

Hilltopper

Harrisonburg District

December 2013

Merry Christmas

COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING

Special points of interest:

- Nurses Corner
- Activities & Events
- Anniversaries & Birthdays
- COM/Adm Council meetings
- UMM/UMW
- Upcoming Events

December 13, 2013

7:00 pm

Tree lighting, carols, cookies and hot chocolate and visit with Santa Claus



Church-Wide Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 15, 2013

5:30 pm Covered Dish

7:00 pm Music



All are welcome, bring friends and family for an evening of sharing and fellowship followed by a special music program.

The Purpose of Christmas

by Rick Warren



“If you stop to think about it, it is astounding that the simple, unassuming birth of a peasant baby boy more than two thousand years ago in the Middle East can today cause traffic jams every December in places like New York City, Tokyo, and Rio de Janeiro.

The night Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, a small group of poor shepherds were quietly tending their flocks of sheep in a nearby field, looking up at the arts. Nothing seemed any different from a thousand other nights,. But what was about to happen would transform not only their lives but billions of other lives as well. The world would never be the same again.

Regardless of your religious background, you need to know how the three purposes of Christmas solve your three greatest needs.” A time for celebration, salvation and reconciliation.

Come join in three sessions of bible study and video beginning December 8th. Sessions are offered at various times.

Sundays 8:45 am & 5:30 pm

Monday 6:30 pm

Tuesdays 10:30 am

Join the Advent Conspiracy—Love All

The Advent Conspiracy has become a nationwide movement as Christians, burnt out on the secularization of the birth of Jesus, have determined to reclaim the authentic spirit and meaning of the Christmas season. It ‘s simple ideas are to Spend Less, Give More, Worship Fully and Love All.

Merry **Christmas** !!!

United Methodist Women

The Church-wide Christmas Dinner is Sunday, December 15th at 5:30 pm Covered Dish. All are invited.

Thanks to all who made our Fall Bazaar at the HOTS on November 9th a success. We received over \$1000 for our use in missions.

COM (Council on Ministries)

Met on Monday, November 11th. Dana Breeding shared devotions "Beside Still Waters" on believing the unseen.

*Youth are making plans to attend Winter Fest at Liberty University December 30 and 31. They will be making cookies on December 8th.

*The children's choir will have a presentation on the third Sunday.

*UMM and UMW will be hosting the Church-Wide Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 15th beginning at 5:30 pm.

*Community event of Tree Lighting on December 13th at 7 pm at New Hope Community Center with refreshments.

*Dolly Harner is retiring as Flower Coordinator and will be greatly missed with her talents for providing flowers for our worship services. JoEtta Walker is retiring from providing Narthex bulletin boards every other month. JoEtta's talents and beautiful works of art will be missed as well. We thank both of these ladies for their years of faithful service.

*Susan presented the committee's recommendation for updating our Mission Statement. All agreed to endorse this to our Administrative Council.

*Pastor Doug presented information on Vital Congregations and Five Talent Academy for consideration as leaders in ministry areas of the church.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Met with 17 members present. Devotions were led by Cindy Deavers. Reports were reviewed from treasurer, finance committee, council on ministries, and trustees. Presentation made on our new mission statement (see mission statement update elsewhere in this newsletter). Recertification was recommended for our five lay servants (Kim Maugans, John Morse, Helen Morse, Alan Tuten and LeVerne Herring). Phyllis Fretwell and other committee members rotating off were thanked for their service.

Charge Conference

Met on Monday, November 25th, with 14 present. A time of sharing of various events, mission projects, outreach in the community, small group studies and various building repairs and improvements were shared with the District Superintendent, Rev. Tommy Herndon. Our five lay servants were approved for recertification (John Morse, Helen Morse, Kim Maugans, LeVerne Herring, and Al Tuten). Our election of 2014 officers were approved as presented. Melissa Fretwell shared changes in her life with role in the district and plans for a mission trip to Belize; also plans for advance lay servant courses at Asbury in the Spring. She also distributed "Covenant for Spiritual Discipline" forms to challenge everyone to be part of Bishop Cho's challenge of one hour daily of spiritual discipline of reading God's Word and praying and practicing spiritual disciplines. The challenge is for 10% of congregation to be involved with this challenge.

Thank you **Tangier Island Mission Project**

John Morse shared his recent experiences with mission team work on Tangier Island. The team completed the shower installation at the church with funds donated by you. John also shared stories of the difference presence is making in the lives of our brothers and sisters on Tangier. See John for specific details—as always we receive more than we can possibly give.



