

December- Events!

December 5th

Children's Christmas Shopping

VIM Pancake

Breakfast

Pit Beef Sale

December 11th

CYM Free Babysitting

December 17th

Cookie Exchange

Christmas Eve

Services:

6PM- Children's

Program

8PM- Contemporary Candlelight

Service

10PM- Traditional

Candlelight Service

December 31

First Night for

Mission

The Messenger



November 2009

Newsletter

Reverend's Remarks for December 2009

The tradition of gift giving started when God gave the first gift at the very first Christmas. That gift was named, Jesus. While I agree it is better to give than receive, I must admit a great deal of patience goes into figuring out what gifts to buy at Christmas. It can be an arduous process. The month of December is spent buying gifts for gatherings at home, school, work, church, and community organizations. There is a lot of time and energy that goes into the purchasing process. Regardless of the hustle and bustle of shopping, gifts are signs that show our love and care.

Have you ever received a gift you didn't know what to do with? Well, Jesus is the perfect gift. The gift of Jesus is perfect because it is for everybody, no one is left off the gift list. Notice when you give a gift it shows the love of the giver and it meets the need of the receiver. It is the same with God; he showed his love by giving us his only begotten Son. Humanity receives a Savior who forgives us for our sins and loves us very much.

As an ex-drummer one of my all time favorite legends of Christmas is "The Little Drummer Boy." When Jesus was born he was presented with many wonderful gifts; great gifts of beauty. But a small, poor boy had nothing to offer Jesus, subsequently making him sad. After much thought he decided to play his drum as a gift. According to the legend, the small boy shared his gift on his drum to the delight of the babe. You see it wasn't much of a gift but nonetheless it brought a smile to the Christ child. The way we respond to receiving gifts should be mirrored in the way we should respond to God's Christmas gift. *"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* Luke 2:11.

During this last month of 2009 may you experience the joy of the gift given at the very first Christmas, Jesus Christ. Don't leave this gift unwrapped, please open your life to it so the joy of Christmas can be felt all the days of your life. From my family to yours may you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

This month we celebrate the Seasons of Advent and the birth of our Dear Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a time of personal reflection about our own relationship with Him. We daily read and study the Scriptures, pray for the personal needs and count the multiple blessings and praises He has given to each of us. But what does His ultimate sacrifice for our individual sins upon the Cross truly mean to us? Without His willingness to leave His Divine throne in heaven to be born the Son of Man, we would have no hope of being reunited with our Abba Father. We would have no heavenly High Priest to intercede in prayer for us; we wouldn't be able to minister to each other with the various gifts and talents He has given to each of us. And yes, just as Pastor Mark said November 15th, we all are ministers and have these gifts and talents to share. The trials we go through help us to minister with our gifts to others going through similar situations... We bless others and He blesses us. We are and will continue to be used by God as long as we maintain a strong, healthy, pure and holy relationship with Christ. Every week our Prayer Group gets together to pray for the needs and concerns of you, our congregation, and our sister churches. We specifically prayed this week that the Lord will stir up and reveal those gifts to you that we all may truly be His witnesses, letting our lights shine for Jesus; that people will notice that "glow" in us from being in the Presence of the Lord and desire it for themselves.

How thirsty and hungry are you in being determined to grow in Him and to be used by Him? I'll leave you with 3 specific Scriptures I pray you'll look up and meditate upon: John 7:37; 1 Corinthians 12:13 and Revelation 21:6. The best part, His living water is free to any and all who will drink!

While I was personally ministering to a dear sister in Christ, during her illness, I had my personal hymnal with me and was able to minister a very special hymn to her and her mother. The title of the hymn is an all-time favorite for many of us – "Jesus Is All the World to Me." (#469) As I sang that song to them, the words really "hit home" to my own heart – "Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all; He is my strength from day to day, without Him I would fall. When I am sad, to Him I go, no other one can cheer me so; when I am sad, He makes me glad, He's my friend.

