

## December Events!

December 3,  
10, and 17th -

Advent Study

December 5th

Flood Kits due

December 6th

Pancake

Breakfast, and

Children's

Shopping

December 15

VIM Meeting

Cookie Exchange

**Christmas Eve Services:**

6 PM - Children's Program

8 PM - Contemporary Candlelight Service

10 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service.

# The Messenger

Centreville United Methodist Church



December 2008

Newsletter

## Pastor's Paragraphs by Pastor Mark Farnell



It's Christmas time!!! Stores are shoulder to shoulder with people buying gifts. Christmas favorites are playing over the airwaves. Boxes that have been packed away all year are brought out and all of the decorations come to life. The outside of the house is decorated with lights and trimmings to showcase the splendor of Christmas. In our house everything needs to be arranged for Christmas. Furniture is moved so the tree can shine brightly for all to see, shelves are cleared of everyday things to make room for our decorations.

Half of the fun of Christmas is seeing the excited look on everyone's face as they look at all the wrapped gifts under the tree. The other half is opening the packages. Bill Strayhorn said, "God's gift of grace to the world came wrapped in the splendor and glory of the Christ child." And if we find and accept God's gift for us, then we'll joyously and faithfully spend the rest of our lives unwrapping that gift of grace. God's gift came gently and lovingly wrapped in a manger. Now I know the gift came in an unexpected way, wrapped and packaged differently than anyone would have thought possible. Regardless it is a gift!

God freely gives the gift of grace to each and every one of us. There are no conditions. We don't have to achieve something or act a certain way, all we have to do is receive this gift. It's a gift of grace that takes a lifetime to unwrap.

Some gifts you savor, taking your time to open; others you rip your way through. We can't force God's gift open, but it does change everything. God offers us the greatest gift ever given. The manger changes how we look at everyone and everything. Christ came into this hurting and lonely world to be our Savior. God is with us, embodied in Christ to say you matter and that God loves you! That is what we are really doing when we exchange gifts, we are saying you matter and we love you. The gift is not withheld from anyone. Don't leave this priceless package unclaimed or carry it around never having unwrapped it. Won't you receive God's gift of love and forgiveness lying in a manger? It is truly the gift that keeps on giving all year round. From my family to yours may you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## ***Evangelism* by Ann Harlan**

Evangelism is a noun that means “the preaching of the gospel”

### **LOVING HANDS AND HEARTS OUTREACH!**

It would be wonderful for many of us to make an extra amount of a meal, soup, or desert when we are cooking for our families. Then put the food into a freezable container labeled with the name, date, ingredients, and a prayer. Bring it to the church freezer second shelf to be used for those who are in need of a good warm meal to help cheer them and to feel our love. If you know someone who needs our meals, let Pat know in the office who you will be giving food to so we can keep track of where the needs are. Thank you in advance for your love and helping hands!

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### **COOKIE EXCHANGE DEC. 15 AT 7PM!!!!!!**

Come and enjoy the evening at our 2nd annual cookie exchange. The exchange will take place at the church. Bring 10doz. of one kind of your favorite cookies. Maybe they are from a family recipe, a traditional cookie, or something new you've found. With the cookies bring a container to bring home your assortment of all the cookies we will have from everyone. Also, bring the recipe, a photo of you baking when you were younger, or of someone you used to bake with. We will share our recipes, stories of family baking traditions, prayers, refreshments, and fellowship. Please call Ann Harlan to RSVP at 410-758-4349. We look forward to seeing you there!!! Bring a friend!

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### **CHRISTMAS CARDS AS OUTREACH**

This year when you send a Christmas card, send one to another church in our area from all of us at CUMC or perhaps to someone who does not attend here or who did and who has left us. Reach out to our community with the message of the blessing of Christmas and pass on the love of Christ and love from CUMC.

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### **ADVENT STUDY GROUP**

Our advent study group will meet in one of the classrooms of the church starting on Dec.3,10, and 17th. Everyone who signed up, please come at 7pm with your book. If you did not sign up, but would love to attend, please call, Ann Harlan 410-758-4349, Harriet Caporin 410-758-0405, or Robin Pilli at 410-758-1126 to arrange for a book. All are welcome!!!!

