



FIRST WORD

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December
2010

How do children around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus?

Come Find Out!



What: "Children of the World"

A worship service designed for and around the little ones...

Where: Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church

When: Christmas Eve*5pm

YOU ARE INVITED!

Children's Choirs* Children's Readings

Dramatic Service* Family Message

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

~Jesus (Luke 18:15-17)

Candlelight 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm on Christmas Eve

Invite your family and friends to a Christmas Eve worship experience in our beautiful sanctuary. Candles, carols, and communion will all be highlights of these traditional worship services. Our Chancel Choir will provide Christmas music and Rev. White will provide the Christmas message. Join us!



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Breakfast with Santa!

Especially for the children...

Breakfast with Santa

First UMC, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 11, 2010

9am - 11am (Pictures with Santa)

7am-Noon (Breakfast)

\$6 (Adults)\$4 (Children 12 and under)

Tickets are only available at the door.



Have breakfast and get a free picture of your child with Santa Claus.

Menu: Pancakes, Gore's Sausage, Sausage Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Baked Apples, and Danishes

Drinks: Coffee, Tea, and Orange Juice.

You are invited!

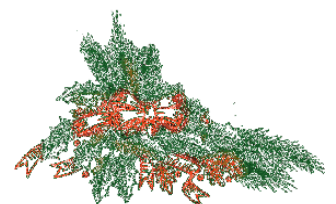
This event is sponsored by members of First United Methodist Church.

Advent Door Decorating Contest

Have you noticed all the beautiful doors around the church? We want to thank everyone who has participated in this year's Advent Door Decorating Contest. Now we need everyone to "vote" for their favorite door. Look for the picture display of all the doors in the narthex. You can vote for your favorite

door by placing a dollar (or however much you wish) in the receptacle for your favorite door(s). All funds that are collected will be used to purchase toys for the CCAP Christmas Shopping days. All votes must be entered by the end of the day on December 12th (after the Christmas Program/Dinner). The creator(s) of

the winning door will be served breakfast on Sunday morning, December 26th. Be sure to vote for your favorite!





December Youth News

Dec. 3rd-5th- Please make sure you have signed up for the Senior High Eagle Eyrie retreat. Cost is \$57.50 plus money for two fast food meals. See Mary for questions.



Dec. 5th- This is the deadline for youth pizza fundraiser. Get your orders in!



Dec. 8th- "TOP" Teens Opposing Poverty. The youth will meet in the church kitchen at 3:30 pm to package meals to take to those in need here in Winchester. Please sign up on the youth board if you can help or bring in a donation.

Dec. 10th- "Devo-Coffee Hour" see below for details.

Dec. 12th- No Regular Sunday Evening Youth due to the Church Christmas Pageant.

Dec. 15th- 4:00 pm shopping for our adopted family for Christmas. Meet at the church at 4:00 pm and bring money for pizza after we are done. Please pick up your youth no later than 6:30 pm.

Dec. 17th- "Devo-Coffee Hour" see below for details.

Dec. 19th- Christmas Caroling, please watch bulletin for more details coming soon.



Dec. 26th- No Sunday Evening Youth. Merry Christmas enjoy your time with family and friends!



Dec. 31st- "Devo-Coffee Hour" see below for details.

"Devo-Coffee Hour"

Is every Friday afternoon from 3:30 pm -4:30 pm. Meet at the church and we will walk downtown from here. This will be a time for you to come together and do a devotion over a cup of whatever and talk about how the scripture fits into your teenage world!





Financially Speaking....

On occasion my wife and I like to patronize the Panera Bread location on South Pleasant Valley Road. It affords my wife an opportunity to complete tasks for her work via the internet and for us both to enjoy a Cinnamon Crunch bagel with melted warm butter. If you have never had one of these you really need to do yourself a favor! Of course, my wife and I consider this a special treat and limit ourselves to what fits our budget. I mention this little story in reference to a question I was asked a few weeks ago. During a review of the 2011 First United Church Budget, a question was raised as to why certain items had to be included in the budget. The concern was that several things could be provided by organizations or individuals within our church and thereby not be itemized within the budget. We are all very aware of the fact that our church is a very benevolent and giving church. However, we cannot expect contributions for various items. Just as I do not expect others to buy me a Cinnamon Crunch bagel (and by the way, anyone who would wish to do so I would be sincerely grateful) we cannot expect others to provide particular items within the church budget. Obviously, when donations **are** made it is certainly appreciated.

