



FIRST WORD

First United Methodist Church
300 North Braddock St., Winchester, VA 22601
Phone: 540-662-2151 Email: mvorous@fumcwinchester.org

Volume 10 Issue
December 2008

Gift Card Giving Tree

First Church is proud to sponsor a gift card giving tree this year. We look forward to empowering as many less fortunate parents as possible with the opportunity to go out and purchase their very own gifts for their children.

Gift cards can be donated for any local store (Walmart, Target, Apple Blossom

Mall, etc.). For each gift card you donate, we invite you to place one of the provided ornaments on the Giving Tree. Let this simple ornament be a symbol of light you will bring into a family's life. It is our prayer that the tree will be busting with ornaments. Gift card donations can be placed in the box provided or

given to one of our pastors. The last day for gift card donations is December 7th.



Special points of interest:

- *December Youth News*
- *Church Calendar*
- *Worship Preview*
- *Prayer List*
- *Pastor's Corner*
- *Finance News*

Salvation Army Christmas Stocking Program

We are pleased to participate in Salvation Army's Christmas Stocking Program.

First Church has been stuffing these stockings of love for years, so we have



this down pat. To participate, all you need to do is pick up one (or more) of the stockings at church and have fun filling them with great stuff (a list is provided on each stocking to give you suggestions) and drop it off in the container provided at church. What a great way to

ensure a few smiles on Christmas morning! The last day for stocking donations is December 14th. Any question on either of the items please contact Jill Johnson at 667-0575.



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SHUT-INS

Ruxton Health Care Elma Anderson, Boyd Ramey,
(110 Lauck Drive Winchester, VA 22603)

Rose Hill Lula Lewis
110 Chalmers Court Berryville, VA 22611)

Hilltop Mary Everline, Clara Kerns
(111 Denny Lane Winchester, VA 22603)

Westminster-Canterbury Virginia Lee
290 Westminster-Canterbury Drive Winchester, VA 22603)

The Willows Hazel Fries, Jean Loy
(1881 Harvest Drive Winchester, VA 22603)

Mary Ann Posey Home Jeanne Spaid
(776 Woods Mill Road Stephenson, VA 22657)

Henry & Irene Reynard, Arlie Funk, Bill Bowman, Carol Patterson, Bonnie O'Hara, Phyllis King, Betty McCune, Bunky Woods, Anna Snyder, Bruce Clevenger, Dee Waddell, Noah Foley, Mike Brooks, James Ware, Lee Warner, Melissa Bozick, Susan Williams, Fran Ricketts, Erika Reid, Paul & Carey Booth, Bill Morris, Margurite Huffer, Peggy Taylor, Jessie Sullivan, Nancy Johnson & Doug Allen, Matt Ergebright, Christina Daniels, Melvin & Virginia Fawcett, Stacey Fritts, Danny Campbell, Ian Paul Eckert, Pat Lockwood, Don Smallwood, Mike McKeirnan, Barbara Rinker, Sonny Cooper, James Crane, Shirley Miller, Sandra Nottingham.



Please keep this page from your newsletter and include those listed here in your daily prayers. Additional names to be included in your prayers, will be listed in the weekly bulletin insert. A complete updated prayer list will appear in next month's newsletter.

Please keep these service personnel in your prayers:

Sean Cloud Marine Corps
Stationed in Iraq

David Kent Marine Corps
Stationed in Iraq

Jeremy Duncan Army
Stationed in Kuwait

J. B. Hughes Army
Stationed in Iraq

Daniel Northcraft Army
Stationed in Iraq

Paul Rashid Army
Stationed in Afganistan

Please let the church office know if there are persons in your family serving overseas who need to be added to this list.

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

Please remember the following members in your prayers:

Larry Cooper & Family, Albert Elgin, Jim Petry, Nancy Palmer, Alice Shell, Steve Spaid, Velma Ritenour, Edith Anderson, June Starke, Doug Purnell, Mary Carter, Bonnie Keplinger, Doris & Ray Harding, Melvin Wine, Clara Kerns, Cathy Dunn, Ray Keplinger, Jr., Dan Dutchess, Courtney Lowe, Our Church, Pat Shepard, Denise Adams, Pearl Gaines, Stephen Storrs, Boyd Ramey, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Velma Ritenour, Stan & Amy Barnes, Katherine Dix, Elise Delmerico, The Seabright Family.