## ***Volunteers in Mission* by Larisa Thomas**

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Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> is the next Pancake Breakfast. This one takes place concurrently with the Children's Shop. Come enjoy pancakes, sausage, and eggs along with a little bit of fellowship. If you have kids, they can shop while you drink coffee or tea. We will serve breakfast from 8-11 AM. \$5 adults and \$4 seniors/children.

It is time to sign up for volunteering at Our Haven, QAC homeless shelter. We need 3 volunteers for the 6PM to midnight shift. In addition, we have set a goal to staff at least one midnight to 6 AM shift each of our volunteer weekend. This will free up extra funds that can be used for other items. The dates are January 29-31, March 5-7, and April 9-11. Please see Stacey Strotman at 410-482-2279 to volunteer or look for the sheets after church. The signups to provide dinner are posted on the bulletin board.

We are finalizing the roster for the VIM trip to the Appalachia Service Project to be April 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Praise God, there will be 2 teams going. Ages 14-99 are invited, and there are no experience requirements (although we also need some experienced workers too!). If interested, please email [Larisa.Thomas@centreville-umc.com](mailto:Larisa.Thomas@centreville-umc.com).

The next meeting is December 15. All are invited to be the hands through which God can work!

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## **Guess Who!!! By Pastor Mark**

Last month's mystery person was Dick Phillips! See if you can figure out this month's!

This month's mystery person has always lived in Queen Anne's County and has always been a member of Centreville United Methodist Church. This person remembers walking from one of the original churches up to the top of the hill for the groundbreaking ceremony of what is now CUMC! This person graduated from Queen Anne's High School in 1976, and when asked what his hobbies are, the answer was "Work, work, and work." He can take credit for adding on and renovating his own kitchen, as well as tackling many jobs around the church. He is a dedicated husband and father, with three talented and wonderful children. Do you know this mystery person?



## *United Methodist Women* **By Barbara Erickson**

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New Chairs and additional tables arrived in time for our Fall Bazaar! And on most occasions, we still need more tables!

Our thanks to all who helped in any way with the Bazaar. It was a success—with vendors and lots of good food! “Auction Glory” sold at the Bazaar—proceeds go to Camp Pecometh!

We have also purchased additional shelving, which is now in the chair/table closet!

Our thanks also to the Trustees for their additional cabinets in the Sunday School room—it speeds our sewing sessions!!

Looking forward—December 6th will find us sponsoring “Children’s Shopping.” Also available at this time will be the UMW’s craft table with gifts and trimmings for the holidays. You may also have breakfast with the VIM team or a cup of coffee while the children shop.

You will find us preparing school bags for Morgan Edwards and Nancy Cook’s mission trips.

Again, we need help with cutting and sewing up these bags. Join us on Tuesday’s in the “Red Room.”

Also in January, we will conduct services at Corsica Hills and serve the Coffee Hour between services on January 18th.

We are also hoping to revive our Tuesday morning Bible Study in January. More information will be coming soon.

All are welcome on Tuesday mornings and our regular monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesday at 1:30 PM.

### **Scholarship Committee** **By Connie Wilson**

The UMW Scholarship Committee says many thanks for your support in 2008.

Anyone interested in Roda Cutlery for a Christmas Gift can contact Marion Lieby at 410-758-1190. It usually takes a week but allow 10 days please.

We are planning our CHICKEN SALAD– BAKE SALE in mid May 2009.

SENIORS—Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. They must be completed and returned by April 10th.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy Holiday!

## **Help Us Collect 25 Health Kits!**

**By Larisa Thomas for Volunteers in Mission**

### **Respond to the Hurricane's and Flooding: Be hands and feet for Jesus**

by assembling these items for distribution from the warehouse at Mission Central. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) is one of the first responders during a national disaster. Their goal is to alleviate suffering. The one way they help is by giving out the simple necessary items that most disaster victims do not have access to. VIM is helping to collect Health kits, Flood buckets, and other supplies to re-supply warehouses. We will post sign up sheets outside of the Fellowship Hall. All donations need to be turned in to the church by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please place items in the room across from the library (the old blue room).

