistice Celebration with the veterans from Walter Reed.

In January, we will again prepare blankets, bibs, and bags for our shut-ins, and we hope a new project will begin for "Prayer Shawls." We will also provide worship at Corsica Hills Center. In February we will be responsible for Church Wide Coffee Hour and Valentine's gifts for our Shut-ins. Please come join us!

Fall Bazaar Thanks by Lynda Palmatary

On behalf of the Centreville United Methodist Women, I want to thank everyone who helped with our Bazaar/1st Craft Show. We had 24 vendors and I was very pleased with those that participated and some have asked to return next year if we have it. Many thanks again for making our day a success and may God Bless each and everyone.

Nursery Coverage for BOTH SERVICES!

Nursery attendants are now available during both the 8:45A.M. and 11:00 A.M. services. The nursery is covered by one adult and one youth. If you would like to help with the nursery, please contact Fran Comegys at 410-758-1421.

Prayer Opportunities

On Sunday's at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary, members of our church come together to pray for each other as well as other members of our congregation. All are welcome to join us!

In the foyer outside of Fellowship Hall, a Prayer Box is available. There are slips of paper beside it on which you can write your prayer requests. Requests are given to the Sunday Evening Prayer Group.

A Message from the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Dear CUMC Family and Friends,

It has been five months since I spoke to you all about our financial situation here at Centreville United Methodist Church. At that time, we brought to the attention the blessings that we have been given, including the completion of our building project, and the challenges we faced in regards to our financial shortfall. It was stated that we needed a "Shot in the Arm", a financial inflow of cash that would make up our 2007 budget deficit.

Unfortunately, although we did get a small "Shot", that influx of cash was not enough to put our church in a Cash Flow positive position. Our church, as with all organizations, must be able to generate enough revenue (in our case tithes and offerings) to support the operation and staffing needs for a congregation our size. We continue to manage the day-to-day operation of the church in the most efficient manner possible, conserving electricity usage and monitoring all operating expenses. Our operating expenses, just like those in your home, have continued to rise. This has put us in the unenviable position of having to make some adjustments for 2008 that will impact all of us, most visibly a reduction in our church staff.

Three years ago, we took a leap of faith and created a full-time Director of Music position here in Centreville. We hired Jim Telepchak, who brought with him a passion for the music ministry. Jim has done a tremendous job of developing our Praise Team, creating and developing the Youth Praise Team, and producing and directing some of the most memorable cantatas and special music programs in our church's history. Unfortunately, with the creation of this position came the need for us to cover the expenses associated with a full-time person in this capacity, and we as a congregation have failed to fulfill this commitment. Effective January 2008, the Director of Music position at Centreville United Methodist Church will be eliminated. We ask that all of you keep Jim and Robyn in your prayers.

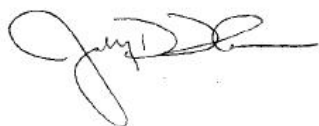
This has been a very difficult decision to make for all of us, and there have been many hours spent praying and searching to find alternative ways to make the finances work. It is difficult in any situation to have to make decisions that impact people that you are fond of, and this decision is no different. This decision impacts not only Jim and his family, but all the members of our music program and church family. We all know the importance of music in our church and lives, and we are hopeful to continue with all of our current music programs. But we will need many prayers, support, and willingness to take on the responsibilities associated with having music each week at our 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM services.

Even with the elimination of the Director of Music position, the 2008 Budget still contains a large shortfall in projected revenue. Our congregation recently committed to offerings in 2008 of \$263,728, and our 2008 budget sits at \$310,431, a shortfall of \$46,703. The Lord is testing all of us and unfortunately, if we do not receive the needed contributions, we will have no choice but to make further cuts and adjustments in our operating expenses in the coming months.

Please pass your Thanks and Appreciation along to Jim this month and let him know that you are praying for him and his family. Also continue to pray for our Church. Let us all pull together to support our church and continue all of the wonderful blessings we have in our Church.

God Bless you for all that you do for our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,



Jerry Thomas
Chair – Staff Pastor Relations Committee

Sunday School News! By Fran Comegys

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

A message from Franklin Graham " Samaritan's Purse"

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project. Since 1990 the project has brought the joy of Christmas to more than 47 million boys and girls throughout the world. Last year we sent 1.24 million shoe boxes from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, Internally Displaced Person camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighborhoods. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 2007.

We want to thank everyone for bringing the shoes boxes for the children. You brought 37 boxes. That is just wonderful. We boxed them up after church last Sunday and delivered them to Grasonville United Methodist Church. They already packed some shoes boxes into shipping boxes. A little over 1,500 shoes boxes came from our county. This church did a lot of work to get them shipped out on time. God bless you all for taking the time to shop.

