

November- Events!

November 1st -
CYM Hayride

November 13th-
Middle School
Dance 6:30 PM

November 15th-
Coffee Hour
After Both Services

November 17th-
CYM Spaghetti
Dinner 6:00 and
7:00 PM

November 20th-
Banner Workshop
10:00 AM

November 25th-
Thanksgiving Eve
Service 7:00 PM

The Messenger



November 2009

Newsletter

Reverend's Remarks for November 2009

Soon it will be time to thaw the turkey. Kitchens everywhere will be crowded with families lending a helping hand towards the Thanksgiving meal. The sounds of mixers and kitchen timers will radiate throughout the house. Once again favorite recipes will be sampled and stories from the previous year will dominate the table conversations with family and friends. It is time for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is all those things but when we acknowledge the presence of God, our lives become a life full of giving thanks.

When I look in history to the declaration of the first "Thanksgiving" announced by Abraham Lincoln it was during a national civil war. When I refer to the first chapter of Ephesians the Apostle Paul finds himself in a dark, cold, dingy Roman prison what surely seems to be leading to a death sentence. Listen to what he had to say: *"Thanks be to God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every blessing"* Gratitude is expressed in thankful lives. Thanksgiving can be part of our everyday routines. One of the first things I learned as a child about good manners was to say, thank you, and Thanksgiving day was a great opportunity for me to show everyone I had good manners. In turn, Theresa and I are teaching the boys the same thing. Let me suggest, being thankful becomes a lifestyle. Sure, there are things in this life that confound us, but it doesn't change the fact God is good. Just like Abraham Lincoln and the Apostle Paul, thanksgiving is about being thankful *in* something rather than *for* something.

This year before the Thanksgiving meal begins pause and be reminded of all the good things God has done and will continue to do. Stop and think, "What would my life be without the presence of God?" *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever"* Psalm 118:1. Look around the table and say, "What would my life be without these people in my life?" Over and over the scriptures declare that God delights in a grateful heart. Every day is Thanksgiving when life is lived in gratitude for all the marvelous things God has done. From my family to yours have a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Prayer Thoughts

When I think of November, the word thanksgiving immediately comes to mind and I am drawn to the book of Philippians. Written in a jail cell from Rome 10 years after several past missionary journeys to Philippi, Paul writes encouraging them to stay strong in Christ's all-sufficiency, whether good or bad. It is Christ who is the meaning of life and death. Even though he is imprisoned, his joy and thanksgiving for what Christ has done in his life never leave him and he never stops praying for everyone who have been and are yet to be ministered to.

The scriptures that readily come to mind come are from Philippians 4:4-8: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! Let your forbearing (gentle) spirit be known unto all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." (NAS Version, parenthesis, mine).

What an exhortation and encouragement to continuously rejoice, pray and have our thoughts in control of the Holy Spirit...to live in Christ's image. This is why we need to take captive those thoughts, words and deeds contrary to what Paul mentions above. He's showing us how to have that peace that passes all understanding, to have victory over the enemy and maintain our thanksgiving and joy because our hearts and minds are guarded in Christ! Just think for a while of the great impact that these scripture verses can have on us...it's truly life-changing...as all Scripture is.

How can we expect to share the Gospel and win others to Christ if we neglect to maintain our relationship through prayer and studying the Word with the Author and Finisher of our faith?

Beloved, as we enter this month, please take some time to consider and thank what the Lord has done for you... first and foremost, the fact that the Father has drawn and chosen us to receive the free gift of salvation and eternal life through the willful shedding of His only Son's blood on that Cross to redeem us from the curse of sin... blessed us with the indwelling of His Holy Spirit ... how He has shown us the treasures in His Word and is transforming our minds...for the ability to be able to freely share the Gospel with others as He leads.... for the prayers that have been answered as well as for those that we are patiently waiting... for the many blessings of friendship and fellowship and provision He has sent our way....how He has protected us, our loved ones and friends all over this world. All of us could go on and on! We certainly have much to praise and thank Him for. Like the saying goes, "God is good all the time and all the time God is good"!