### **Important Kit Assembly Information:**

- +All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- +All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.
- +Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- +Please include \$1-\$5 per kit for shipping costs

### **Health Kits:** Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

### **Top Ten List of Bulk Material Needs (these may be simply donated)**

(listed in order of priority)

1. Terry cloth hand towels (15" x 25" or 16" x 27", No kitchen towels)
2. Metal nail files or fingernail clippers (no emery boards, no toenail clippers)
3. Children's blunt scissors
4. Pencil sharpeners (plain, small, individual sharpeners with no emblems)
5. Baby sweaters (open in the front)
6. Cloth baby diapers (cloth only--no disposable diapers)
7. Ruled paper (pad, spiral, or loose leaf)
8. Baby gowns or sleepers
9. School Bags (finished size 14" x 16")

## **News from The Board of Trustees**

A blanket and a pillow for emergency use have been placed in the small closet near the Men's Room in the hall between Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.

There are First Aid Kits in the cabinet under the stairway in the foyer of the Sanctuary and in the kitchen in the lower cabinet by the door going into Fellowship Hall. There is also one in the storage area by the new Sunday School rooms.

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## **Help Conserve Energy (and Money!)**

In an effort to save costs on energy bills, we are asking that everyone be proactive in making sure that the lights are turned off and that the heat/air conditioning are turned back to an appropriate temperature for when the building is not in use. There have been some instances when areas have been found with lights on and heat going strong, and in an effort to save money and the environment, we are asking everyone to help out and make sure the lights are out! Thanks for your help with this matter!

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## **Altar Flowers by the Worship Committee**

Many thanks to all who provided altar flowers this year. The flowers added to the beauty of the sanctuary and your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated. Anyone desiring to provide altar flowers on 1/11/09 or 1/18/09 should contact Stacy Strotman (410-758-3616) or Ruth Ann Walls (410-827-4588).

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## **Care Bears from CUMC by Ruth Ann Walls**

Most of us have heard about and/or seen THE INFAMOUS BLACK BEAR that has frequented our community recently. Well, now the bears are coming to CUMC. You will find them throughout the church: in Fellowship Hall, on tables and windows in the hallways and on the pews in the sanctuary. They will be joining us for worship on Sundays and other activities. They represent the love, friendship, and caring that we experience at CUMC and want to share with others.

Perhaps you know someone who is the hospital, sick at home or just needs a bit of cheer. If so, please take one of our Care and Share Bears to them. Regardless of age, it's sure to bring a smile to their faces and a lift to their spirits knowing that CUMC cares about them. You can also help continue this ministry by bringing in bears (new ; clean and recycled, any color or size). Just leave them in the Blue Room (next to the men's restroom) and they will be prepared for their ministry. Anyone who wishes to help with this ministry should contact Ann Harlan.

## **PRAYER NOTES & TIPBITS** by Bonnie English

Throughout the Bible, we are reminded and commanded to pray, not only for each other, ourselves, the church and pastor, workplace, country etc., but the most important reason we pray is to spend time with and deepen our relationship with our Lord – to become more like Him. While reading the book, *Pray the Price*, by Dr. Terry Tekyl, I came across an acronym I'd like to share with you, by permission of Janet Groff, of Renewal Ministries. This is something we each can pray for ourselves and our Church. The acronym is:

- M-** Welcome the Holy Spirit to **MOVE** in our midst. Pray for a spirit of prayer to fall on us. Pray for God to raise up intercessors and prayer places so that we may be known as a house of prayer.
- E-** Thank God for **ERASING** our sins through Jesus' work on the cross. Repent of anything in our denomination that you believe grieves the heart of God.
- T-** Take **TIME** to be still, listening for His voice.
- H-** Receive His **HEALING** and restoration for those who have been hurt by the system.
- O-** Pray for God to **OPEN** our hearts and bring us into unity, so that we in turn may become leaders of unity in the body of Christ.
- D-** Ask God to **DIRECT** us in reaching the unchurched. Believe Him for vision and creativity in our evangelistic programs and outreach ministries. Claim a harvest of new professions of faith.
- I-** **INTERCEDE** for the Bishops, District Superintendents, pastors and other leaders. Pray blessing and protection, wisdom and holiness over them.
- S-** **SEEK** God in behalf of your pastor, his or her family, and the needs of your church.
- T-** **THANK** God for his faithfulness to us.