The budget for First United Methodist Church for 2011 has been completed and approved. I am pleased to report that although increases in health care costs and a very slight increase to select staff salaries added to the budget, overall the 2011 budget is only 1% higher than the 2010 budget. Again, various organizations have committed to limit their spending and stretch every dollar. As well, because of the efforts of our Trustees we plan to have lower maintenance costs in 2011 than experienced in 2010. In addition, based on the increasing improvement in our offerings we plan to increase the percentage of our apportionments that we are able to pay in 2011.

As for our financial position in 2010, currently we are still forecasting to “break even” in 2010 – a considerable improvement over recent years. Our offerings were above expenses in October and as of October 31 we are now showing a \$7,200 shortfall for the year. Anticipating higher than average giving in the months of November and December should assist us in meeting our break-even goal.

One final note for this month’s article is that I do wish to extend a sincere “thank you” to the many people who have graciously given of their time and money for the various capital improvements of our church. Large expenditures such as air conditioning, boiler repair, social hall improvements, and microphones for the sanctuary among many other items were made possible through a lot of hard work and benevolence of our congregation. In 2011 we will need to address additional air conditioning concerns as well as continuing efforts to improve our social hall area. I have complete confidence that through the talents within our church these projects will be accomplished as well.

Thank you and *Merry Christmas !!*

Larry Dick



Silent Night, Holy Night



Christmas Morning Live!

Join us on Sunday evening December 12th at 7:00 pm for this year's Christmas play "Christmas Morning Live!" This year's play includes a cast of all ages and takes a humorous look at the events of the first Christmas with a delightful blending of the traditional story with contemporary scenarios. In this play, anchorwoman Starry Night settles in for a special edition of You

Witness News. She is hot on the trail of a story – the Messiah's purported birth. On-site reporters Matthew, Eve Creation and John Gospel supply some details of the events taking place in Bethlehem. All the while, the prophet Isaiah offers unsolicited predictions about what will happen.

Prior to the play, the United Methodist Men will be serving a deli-

cious turkey dinner. They will begin serving at 4:30 pm. So be sure to come early and enjoy some food and fellowship prior to watching the Christmas Morning Live newscast.



Christmas Program

Red Cross Blood Drive

Give the gift of life by participating in our January blood drive through the American Red Cross. Participants are encouraged to arrive between **noon and 6pm**

on January 4th. As you are probably aware, in recent years blood supplies have not kept up with the need. As we are reminded in the Sermon on the Mount,

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

(Matthew 5:7, NIV)



Turkey Dinner



The UMM are asking for **monetary** donations to purchase turkeys for the Turkey Dinner scheduled for Sunday, December 12th at 4:30 pm. If you would like to help with this please make your check to First UMC United Methodist Men and write in the memo section of your check **"Turkey"**. If you have any questions please contact Roger McGaffick at 667-7215.



Consecration Sunday

As chairman of Consecration Sunday, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our Guest Leader, Rev. Dr. Dan Garrett and the committee members and for their participation in our successful campaign. Committee members include Melody Harmon - Celebration Luncheon Chairperson; Kim Mowery - Congregational Governing Board Dinner Chairperson; Sandy Burkhart - Church Financial Secretary; Jim Harmon, Mark St Amand, and Bobby Dick – Announcers. Additionally, a special thank you to Susan Cain, Martha Inglis and Kristen Grzywacz for assisting with the mailings.

Consecration Sunday was a huge success. More than 150 persons attended the catered dinner. Ninety-four families completed Estimate of Giving Cards. Twenty-nine of these indicated they were increasing One Step from the previous year. Nineteen of the families were new pledges and six of those were from new members since last year. The 2009 campaign saw an increase in giving of slightly more than 15% over the previous year.

These results confirm the commitment of our congregation to grow spiritually and to provide for the mission and ministries of our church.