Christmas Cookie Exchange by Ann Harlan

Put December 17th on your calendar at 7:00pm if you love cookies and you enjoy fellowship! We will have a cookie exchange in the Fellowship Hall. To come, bring 5 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies (more if you can) and the recipe, to church with a cookie tin. Each person will share their cookies with one another and we will all go home with a wonderful variety! Drinks will be provided.



Visit us at www.centeville-umc.com.

Volunteer's In Mission by Larisa Thomas

Food for Our Haven Shelter

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help staff the QAC Homeless Shelter. This year we will again be supplying hot meals for the Guests at dinner. At this point we will not be asking for donations for breakfast or lunch. We are looking for 1 volunteer an evening to prepare food for 10 people plus themselves. The kitchen at KIUMC will be available at 6 pm to heat or prep the food with the meal being served at 7 pm. Families and teams are welcome. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the nametags.

The dates for the shelter are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings of: Jan. 2-4th, Jan. 31-Feb. 2nd, Feb. 28-March 1st, and March 27-29th. For more information contact Larisa Thomas at 410-758-2144.

Presents for VIM's Special Family

The Volunteers In Mission having been working with a family in Queen Anne's County for several months. The family consists of a mother and 4 children, all living in a dilapidated trailer without correct plumbing or heating. VIM is working on getting a better place for the family to live. Meanwhile, Christmas is right around the corner. Anyone interested in purchasing items for the family, please call Larisa at 410-758-2144. There are items they could use, in addition to food or clothing gift certificates. We are proud to say all 4 children made the Honor roll for fall!

Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:15 PM. FREE Dinner is served, followed by the meeting. All current members are highly encouraged to bring a friend!

December 1st
Children's Christmas Shopping
All items \$2.00
AND
VIM Pancake Breakfast
Adults \$5.00
Children \$4.00
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Music Notes! By Jim Telepchak



A 1940's Christmas Homecoming: An event not to be missed!!

Mark your calendars!!! Tell the neighbors!!! Bring a friend!!!! Make your plans now. On December 16th, through the combined efforts of the music and drama ministries at Centreville UMC, we will transport you back in time to WWII for the poignant story, "A 1940's Christmas Homecoming".

"A 1940's Christmas Homecoming", tells the story of a young soldier, who is set to return home on leave to see his young wife and children, when, due to circumstances that can't be mentioned here, must remain to carry out a secret mission. This touching story rings as true today as it must have for many families in the U.S. during WWII.

"A 1940's Christmas Homecoming", features many of the great, traditional Christmas Carols arranged in a way that only Mark Hayes can do in a style reminiscent of the "Big Band" era. We hope you will be able to join us on Sunday, December 16th, at the one and only worship service that day. 11am is the time. The sanctuary is the place. Bring a friend. Bring the Family. Hope to see you there.

Musicians for December

Calling all singers, instrumentalists, bell ringers, and thespians!!! Looking for something that will help make your Christmas memorable? Why not make a one month commitment to join one of our Creative Arts Ministries and help to make it a special December for someone else as well as yourself. We may even let you stay through the Easter Season ;-). Don't wait to be visited by the Spirits of Christmas (i.e. Charles Dickens). There's still time..... Contact Jim Telepchak at:410-708-7137 or email: cumcmusic@yahoo.com Or grab any Music or drama team member. They will point you in the right direction.

Newsletter Articles:

Send newsletter articles for January to newsletter@centreville-umc.com, or place in the newsletter mailbox in the library! Articles are due by December 20th! Please email articles as a Word Document. Please make sure articles are newsworthy for the church or else they will have to be approved by the church council.

Centreville Youth Ministries:

By Ken Laing

Have a Merry Christmas
and think about these for the Christmas season.



A couple lessons to make you think about the way we treat people.

1 - First Important Lesson - Cleaning Lady.

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one:

'What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?'

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. 'Absolutely,' said the professor. 'In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello.' I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2. - Second Important Lesson - Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 60s.. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached..

It read:

'Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others.'

Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

Youth ASP Trip Has Been Scheduled!

Interested Youth and Chaperone's: Mark Your Calendar for June 29th -July 5th, as this is the week we have been assigned. We plan to take 3 teams! Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity! Applications are available and due by December 16th!



Centreville United Methodist Church
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Centreville, MD 21617

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Contact@centreville-umc.com

**We're on the Web at
www.centreville-umc.com**

Church Schedule

8:45 AM - Praise Service with Nursery Available

9:45 AM- Sunday School Classes for All Ages

11:00 AM - Traditional Service with Nursery Available

5:30 - 7:30 PM - Middle School Youth Group (6-8 grades)

6:30-8:30 - High School Youth Group (9-12 Grades)

Membership Classes will be held on the third Sunday of every month at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in becoming a member or if you want to know more about our church, please join us at this time.

Calendar available online at www.centreville-umc.com.