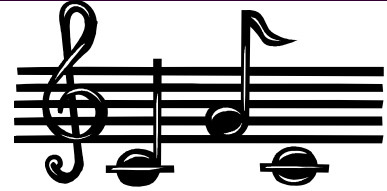
Our Prayer Group/Prayer Chain wish everyone a Wonderful, Blessed Christmas!

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### **Prayer Requests on-line:**

Effective immediately, anyone wishing to make a prayer request on-line may do so by going to our Church website: [www.centreville-umc.com](http://www.centreville-umc.com) In the upper right hand corner of the home page you will see a tab labeled, "Prayer Requests". Click on it and you may submit your prayer request in the selected box. If you have a confidential prayer request, click the box "Confidential" and the request will go only to Pastor Mark. Otherwise, the requests will be sent to Peg Starkey, Prayer Chain Contact, Barbara Meeks, Lay Speaker and Bonnie English, Prayer Group Contact. All prayer requests are diligently prayed over and we hope to hear of the answered prayers as well! We hope you will take advantage of this new technology. A big thank you to Jerry Thomas, who made this possible for us!!

## Music Notes by Nancy Cook



Our choral and handbell choirs are growing, but we still welcome those who wish to become “ministers of music” through the various musical groups.

WENDESDEAYS - 6:30 PM - Cherub Choir - Ages 2 through Grade 1  
6:30 PM - Youth Choir - Grades 2 through Grades 8  
7:00 PM - Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAYS - 5:30 PM - Beginner Bells - Grades 3 through Adult  
(No experience required)  
6:00 PM - Tintinnabulators - Grades 3 through Adult  
(Music Reading Required)  
6:45 PM - Joy Bells - Experienced Bell Ringers  
(All bell positions are filled at this time)  
\* 7:50 PM - Adult Choir - High School Juniors through age 90

SUNDAYS - 4:00 PM - Youth Praise Team Rehearsal

\* A Special Note: The Adult Choir is seeking persons who have sung in high school or college. NO MUSIC READING IS REQUIRED, just a love of singing and of serving the Lord.

**A TALENTED U IS NEEDED IN THE MUSIC MINISTRY!!**

### Praise Service Power Points by Jerry Thomas

Each Sunday our 8:45 Praise Service is delivered with the assistance of Power Point slide presentations. These slides include the songs that are sung, the Call to Worship, and Scripture for each week, as well as the title of that weeks Message. If you happen to miss that week’s service or if you just want to get the words for a certain song or the Call to Worship for the week, you can now see all of the Power Point presentations for each service in 2008. These presentations are found on the Music page of the Centreville-UMC website. Just log onto <http://www.centreville-umc.com/music.htm> and scroll down the page to the Praise Team Slide Presentations, click on the date of the service you would like to view, and the presentation is there for you!

## A Musical Appeal

Our wonderful pipe organ in the sanctuary, the nucleus of which was originally installed in the Epworth Church in Centreville in 1938, is in need of refurbishing. When the merger of the Epworth M.E. Church and the Grace M.P. Church forming the Centreville United Methodist Church occurred in 1959, the builder of the organ, M.P. Moeller, Inc. stored it in its factory at Hagerstown until 1969 when the sanctuary was completed. At this time the organ was completely rebuilt and installed. In 1999 modifications were made to the organ which produced more musical sounds within the limited space constraints. The existing 10-rank Moeller pipe organ was interfaced with the latest digital technology to bring the instrument into the twenty-first century. The cost of the refurbishing was financed by members of our congregation who "bought" a key and managed to purchase an entire keyboard within a remarkable short time. We are so hoping that we will be able to accomplish this project in the same manner.

At the present time the 1938 pipes in the original organ need releathering in order to produce the best sound possible. Thus an appeal is being made for our members to contribute to a special fund to refurbish the organ. The cost will be approximately \$30,000 dollars.

Centreville United Methodist Church is most fortunate to have such an instrument as this Moeller Pipe Organ, that greatly enhances the traditional worship service and, just as importantly, a marvelous organist, who provides such a wonderful music ministry at the console.