Tim Anderson

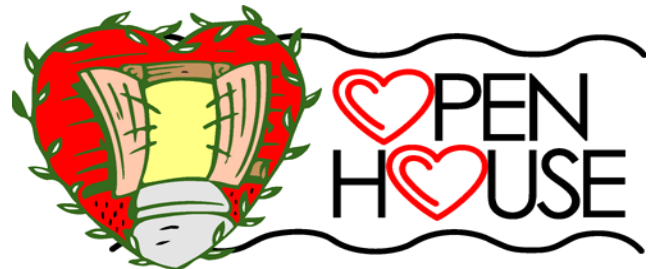
Consecration Sunday Chairman

Holiday Open House at Jim & Melody Harmon's

2:30 pm- 7:30 pm Saturday, December 11, 2010

*182 Highview Road
Stephenson, VA 22656
540-667-3514*

*No need to bring anything
Stop by for some Seasonal Joy
Friendship and
Light Refreshments*



Directions:

From Winchester, take Rt. 7 East. Take second left exit ramp past Red Bud Run Elementary onto Woods Mill Road. Go to end of road and take a right onto Jordan Springs Road. Take second left onto Riverdale Circle. Take first left onto Highview Road. 182 is at the top of the hill on the right.



WATTS UPDATE

WATTS up?

First United Methodist Church is one of twelve churches in our area who have volunteered to be a WATTS shelter for the homeless this winter. From 1/24 - 1/30, we will be providing our guests a warm meal and a safe, warm, dry place to stay overnight.



WATTS is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together to serve others! Planning is well underway. There are ways for everyone to contribute! The community is eager to help. With the first WATTS shelter opening in less than one month, folks from the community have already signed up to help with our shelter as well as others. Two groups have volunteered to provide entire meals for us!

Here are ways you can get involved:

- *Donate items needed for the week
- *Help cook a dinner (Getting a team of people together to do it together makes it easier, less expensive, and a lot of fun!)
- *Be a server at dinner time
- *Be one of the greeters at the welcoming table (sign guests in)
- *Prepare bag lunches for guests who work during the day
- *Coordinate small activities for guests to do after dinner (bingo, puzzles, etc)
- *Bring in newspapers for guests to use (helpful to guests looking for a job)
- *Collect travel size toiletries to be offered to the guests

If you see something you would like to do, or if you have any ideas or questions, contact Jill Johnson at 667-0575.



Volunteers Needed!



On Tuesday & Wednesday, December 21 & 22, representatives from CCAP, area volunteers, and members of First United Methodist Church will be hosting approximately 500 disadvantaged families from 8:30 am until noon in the Fellowship Hall. This group of adults will be picking Christmas presents for approximately 1500 disadvantaged children from Winchester and Frederick County.

Volunteers are needed in three categories: building supervision/hospitality (stationed around the church), runners (walking families through the line), and clean up (working with volunteers from CCAP to clean and secure the church property after the give-away is over).

This is an opportunity to be “salt and light” as Christians. Volunteers should prepare themselves to interact with people who are often frustrated because of their poverty. Persons interested in serving on December 21 and 22 are encouraged to participate in a “walk through” on Monday, December 20 with Fran Ricketts. Forms are available in the back of the sanctuary to sign up to help.



Christmas Offering



The Finance Committee has committed the Christmas Offering to be split between Heart Havens and the Evan’s Home for Children. If you have any questions please see a member Of the Finance Committee. As always thank you for your continued commitment to First Church’s community outreach.



December Calendar

December 1

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
 6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

December 3

2:30 pm Senior High leave for Eagle Eyrie Retreat

December 4

8:00 am UMM Breakfast
 12:00 pm National Christian Choir Trip

December 5

8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Senior High return from retreat
 4:30 pm Kids for Christ
 5:30 pm Christmas Pageant Practice

December 7

7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

December 8

4:30 pm Youth "TOP"
 5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
 8:00 pm Laity Meeting

December 10

3:30 pm "Devo" coffee hour

December 11

7:00 am Pancake Breakfast with Santa
 10:00 am Dress rehearsal for Christmas pageant

December 12

8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:30 pm Turkey Dinner
 7:00 pm Christmas Pageant

December 13

7:00 pm Finance Meeting

December 15

4:00 pm Youth shopping for adopted family
 5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
 6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

December 17

3:30 pm "Devo" coffee hour
 6:30 pm Preschool Christmas Program

December 18

CCAP begins setting up for Christmas Give-Away.