Yes, Dear Ones, we have a Wonderful, All-Powerful, Majestic and Loving Lord who has heard it all and been through it all for every man, woman, and child ever created by Him – past, present and future.

Therefore, I pray we will each reflect where we are with the Lord and take Him up on His offer to come and drink freely from His eternal living water that we may "water" others with His great Love and compassion – bringing them to Him - this month and throughout the years to come. 'Til next month, God bless each of you and have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season.



Our Haven Homeless Shelter

Once again our church will be helping with the shelter. We are in need of volunteers for January 14-16, February 25-27, and March 25-27. Also we need volunteers to prepare dinner for the guest. Please prayerfully consider helping out with this very worthy cause. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Stacey Strotman at 410-482-2279 or 410-758-0868. Thank you in advance for your help; the shelter could not operate without the volunteers.

Evangelism by Ann Harlan

Evangelism is a noun that means "the preaching of the gospel"

Nativity Display

Please feel free to enjoy the display of Nativity Scenes in the library during the first two weeks of Advent this year. Many people have loaned them to the church for our enjoyment as we treasure this time and remember the true meaning of the season, the birth of Jesus our Lord. Please do not touch them as they belong to others but do enjoy all the ways His birth has been depicted.

Advent Study Group

Our Advent study this year will begin on Wed., Dec.2 at 7pm in one of the Sunday school rooms. Our book will be "The Scriptures Sing of Christmas" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Books are \$5.50 each and can be bought for the first night of the study. I am ordering extra so if you did not sign up, please join us anyway. The group will be lead by Bonnie English, Ann Harlan, and Laurie Dalzeil. Please call

Cookie Exchange

Our 3rd annual Cookie Exchange will be held Thurs. Dec 17 at 7pm in one of the Sunday school rooms. Please bring 6 dozen of your favorite cookies and the recipe to share. We will share refreshments, stories and history of the cookies we've made, and take home a wonderful assortment. Anyone may come! Call office for more information at 410-758-0868.



All are welcome!

Give a Bear for Christmas!

There are lots of lonely bears all over our church just waiting to be given a hug or just as a remembrance to someone in need. Share a bear this holiday season and brighten someone's life.

Worship Committee

The Christmas season is just around the corner and poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary beginning December 13, 2009. If you want to place one in memory of honor of someone, please call the office by Monday, December 7th with the appropriate information. You should arrange for the poinsettias to be delivered to the church by Friday, December 12, 2009. Thanks!!



Focus Groups

Pastor Mark and the Worship Committee are planning a series of Focus Groups to discuss a mid-week worship experience at our church.

Times:

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 7:00 p.m. (Sunday School Wing)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 7:00 p.m. (Sunday School Wing)

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 7:00 p.m. (Sunday School Wing)

These groups are designed for you (the members of our church) to share your thoughts/ideas concerning this new experience. Everyone is welcome.

To all Women of CUMC:

We have many opportunities for you to become involved in the ministries of our church. This serves two purposes – we get to know each other better and you find your place of service. Have you found your niche? What are your passions? Visiting shut-ins, Bible studies, crafts, sewing, helping with newsletter, serving luncheons/dinners, cooking and cleaning up, dinners for shut-ins, banner making, prayer groups, helping with Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible School, mission projects, etc.....

What time of the day would be convenient for you?

Morning _____ Afternoon _____ Evening _____

How often could you be involved?

Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Once a quarter _____

Please respond to this request by completing the form below and returning it to the church office. Thank you for helping the ministries of CUMC to grow.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

Times available _____

Areas of interest _____

_____ Suggestions for new activities _____

Tis the Season

Worship Experiences for December

December 6, 2009– Hanging of the Greens (Both Services)

December 24, 2009– 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

8:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship (Service of Nativity, Candlelight)

10:00 p.m. Traditional Worship (Service of Nativity, Candlelight)

December 27, 2009– Year In Review

Christmas Office Hours

The office will be closing on Monday, December 21st at 12:00 p.m. for Christmas.