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## Tape Ministry

The church is reviving the tape ministry for our shut-ins or for those who wish to have a service recorded. **Please let Nancy Cook or Ruth Ann Walls know of shut-ins who wish to have this service; a tape recorder will be included if that is needed.**

We will continue to use this taped ministry until we have obtained the latest in CD technology and can offer this ministry to those who request it. The monies have been made available for this project and the service should be operational by the middle of January.

## **Sunday School News by Laura Phillips**

### Children's Christmas Shopping

Come visit the **Children's Christmas Shop** December 6th from 9-11 a.m. Children will have the opportunity to personally select gifts in our Christmas Shop during the Pancake Breakfast. All gifts cost \$2. For more information, or to help on the 6th, please contact Lisa Smith or Laura Phillips at 410-829-6064 or 410-827-6156.

### Operation Christmas Child—A Huge Success!

A huge thank you to all that participated in the Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We collected 66 Shoe Boxes! That means 66 happy children around the world will be blessed by our church family in Centreville.

### Retired Cell Phones Needed by Janet Sommers

The Terrapin Grove Senior Citizen Apts. located in Stevensville, Maryland is seeking your cell phone that no longer is being used but still in servicable condition. The cell phones will be cleared of all old information and programmed directly for 911 calls and given to the residents to use for emergencies. The resident manager at Terrapin Grove has advised that there is a need for 50 or more phones.

Sheriff Hofmann has volunteered his office as a collection point and persons interested can drop their old phones and charging cords off at the Sheriff's Office in Centreville.

## **New Member Classes to Be Held 3rd Sunday of the Month!**

**Attend but not a member? New to our church? Interested in finding out  
what being Methodist is all about?  
Plan to meet with Pastor Mark on the 3rd Sunday of the month during the  
Sunday School hour to find out more!**

The logo for Centreville Youth Ministries features the word "Centreville" in a large, blue, cursive font. A thick, grey, curved line arches over the word, ending in a decorative swirl. Below "Centreville", the words "Youth Ministries" are written in a smaller, blue, cursive font, also with a decorative flourish underneath.

By Ken Laing

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Our church is Awesome! Thanks to you our fall spaghetti dinner was a huge success. We were able to serve about 350 dinners and make a profit of about \$2000!! This will go a long way to helping us continue our work of bringing young people to Christ. Our biggest event of our year is quickly approaching, our Youth Rally trip January 9th-11th 2009 and we are closer to being able to afford the trip thanks to your support!

This is going to be our biggest year to date!! As of the 23rd of November we have 52!! youth attending the Youth Rally with 15 adults. I have reserved the entire second floor of the hotel this year!! That's 25 rooms!

We have a mixed blessing with the growth we have- There are more and more youth coming to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour- the good; the more people- the more is costs!- the bad. We will be continuing to look for ways to raise the remaining monies needed for the Youth Rally Event. Please stay tuned for information on our Sponsor a Hotel Room event. This should help complete the need for funds of the rally.

We continue to search ways to fund our ministry and be successful, thanks to you all for the support to help us know Christ better!

### **Christmas Caroling** by Beth Covnington

Friday, December 19th will be our Annual Christmas Caroling Event! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30, and those wishing to go Caroling at Corsica Hills and Tilghman Terrace will leave on the hay wagon. Please bundle up and dress warmly for the evening! When the hayride returns to the church, we will have refreshments. Please bring some cookies to share with all after the caroling. This is a wonderful time to share the love of Christ and the joy of our Saviors Birth with our community, as well as having time to fellowship together in this joyous season. We hope to see you all there!



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**CENTREVILLE  
UNITED  
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608 Church Hill Road  
Centreville MD  
21617

Phone: 410-758-0868  
Email Pastor Mark @  
Mark.Farnell@centreville-  
umc.com

We're on the Web at  
[www.centreville-umc.com](http://www.centreville-umc.com)

## **Sunday Church Schedule Beginning September 7th**

8:45 AM - Praise Service with Nursery Available

9:45 - Sunday School for Ages Pre-School through Adult

11:00 AM - Traditional Service with Nursery Available

5:30-7:30: Middle School MYF (Grades 6-8)

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

Calendar available online at [www.centreville-umc.com](http://www.centreville-umc.com).

Fellowship Hour will be held the 3rd Sunday of each month between both services in Fellowship Hall.  
Mark your calendars for September 21st!