December 19

8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Youth & Music Dept. Christmas Caroling

December 20

7:00 pm Church Council

December 21

8:30 am CCAP Christmas Give-Away

December 22

8:30 am CCAP Christmas Give-Away

December 24

5:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service
 7:00 pm Candle Light Christmas Eve Service
 11:00 pm Candle Light Christmas Eve Service

December 25

Merry Christmas!

December 26

8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service

December 27

Church Office Closed

December 31

Church Office Closed



The staff of First United Methodist Church wishes the congregation a very blessed Christmas and a Christ filled New Year!

Blessings,

*Pastor Will, Mary Vorous,
 Debbie MacKnight,
 Queenie Dockeney,
 Jennifer White, Kristen
 Grzywacz, Wayne Corbett,
 Gary Fisher and Melinda
 Russell.*



Worship Preview

Worship Preview for December

December 5th

Title: "Good for the Soul"

Scripture: Mark 1: 4-5

December 12th

Title: "Real Joy"

Scripture: Luke 1:39-48

December 19th

Title: "The Coming King"

Scripture: II Samuel 7: 8; 7: 16; Psalm 89: 3-4

December 24th

Title: "The Nativity"

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20



Prayer Concerns

SHUT-INS

Hilltop

Mary Everline, Clara Kerns,
Thelma Rockwell

(111 Denny Lane Winchester, VA 22603)

Spring Arbor

Hazel Fries, Jean Loy

(2093 North Western Pike Winchester, VA 22603)

Amerisist Assisted Living Home

Pearl Gaines

(110 Spanish Oak Road Stephens City, VA 22655)

Please remember to add the following friends and family in your prayers:

Don Smallwood, Janice Dickerson, Dessie Taylor, Gary Houck, Jennifer Carper, Paul Carper, Shirley Miller, Ralph Miller, Lorraine Vann, Sarah Kingery, R. C. Simmons, Our Military, Alexandra Combs, Fran Ricketts, Barbara Rinker & Family, Andrew Partlow, The Family of Marjorie Brown, Roxanne Gear, The homeless in our community, Bobby Vorous and family, Ruth Holmes, Marlene Fisher, Terri McCallister, Marlene Fisher.

Please remember the following members in your prayers:

Bonnie Keplinger, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Velma Ritenour, Edith Anderson, Carole Lineberg, our church and church leaders, The Slonaker Family, Barbee Marlin, Kathy Dunn, Richard Swisher, Madge Fries & Helen Abshire, Ed Grove, Susan Horton-Pannell, Faye & George Weidig, Betty Dunn, Thelma Rockwell, Mary McGaffick, Mary Lou Taylor, Betty Carper, Robbin Wilfong.



Pastor's Corner

Advent and Christmas Memories

As a child, the seasons of Advent and Christmas were magical to me. As a little boy, I was an acolyte and still remember the heavy woolen robes we wore. While the church was very interested in our spiritual condition, it seemed as though our comfort was not of great concern to anyone. I remember lighting the candles on the Advent wreath when it became my turn to do so. It seemed to me as though the earth was standing still. Through that experience, I was being prepared for something that was holy and mysterious.

The season of Advent begins on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day, November 30. The observance of Advent originated in France during the fourth century. Advent is a time for watching, waiting and praying for Christ to come, either personally or universally. Some churches will adorn their sanctuaries in purple, reminiscent of the Lordship of Jesus. Others will adorn them in blue, reminiscent of hope.

When Christmas Eve came to our home, we always celebrated with presents and a lot of food. There was magic in watching the presents around the tree pile up as boxes from grandparents, uncles, and aunts came through the mail from around the state. Dinner on Christmas Eve was always special as the food we served was much better (and heavier) than our normal fare. After the meal, we would dress in our best clothes to attend Christmas Eve worship. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated and candles seemed to be everywhere.