The office will reopen on Monday, December 28th - Wednesday, December 30th.

The office will be closed December 31st - January 1st and will reopen on January 4th.

Centreville Youth Ministries Missions Team

Centreville United Methodist Church is BLESSED to have 42 individuals, including 30 youth, currently signed up to attend next summer's ASP Missions Trip! This is DOUBLE what we sent last year!!! Instead of only helping three families, we will be helping 6!!!

This also means raising double the funds. The youth are each responsible to raise \$300 on their own, but that still leaves a \$14,000 budget to meet! And to meet our goal, we have started to do year round fundraising. During the month of December we have several events! Please join us for any or all, and as always, thanks for your continued support that allows our Youth to Serve God!

Pit Beef Sandwich Sale Saturday, December 5th

\$6 for Sandwich

\$7 for Sandwich, Drink, and Chips

**Pick up from 10 AM—2 PM
at CUMC**

Middle School Dance Friday, December 11th

7-9 PM

\$5 Entrance

\$1 snacks \$2 pizza



First Night for Mission

HOR'DEOURVES & DANCING

FELLOWSHIP & FUN

**STAY CLOSE TO HOME! CELEBRATE WITH US
FOR A GOOD CAUSE!!**

**A New Year's Eve
Celebration to Raise
Money for the Youth
Missions Team**

9:00 PM-12:30 AM

A Fancy Adult Evening Out!

Limited Tickets! Order Today!

Church Office: 410-758-0868

Katie Laing: 410-758-6939

kttodd1@yahoo.com

**Centreville United Methodist Church
608 Church Hill Road
Centreville MD 21617**

Make Checks Payable to MYF

**Centreville
Youth Ministries**

RECYCLE!!

Centreville Youth Ministries is still collecting used ink cartridges and old cell phones. We have them recycled, so take a moment to help the environment and CYM. There are 5 gallon buckets around the church for you to leave them in. We take any kind of cartridge or cell phone. Think about what happens to your cartridges from work and home!! Some people just mail them back to the manufacturer or throw them out. We can recycle them!!



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who helped support Centreville Youth Ministries by attending our Annual Spaghetti Dinner, it was a HUGE success thanks to YOU! We have been able to make over \$1700, before I make any returns! Thanks again!

We are up to 63 youth being registered for the Youth Rally in January! It is truly an amazing thing to look at the list and see what we have going for us! Our youth are on fire for Christ!

We are still averaging about 48 youth per week at our MYF times! This is something that any church in the conference would love to see happen at their church. Each of you should be proud to know that we don't just look for fun things to do, but each week we meet the youth are pushed to find or dig deeper into their faith. The growth that I get to witness each year in these youth is something truly awesome to witness!

Our mission's trip is in full planning mode. We are scheduled for June 27- July 3, 2010, somewhere in Appalachia. With 30 youth and 15 adults planning on attending we have a great group ready to go serve. Our youth thank each one of you for your support of the trip, please continue to keep it in your prayers!

I thank you all for keeping Centreville Youth Ministries in your prayers and in your minds. Our youth really have a passion to grow their faith and we cannot do all that we do without your help!

Thanks,

Ken Laing
 Director of Youth Ministries
 Ken.laing@centreville-umc.com

"O Come All Ye Faithful..."



Join us as we share the Good News of Jesus' birth,
Christmas caroling for the residents of Corsica Hills
 Nursing Home and Tilghman Terrace. We will meet in the Fellowship
 Hall on **Saturday, Dec. 19 at 6:30pm**, then proceed via wagons,
 so dress warmly!! We will return to church for hot cocoa and cookies.

All are welcome.



Centreville United Methodist Church
608 Church Hill Road
Centreville, MD 21617

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

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

Sunday Church Schedule

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.

Fellowship Hour will be held the 3rd Sunday of each month between both services in Fellowship Hall.
Mark your calendars for November 15th.