Lectionary Readings

12/1
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13: 11-14
Matthew 24: 36-44

12/15
Isaiah 35: 1-10
Luke 1: 47-55
James 5: 7-10
Matthew 11: 2-11

12/29
Isaiah 63: 7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2: 10-18
Matthew 2: 13-23

12/8
Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm 72: 1-7; 18-19
Romans 15: 4-13
Matthew 3: 1-12

12/22
Isaiah 7: 10-16
Psalm 80: 1-7; 17-19
Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-25

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS December 2013

Acolytes

12/1 Abby Armstrong
12/8 Taylor Meier
12/15 Penny Pence
12/22 Kaylee McLaren
12/29 Karen Maugans

Children's Message

12/1 Helen Morse
12/8 Roger Aldhizer
12/15 Courtney Joyner
12/22 Kevin Armstrong
12/29 Tonya Meier

Nursery Workers

12/1 Robin Craun & Martha Fretwell
12.8 Sylvia Herman & Morgan Craun
12/15 Tonya Meier & Taylor Meier
12.22 Betty Stout & Courtney Stout
12.29 JoEtta Walker & Bette Rickman

Thanks (our thanks to those who participated in the various mission opportunities)

Valley Mission

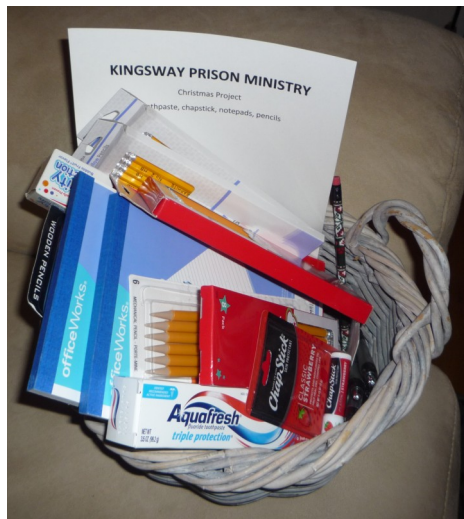
Irene Fretwell Circle collected food items for Valley Mission to share at Thanksgiving (see picture)

Thanksgiving Eve Service with Mt. Bethel, Barren Ridge, Middle River, Mt. Horeb, Laurel Hill, and New Hope collected offering of \$363.50 for Valley Mission

Mabry Shiflett Circle collected 12 gift cards for Valley Mission during their recent Christmas Dinner at Rowers.

Kingsway Prison Ministry

The following items were delivered for use by Kingsway Prison Ministry for Christmas projects (8 note pads packages; 9 packs of pencils; 14 toothpastes; 7 chap sticks; 2 toothbrushes; and pens.



An Invitation to Serve

The Communion Stewards invite you to join them in preparing the Lord's Table for Communion Services. If you would like to provide the bread or juice, or help in the setting of the Table please talk to Helen Morse

Nurse's Health Corner

The holiday season, stretching from Thanksgiving through New Years, can be a time of joy, celebration, gatherings with family and friends and reflection of blessings. This is not the case for all, as many people reflect on their current situation, be it financial, relational, spiritual or other. They look at the past with disappointment and to the future with uncertainty. Holiday Depression and SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder are two distinct mental health conditions that are real during this time of year.

According to Mental Health America, many factors can cause the “holiday blues”: stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, over-commercialization, financial constraints, and the inability to be with one's family and friends. The demands of shopping, parties, family reunions and house guests also contribute to feelings of tension. People may also develop other stress responses such as headaches, excessive drinking, over-eating and difficulty sleeping. Even more people experience post-holiday let down after January 1. This can result from disappointments during the preceding months compounded by the excess fatigue and stress (www.mentalhealthamerica.net).

To cope with stress and depression during the holidays, Mental Health America recommends: keep expectations for the

holiday season manageable, be realistic about what you can and cannot do, remember the holiday season does not banish reasons for feeling sad or lonely, leave “yesteryear” in the past and look toward the future, do something for someone else, enjoy activities that are free, be aware that excessive drinking will only increase your feelings of depression, celebrate the holidays in a new way, spend time with supportive and caring people, and most important - save time for yourself!