**“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be
attentive to the voice of my supplications!”
Psalm 130: 1-2”**



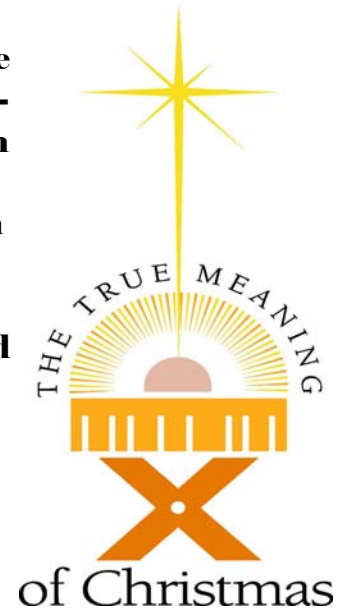
Sent in my Jennifer White

O
 Now
 it is
 time to
 sing, hum
 wrap gifts
 keep secrets
 feed the birds
 close barn doors
 read John 1; 1-18
 find your wool scarf
 oil squeaking hinges
 weatherstrip the windows
 polish the kitchen floor
 find new film for the camera
 buy a reading lamp for grandpa
 find the old Christmas ornaments
 prepare to celebrate Christ's birth
 invite guests to the Christmas lunch
 give gifts to the hungry and homeless
 remember those who are alone at Christmas
 write to friends a long way off
 smile
 rejoice
 and give thanks



From Parish Health

**To all of those
 that have sup-
 ported Parish
 Health this
 year, we wish
 you a Merry
 Christmas
 and a safe and
 healthy New
 Year!**



Little Red Wagon Ministry

You thought wagons were just for children to enjoy. Wrong! These are special wagons to be filled with some items CCAP desperately needs to help some of their clients. We are asking for donations of

large size diapers and nonperishable food items.

Please place your items in one of the two wagons located in the sanctuary. As the wagons are filled the items will be wheeled to CCAP. Any ques-

tions may be directed to the church office. Thank you again in advance for your continued generosity for those that are less fortunate than we.



December Youth News

First United Methodist Youth Mission Statement

“We are servants of Christ witnessing to His people through our words and actions as we grow in discipleship.”

**First United Methodist
Church**
308 North Braddock St.
Winchester, VA 22601
Phone: 540-662-3151
Email:
mvorous@fumcwinchester.org

252 McGuire Road
Winchester, VA 22603
678-4014 email mvorous@fumcwinchester.org
Mary's Home address & phone #.
NEW youth webpage-
www.youth.fumcwinchester.org



ON EARTH

Pray for Peace



Happy Birthday!!!

Dec. 1st- Isabella Dickens-Bowman

Dec. 11th- Taylor Hoffman

Dec. 23rd- Tyler Dick



December Youth News



Dec. 5th-7th- Senior High Winter Retreat at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg. Please make sure your payment is in if you are signed up to attend. The cost is \$50.00, also bring money for two fast food meals, money for snacks, CDS, t-shirts, youth service fund, etc. if you would like. We will leave the church at 2:30, pack light!

Dec. 14th- No Regular Youth, come and enjoy the Christmas pageant.

Dec. 15th- We will be shopping for the C-Cap families this year for Christmas. We will leave the church by 4:00 and return at 8:00 pm. After we shop we will eat at CC's, please bring money for dinner.



Dec. 21st- Come and join in on the "Ignite" service, at 9:45 with Angie Williams our VA. Conference youth director giving the Message.



Dec. 21st- Music Department and youth ministry sponsored Christmas Caroling at the Rose Home. Please be at the church by 5:30. We will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies afterwards.



Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve Services at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Dec. 28th- No Regular Sunday evening youth due to the holiday. Merry Christmas!