With a thankful heart and much love....blessings until next month!

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

The Centreville United Methodist Church will host a Community Thanksgiving Service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, with other churches in our community. Please join us for a blended service of music, scripture, and a message by Pastor Farnell. Donations of non-perishable foods to replenish the food pantry will be accepted. For more information, contact the church office or Emily Parry at 410-758-1291.

Evangelism by Ann Harlan

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

Nativity Display for Advent

To add to the excitement of Advent we will have a Nativity display in the Library for the first two Sundays of Advent. If you would be willing to share yours with us, please bring it to church by Sunday Nov. 22nd. Please put your name on it so we can make sure to return it safely to you. I have already heard from several people who want to share and I look forward to many more. Please call me , Ann Harlan at 410-758-4349 410-758-4349 for more information.

Women's Morning Out Banner Workshop and Lunch

Friday, November 20 at 10am

Join in the fun and help create banners for the Greening of the church, World Communion, and other special times from 10am-1 on Friday November 20. We will work on the banners first and then share lunch before we leave. Please bring a sandwich or salad and the soup and dessert will be provided. If you have good scissors, they may be of use. We will also have time for sharing and a door prize and newsletter. Call Ann Harlan at 410-758-4349 for more information. Come for as much time as you can spare or just for lunch. I look forward to sharing time with all who can attend.

3rd annual Cookie Exchange Dec. 17th

Our Cookie Exchange has become a much anticipated event. This year we will meet at 7pm probably in one of the Sunday School rooms. Please bring 6 dozen of one kind of your favorite cookie and the recipe. It is fun to share the story of the cookies and to leave with a wonderful assortment. Put the date on your calendar now!

Bear Hugs are Giving Joy!!!!

Don't forget to take a bear from anywhere in the church to share with someone. It can be for a joyous event, an illness, a sorrow, or just to say you are thinking of the person. Many people have been touched by the thought. It spreads the Word and our love to all.

Advent Study

There will be an Advent evening study to be held this Advent season. Information on the dates, times, and study will be available soon!

MUSIC MINISTRY

WHAT IS MISSING IN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY?

U ARE AND WE WILL BE EXPECTING U IN ONE OF OUR MUSIC
GROUPS!!

SUNDAY

4:00 P.M. YOUTH PRAISE BAND

WEDNESDAY

6:30 P.M. - CHERUB CHOIR – AGES 2 THROUGH GRADE 1
BARBARA MEEKS, DIRECTOR
CHOIR ROOM

6:30 P.M. -CAROL CHOIR – GRADE 2 THROUGH GRADE 8
ROBBIN TWILLEY, DIRECTOR
SANCTUARY

7:00 P.M. -PRAISE TEAM – FELLOWSHIP HALL


THURSDAY SANCTUARY


6:00 P.M. TINTINNABULATORS – GRADE 3 THROUGH ADULT
MUSIC READING REQUIRED


6:45 P.M. JOY BELLS- EXPERIENCED BELL RINGERS


7:50 P.M. ADULT CHOIR
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS THROUGH AGE 90
NO MUSIC READING REQUIRED, JUST A LOVE OF SINGING

GRACE NOTES


 The Administrative Board has given permission to acquire a baby grand piano for the Sanctuary (the present one is not acoustically adequate for the space). Thus the music ministry department is initiating a fund to purchase one. The purchase price for a new piano would be between \$20,000 – \$22,000. By some marvelous miracle, a member of our congregation might know of someone who has one and is moving or just “cleaning house,” we would be very interested in “checking it out.” Please contact Nancy if you have any “leads.”

 A word of thanks to our Chancel Choir, the Praise Team, the Youth Praise Team, and the Handbell Choir members who are so faithful in attending their rehearsals and then providing a ministry in music for our contemporary and traditional services. Their offering is a labor of love as they give of their time and talents in glorifying God through music. Won't you say a word of thanks to those participants who enhance our worship and who seek to bring the word of God to others through music.