Symptoms of depression during the winter months, with symptoms subsiding during the spring and summer months, may be a sign of seasonal affective disorder (SAD). SAD is a mood disorder associated with depression and related to seasonal variations of light. Symptoms include depression, anxiety, mood changes, sleep problems, lethargy, overeating, social and sexual problems. A diagnosis of SAD can be made after three consecutive winters of these symptoms if they are also followed by complete remission of symptoms in the spring and summer months. Treatments include spending time outdoors, phototherapy, and medication if indicated.

Resources exist in Augusta County, Staunton and Waynesboro, to help get through the holiday season, should you or someone you know exhibit any of these symptoms. First of all, contact your health care provider. Secondly, contact Mental Health America of Augusta at 886-7181 or

949-0169. Next, call the I & R: Information and Referral line at 211 for other needed resources or services in the area. For the many that do not understand mental health diagnosis, signs and symptoms, causes and treatments, Mental Health America of Augusta has resources for you to take to your church, civic group or place of work to reduce the stigma of Mental Illness. Contact Donna Gum at the above listed numbers or at mhaa@ntelos.net. Website is at www.mha-augusta.org/.

Article provided by Dana H. Breeding, RN Health Educator of Community Wellness, at Augusta Health. To contact Dana Breeding, RN related to the above information please call (540) 332-4988 or (540)932-4988.

Children's Ministries



Children's Church



One of our younger members learning in the kitchen



Children's Choir: Give Thanks

Activities & Events

12/8	4:30 pm	Evening at Blackstone with Hunt Family
12/10	1:30 pm	New Hope Chorus
12/12	Noon	Hi Noon at Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church
12/13	7:00 pm	Community Tree Lighting at Community Center
12/15	5:30 pm	Church-Wide Christmas Dinner and Music
12/16	9:00 am	Verona Food Pantry Volunteers
12/24	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
12/25		CHRISTMAS DAY
12/30	9:00 am	Verona Food Pantry Volunteers

New Hope UMC Officers for 2014

(full report is available at the Information Board by the front door)

Lay Leader:	Susan Coffman
Administrative Council Chairperson:	Kim Maugans
Council on Ministries Chairperson:	Cindy Deavers
Pastor/Staff Relations Chairperson:	Larry Hinebaugh
Finance Committee Chairperson:	Kevin Armstrong
United Methodist Men President:	Bill Fretwell
United Methodist Women President :	Wanda Harding
Trustees Chairperson:	To be elected by Trustees

United Methodist Men

Special thanks to all who assisted with our annual Ham, Oyster, Turkey supper (HOTS). WOW. Served 811 and an approximate profit of \$7300.

Anniversaries & Birthdays for December

1-Steve Broyles
 1-Robert Corbin
 1-Diane Miller
 2-Leslie Shaver
 2-Robin Craun
 3-Richard Booth
 3-Josh & Cheryl Bennett
 3-Herman & Carolyn Pace
 4-Matt Carr
 5-Susan Baldwin
 5-Charles Darrah
 5-Michele Taylor
 6-Clarissa Booth
 6-Karen Whitmer
 7-Betty Gruber
 7-Beth Rosen
 8-Peggy Corbin
 9-Josh Dively
 9-Mac Craig
 10-Bernie Powers
 12-Mary Jane Shaver
 13-Jennifer Bottenmiller
 13-Jake & Julie Botkin

14-Brenda Price
 14-Dawn White
 16-Carrie Reed
 16-Wyatt Markow
 16-B.F. Caricofe III
 16-Dwight Craig
 16-Shelvie Critzer
 16-Paul Whitmer
 17-Kim Maugans
 17-Tim & Suzanne Lank
 20-Amye Bergman
 21-Emily Howdysshell
 22-Julia Carter
 22-Keith Chittum
 23-Julia Botkin
 23-Cheryl Howell
 25-B.F. Caricofe, Jr
 25-Wally Smith
 26-Carl Caricofe, Sr
 26-Jesse Hartman
 26-Larry & Nadine Hinebaugh
 27-Jeffrey Shipe
 28-Logan Kraisser

28-Mathew & Tanya Keys
 29-Christopher Dively
 30-Kim & Karen Maugans
 31-Andy & Dana Breeding
 31-Gary & Kathy Lewis



If we have any incorrect information or are missing information, please leave updates in mailbox in church library for Hilltopper or email wsharding@verizon.net

Hi Noon

Our local Hi-Noon is growing by leaps and bounds but there is always room for one more. Contact Shirley Western if you are interested in attending.

Our next Hi Noon meeting is Thursday, December 12, 2013 at noon at .Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church

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