Worship Preview

December 7

Isaiah 40: 1-11
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 (UMH 806)
2 Peter 3: 8-15a
Mark 1: 1-8

Second Sunday of Advent

Lectors: Youth both services

Flowers:

Acolytes: 8:30 Bailey Disque,
11:00 Ryan Seabright & Rachel White

December 14

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 (UMH 847)
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Third Sunday of Advent

Lectors: 8:30 Trena Fisher
11:00 available

Flowers: Virginia & Dodie Vance

Acolytes: 8:30 Isabella Dickens Bowman, **11:00** Patrick Wilfong & Sami Day

December 21

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Luke 1: 47-55
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lectors: available

Flowers: available

Acolytes: 8:30 Olivia Dicken-Bowman & Hannah Cavanagh,
11:00 Robby Baccary & Connor Foulds

December 24th

Christmas Eve Services 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Special Scripture Reading with lots of special and congregational music.

December 28th

Isaiah 52: 7-10
Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-12)
John 1: 1-14

Lectors: available

Flowers: available

Acolytes: to be announced



Christmas Idea worth doing!

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to the address below. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special

people who have sacrificed so much would get. A Great Idea! When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001



Financially Speaking ...

It has been some time since I have communicated the activities of the Finance Committee. Although 2008 has been a “lean” year for available funds for the church, First United Methodist Church has consistently met all of its operational expenses in terms of salaries, benefits, utilities, committee expenses, and church functions. The only budget item that we have not been able to fund has been our apportionments to the District and the Conference. However, the District Office is aware and understands our current situation.

One significant activity that has taken place in the month of October was the procurement of a Line of Credit for First United Methodist Church. Our trustees have identified numerous items having to do with the upkeep of our

church and parsonages. Items such as air conditioning for the church and necessary plumbing renovations, to the replacement of a deck and much needed appliances at our parsonages are just a few of the items our trustees are diligently initiating and completing. Obviously, to do these things it takes money. That is why a Line of Credit in the amount of \$100,000 was obtained. The loan was arranged through BB&T and carries a very favorable interest rate for First Church. Already we have seen many individuals happy to see the much needed repairs and replacements and have supported this through contributions to these specific efforts. “Hats Off” to our trustees and their fine work!

Finally, the 2009 Budget was prepared, presented to Church Council and approved. A copy of the budget can be picked

up at the back of the sanctuary or by contacting the church office or a Finance Committee member. As in 2008, the 2009 Budget presents quite a challenge. Again, the Finance Committee will work very hard to see that our needs are met and that the church finances are handled appropriately. To that end, we would welcome anyone who would wish to get involved with the financial aspect of the church. The Finance Committee meets on the second Monday of each month and would be delighted to have you attend.

Respectfully,
Larry Dick

Finance Committee Chairman



From Hope to Joy: Advent ♦ Christmas ♦ Epiphany

DATE	SCRIPTURE
Nov 30 First Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 ;Mark 13:24-37
Dec 7 Second Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
Dec 14 Third Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
Dec 25 Christmas	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14
Dec 28 First Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
Jan 6 Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

The new Christian Year and the Season of Advent begins on November 30th this year. Advent is a time of preparing for the return of Christ and the gathering up of all things into God's great Kingdom. Our culture wants us to believe that these weeks are a time of preparing for Christmas and that is indeed part of what we do in this time. It is important also for us to find time to reflect on what it means that Christ will come again and how we must prepare for that coming. *The New Handbook of the Christian Year* speaks of this time in this way:

In Advent we sing, "Come, thou long-expected Jesus, / Born to set thy people free." At Christmas we join with the herald angels, singing, "Glory to the newborn King!" Epiphany bids us behold the light shining in the darkness, the Root of Jesse, David's Son to whom in adoration we sing, "O Morning Star, how fair and bright / Thou beamest forth in truth and light!" The story these days have to tell upon the mountain is one of "glad tidings and great joy"—for the Messiah has come. Yet such is God's advent among us that we can never fully grasp the mystery of

incarnate deity, so we must continue to remember and to experience anew, year upon year, the permanent crisis of light in the midst of the world's darkness and turmoil. We relive the fear and hope and joy that Christian worship expresses in the narrative of his coming to judge the world in the form of a Child weak in infancy—the wood of whose cradle foreshadows the cross.

Our best resource for the needed preparation is the Bible and the scripture appointed for this season. May the reading of these passages prepare your heart to receive the risen Christ at his coming.