According to popular tradition, the birth took place in a stable, surrounded by farm animals. Modern scholars are not so sure. Some suggest that he was born at the home of a relative due to a newer rendering of the Greek word *katalumna* which means "building attached to a house" rather than "stable". Most agree that after the Savior's birth, groups of unusual persons came to visit including shepherds and magi. Many opinions exist as to the nature of these strange characters.

People around the world remember the birth of Jesus in different ways. In Mexico, they remember the holy family knocking on doors looking for a place to stay. In Israel, crosses are painted over the doorways of Christians. Christians in Iran fast and pray. In the United States, people light candles. In Europe, various feasts and fasts are declared.

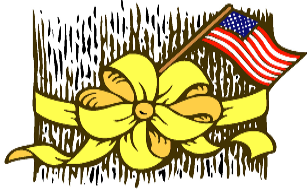
While the customs and scholarship surrounding these holidays may change, the central and timeless messages remain the same. Advent is a time to prepare for His coming. Christmas is a time to declare that He is here! Whatever your experience may be, we hope you will gather with us to express the timeless messages of Advent and Christmas. This is a season where families make memories that will last a lifetime. Please join us and may the good news of Jesus Christ be passed along from one generation to the next!

Blessings, **Rev. Will White**





Remember our Military for the Holidays



Remember Our Members *in the* Military

With the holidays rapidly approaching the thoughts of being with family and enjoying the many comforts of the season make for fond memories. However many of our servicemen and women are not afforded these things over the holidays. Imagine the loneliness of being on foreign soil fighting for your country. Here at First Church we want to let our military know they are loved and not forgotten. Most importantly what they are doing is greatly respected and appreciated.

If you would like to send a soldier a care package or just help with a package, see the bulletin board located between the educational wing and sanctuary for a list of the items. If you have any questions contact the church office.

Please remember all the men and women serving our country in prayer.

Stephen Storrs USMC
serving in Afghanistan

Robert Leonard Army
serving in Afghanistan

Brandon Laughrey USMC
serving in North Carolina

Zak Ellington USMC
serving in Afghanistan

Robert Leonard Army
serving in North Carolina

Bobby Vorous Army
serving in Afghanistan

Michael Timbrook Army
serving in Afghanistan



Please remember the families of these servicemen in your prayers also. If you would like to list a service member or write to any of these heroes please contact the church office at 662-3151.

**First United
Methodist Church
308 North Braddock Street
Winchester, VA 22601
& Apple Pie Ridge
Campus directly across from the
Apple Pie Ridge
Elementary School**

Web site:

www.fumcwinchester.org

Church: 540-662-3151

Fax: 540-662-1462

Staff

Rev. William M. White
Pastor

Mary Vorous
Director of Youth
Ministries

Kristen Grzywacz
Office Manager

Debbie MacKnight
Preschool Director

Susan Brown
Lay Leader

Jennifer White
Treasurer

Ellen Cavanagh, RN
Faith Community Nurse

Queenie Dockeney
Custodian

Wayne Corbett
Organist and Music
Director

Gary Fisher
Choir Director

Melinda Russell
Hand Bell
Director

Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell
Children's Choir Directors

Non-Profit Org
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Winchester, VA

Kids for Christ

Kindergarten aged children through 5th graders began to gather for meetings on November 7th. KFC events typically begin with a series of games designed to involve all of the children. Next, there is a Bible story presented on a DVD. Rev. White and Pam Storrs reinforce the message with sharing time and discussion. Then the children have a snack provided by one of the parents or that they make themselves. KFC meetings last an hour. Appreciation is extended to all of the parents who brought and continue to bring their children to KFC.

The current plan is for the group to continue to meet on the first and third Sunday afternoons of each month from 4:30 to 5:30pm. Parents will be asked to provide the snacks. Pam Storrs is currently working with Rev. White to provide the program and other parents are encouraged to help as well. The KFC is open to any children within the church and the community at large. Older siblings of preschool children are welcome. Bring a friend and join in the fun!