 A keyboardist is needed for the Youth Praise Band! Know of anyone?

 Please don't wait to be personally invited to join our Chancel Choir. We may not know of your talents. As our church congregation grows, we hope that our Adult Choir will, too. You are needed!!!

 Are there any violinist in our congregation or adults who are instrumentally talented? Please contact Nancy Cook.

 As you go about your daily routine, we offer the following hymns as you as you are “driving down the road of life.”

Hymns for the Highway

45mph:	God Will Take Care of You
55mph:	Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
65mph:	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
75mph:	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
85mph:	Nearer, My God, to Thee

Notes from Sunday School by Laura Phillips

Once again we will be participating in Operation Christmas child. Kickoff for this project will be on November 1st during Sunday School. Information about the children will be provided. Please fill a shoebox and bring it to church on November 8th or 15th.

November 8th, 15th and 22nd we will be collecting donations for the Thanksgiving Dinners for the needy. There will be sign up sheets on the wall outside of Fellowship Hall starting November 1st.

Children's Christmas Shopping, Saturday – Dec. 5 9-11 a.m. A variety of gifts will be available for your child to choose, for those on their list. Volunteers can accompany your child as they shop, making this a fun and stress free day for Mom and Dad as well. Gift wrapping will also be available. If anyone has items they would like to donate to the gift tables, please contact Lisa Smith 410-829-6064 or Laura Phillips at 410-758-2288. We can arrange to pick up the items or you can bring them to the church office. Gifts for all ages and gender are appreciated, particularly gifts for Dad, brother (especially the teen boy or girl), Uncle, and grandfather. All gifts will be \$2.00.

This year we will be presenting a Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve. Sign up sheets will be available during Sunday School and practice time will be on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. More information about the pageant and practice dates will be coming soon.

United Methodist Women by Barbara Erickson

We wish to thank all who contributed to our annual Fall Bazaar. It was a wonderful day and fun was had by everyone. Plans are underway for 2010.

Please join us every other Tuesday in the Gold room for our Women's Bible Study.

Help is still needed to chair the United Methodist Men's dinners for November, December, January, March, April and May. Please sign up to help!

Tuesday mornings we are still making lap robes, adult bibs, and chemo turbans. Please come join us, no sewing experience is needed. It is a wonderful time for fellowship.

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 would be 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.

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 on in memory of honor of someone, please call the office by Monday, December 7, 2009, with the appropriate information. You should arrange for the poinsettias to be delivered to the church by Friday, December 12, 2009. Thanks!!



Ken Laing
Ken.laing@centreville-umc.com

BE PREPARED WITH FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!! CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES!!

That's right! As I write this our youth are on FIRE!!! They are on fire for Christ! In January, we will go to Ocean City Maryland for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference's annual Youth Rally. This year's theme is "Pyromaniac" It will focus on Jeremiah 20:9, *"If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."*

So why do I say they are on fire now, but reference something that is still two months away? Because of what they are doing NOW! We have 60 youth that are either registered or signed up to register for the Youth Rally!! That is absolutely amazing to think about- that we have that many youth that WANT to go away for the weekend and praise God!

We need your help though! Be ready to come out for our Annual Spaghetti Dinner. It is schedule for Tues. Nov. 17th, with seating times at 6pm and 7pm. We will also have carry-out available. We will have tickets available from any of the 60 youth that are coming along with us and before and after each Sunday service. You can also get in touch with me. Dinner will include, all you can eat, spaghetti, salad, and desert, all served by one of our awesome youth.

Our youth are also on fire for our missions work and our weekly meetings of fun and fellowship. Don't get left out in the cold! Keep your eyes out for dances, dinners, and a BIG PARTY for New Years Eve!! Thank you all for your prayers and support for all of our youth ministry activities.

First Night for Mission

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



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

HORS D' OEUVRES & DANCING

FELLOWSHIP \$ FUN

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

\$25 Per Ticket

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Centreville MD 21617
Make Checks Payable to MYF



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Centreville, MD 21617

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