Pastor Becky



Children's Ministry

Rehearsals for the Christmas Pageant are on Sunday evenings from 4:30 to 5:15 pm in the sanctuary. There are still some non-speaking parts for anyone who is interested. Please see Jennifer White for questions. The pageant will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 7:00 pm following the United Methodist Men's Turkey Dinner. The dinner will begin at 4:30 pm. Come

and enjoy a delicious meal and then watch the Christmas Pageant.



The Great Cookie Outreach

In an effort to reach out to the community we as a church will be baking **2000 COOKIES** in six days!! These cookies will be given to the Discovery Preschool children and their teachers, the families of the CCAP Christmas giveaway here at First Church and the

visitors that attend the concert by Mr. David Troy Francis. We will need bakers, cookie greeters and money to purchase the cookies from a local company in Winchester. The cookie packages will be labeled with information on our church as an outreach effort. Ellen will

have a sign up sheet next Sunday. Let's reach out to our community together and show them our love of Christ.

*"Then he said to his disciples "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into his harvest field."
Matthew 9: 37 & 38*

Thank You!!!!

With your generous donations to the mission fund here at first church we can do some wonderful things. In the month of November we were able to purchase 10 turkeys for Salvation Army (they need

1100 between Thanksgiving and Christmas). Two additional turkeys were purchased for families in need.

We have also helped many individuals with various needs such as a Thanksgiving

dinner that was already prepared for an elderly couple and many other things. Thank you again for your continued support in reaching out to those less fortunate than ourselves.



2008 Holiday Sing-A-Long

The Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-A-Long is an annual musical celebration of the season with traditional holiday songs performed by the United States Marine Band.

Join Wolf Trap and Frosty this year with your family!
Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 pm at the Filene Center

Admission is FREE!!

Toys for Tots will collect new and unwrapped toys

Bring along a bell and a candle so you can jing-a-long!

For more information please contact Donnie & Corinne Newcome at 888-3489. They will be putting together a group to carpool or if you would like to donate the services of your van please let Donnie know.



Walk to the Manger

Christmas can be a busy time of year! Family gatherings, church functions, school events, celebrations at work, shopping, wrapping, decorating...the list goes on and on. Camp Overlook would like to offer you an opportunity to step back from the hustle and bustle of the holidays to remember why we celebrate Christmas. Our

annual interactive nativity experience will be open to the public December 19th from 6 pm to 8pm. Come step into Bethlehem, report for the census, encounter the angels, discover a young couple in a stable, and help three directionally-challenged wise men find the king they seek. Groups will begin the adventure continuously from 6 to 8 pm and each journey will last approximately 30 minutes. Dress warmly and wear sturdy shoes.

Please keep children with a responsible adult at all times. This special event is our gift to you so you bring your family, youth group, Sunday school class, or entire church to experience the miracle of Christmas.

Any questions should be directed to Donnie Newcome at 888-3489.





Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find

“filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally,

“To catch the reader’s attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance,

an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you’re trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can

choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

**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

Becky Cloud
Doug Sasser

Pastors

Mary Vorous
**Director of Youth
Ministries**

Kristen Grzywacz
Office Manager

Debbie MacKnight
Preschool Director

Ralph Gronlund
Lay Leader

Jennifer White
Treasurer

Ellen Cavanagh, RN
Faith Community Nurse

Queenie Dockeney
Custodian

Wayne Corbett
**Organist and Music
Director**

Gary Fisher
Choral Director

Melinda Russell
Hand Bell Director

Amy Costello-Wilfong
"Ignite" Music Director

Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell
**Children's Choir
Directors**

Non-Profit Org

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 136

Winchester, VA

What is FPU

Financial Peace University is a life-changing program that teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money. You'll be empowered with the practical skills and confidence needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace. You may view this on the web at daveramsey.com.

You are invited to take this opportunity to learn starting January 9th, 2009 at 6:30 - 8:30 at First United Methodist Church. The cost of the class which runs for 13 weeks is \$93.00 per family. The first hour of the class is presented by DVD with Dave Ramsey and

the second hour will be discussion led by Adam Wilfong and Bobby Dick. Baby sitting will be provided by Robin Wilfong and helpers.

A quote from the website says that the average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 during the 13 weeks of class. Please let Adam Wilfong or Bobby Dick know if you want to join this class so that we may get the material ordered.

Wouldn't it be great to live debt free? Please call Bobby Dick at 667-6645 if you would like to sign up for the class.