

**Worship Services:  
8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 AM**

**Sunday School for  
All Ages: 9:45 AM  
Adults: 11:00 AM**



# Tabernacle Spotlighter

**December 2011**

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Thanksgiving is gone (the day—NOT the attitude)!

December is here? How did that happen?

Let me remind you of the four parts of the "Advent Conspiracy":

Worship Fully  
Spend Less  
Give More, and  
Love All.

Not complex, but not easy. The Advent Conspiracy is an attitude of take back the meaning of Christmas from the busy distraction it has become. Instead of exhaustion, exaltation of the Lord is what we seek in this conspiracy.

**Worship fully** certainly means gather with brothers and sisters in the faith as together we worship Christ. This means being *in* church and *involved* in our times of worship. It also means to carry church with us by beginning and ending our day with praise of God and with thanksgiving. Get specific in your thanks and name the characteristics of the Lord that you love.

**Spend less**—"He who is in you [the Holy Spirit] is greater than he who is in the world" [the liar who tells us we have to spend in order to show love]. Set a giving budget so that Christ's birthday is still a joy when the bills come in in January and February. Allow God to set you free from spending money you don't have. Try spending cash only for gifts. If you don't have the cash, you can try different kinds of gift giving.

**Give more**—more creative and more meaningful gifts. It will take a little more time than getting on line but making cookies, and hand crafts, giving gifts to a friend or family member's favorite charity in their honor are a few ways that you can give more meaningful and more personal gifts while spending less.

And **Love All!** Certainly that is a great stress-relieving way to celebrate Christmas. Love those who are close to you. Love those who seem to have no one else loving them. Love those that disagree with you. Love the Lord whose birthday we are celebrating. By "love" we mean personally caring for and about the other, desiring the best for them. So this Christmas renew the spiritual habits that help strengthen your love for all. Join us in worshipping fully, in spending less, in giving more and loving all! Join in the Advent Conspiracy!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Steve



**BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST BY GROWING MATURE DISCIPLES THROUGH:**

***P*RAYER, *W*ORSHIP, *E*VANGELISM, *F*ELLOWSHIP, *S*TUDY, & *C*HRIStIAN SERVICE**



1	Barbara Bounds Reilly Leahy Charles McGhee	11	Lindsay Green Lauren Henry Kelly Ivey Noelle Morris Steven Sarver Thomas Sullivan	21	Jessica Nickerson Stephen Whitesides
2	Hal Gibson Pat Hertzog	12	Gregory Brown Tiffany Farrell Megan Hoile Wendi Nettles Fiona Smiddy Jessica Stephens Allan Thorburn John Wickard	22	Barbara Stimpson
3	Diane Dornbach Mackenzie Jett Reagan Jett Susan Thompson	13	Janet Getty Christopher Grisham Deborah Hembree Mason Vischer	23	Rachel Conrad
4	Nikki Crisafulli Nicholas DiDonato Grey English David Kellison Stacey Lawson Samantha Potts	14	Caroline Anderson Jason Brown Megan Wooten	24	Virginia Stine Arleen Taninecz
5	Beatrice Dodge Laine Ingham Rachel Taninecz	15	Kelly Crisafulli Joseph Henry Amber Kashin Margaret Steckler Kenneth Wallace	25	Michael Lumpkin Katelyn Lumpkin
6	Kaylie Erie Catherine Frank	16	Theresa Carr Eric Lovas Lydia Martin	26	Todd Greenway Dedra Kashin Valeri Smiddy
7	Catherine Loving Clinton Patterson Alexander Williams	17	Foster Bliss	27	Lilyana Almaraz Nathan Graham
8	Grace Carryer William Craig Cynthia Craig Harriett Morris Edward Zottoli	18	Jason Lundy Joseph Webb	28	Robert Aylor Jr. Michael Byrnes Avery Goldsmith Julia Green Bronwyn Meeks Angelique Pitzer Richard Smalley Sheryl Smalley
9	Mikayla Delcoco Jeffrey Edmunds Jr. Noah Hess Kay King Matthew Pandelakis Brittany Pinheiro	19	Cynthia DeBruhl John Taninecz	29	Justin Bishop Jill Griffith Aibreann Hopewell Kenneth Lipscomb Jeffrey Vitale
10	Oscar Alfaro Colton DePew Samantha Leininger	20	Jennifer Bishop Jennifer Boetig Zila Nicholson Fannie Mae Serrin Edward Wynn	30	Kaydence Grisham Peter Nichols Vickie Sullivan

November 2011						
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27	28	29	30			



January 2012						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Thursday, December 01**

9:00 AM CARE Prayer Group  
 9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study  
 12:00 PM Thursday AA Group  
 7:00 PM Praise Team

**Friday, December 02**

6:30 PM Troop 3721

**Saturday, December 03**

7:30 AM AA #1  
 9:00 AM AA #2

**Sunday, December 04**

8:15 AM Traditional Service  
 9:45 AM Children's Christmas Choral  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Traditional Service  
 11:00 AM Women Of Faith  
 3:30 PM Advent Study  
 5:00 PM Brownie Troop 472  
 5:00 PM Jr. High Youth Group  
 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group

**Monday, December 05**

7:00 PM Church Council

**Tuesday, December 06**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
 12:00 PM Tuesday AA  
 7:00 PM Advent Study  
 7:00 PM Financial Peace  
 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training

**Wednesday, December 07**

9:00 AM Prayers & Squares  
 10:30 AM Rosa Miller Circle  
 5:30 PM Children's Choir  
 6:00 PM Bell Choir  
 7:00 PM AA Meeting  
 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

**Thursday, December 08**

9:00 AM CARE Prayer Group  
 9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study  
 12:00 PM Thursday AA Group  
 7:00 PM Praise Team

**Friday, December 09**

4:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 3502

**Saturday, December 10**

7:30 AM AA #1  
 9:00 AM AA #2  
 9:00 AM Prayers & Squares  
 5:30 PM Advent Dinner

**Sunday, December 11**

8:15 AM Traditional Service  
 9:45 AM Contemporary Service  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Traditional Service  
 11:00 AM Women Of Faith  
 3:30 PM Advent Study  
 5:00 PM Brownie Troop 472  
 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group  
 7:00 PM UMM

**Monday, December 12**

9:15 AM MOPS

**Tuesday, December 13**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
 12:00 PM Tuesday AA  
 1:00 PM Dorcas Circle - Off Site  
 7:00 PM Advent Study  
 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training

**Wednesday, December 14**

9:00 AM Prayers & Squares  
 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch  
 5:30 PM Children's Choir  
 6:00 PM Bell Choir  
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 835  
 Court of Honor

7:00 PM AA Meeting

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

**Thursday, December 15**

9:00 AM CARE Prayer Group  
 9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study  
 12:00 PM Thursday AA Group  
 7:00 PM Praise Team  
 7:00 PM SPR Meeting

**Friday, December 16**

3:30 PM Micah Ministries  
 6:30 PM Troop 3721

**Saturday, December 17**

7:30 AM AA #1  
 9:00 AM AA #2  
 2:00 PM Alfaro Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 18**

8:15 AM Traditional Service - Christmas Cantata  
 9:45 AM Contemporary Service  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Traditional Service - Christmas Cantata  
 11:00 AM Women Of Faith  
 3:30 PM Advent Study  
 4:00 PM Longest Night Service  
 5:00 PM Brownie Troop 472  
 5:00 PM Jr. High Youth Group  
 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group

**Monday, December 19**

9:00 AM First Step Christmas Party

**Tuesday, December 20**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
 12:00 PM Tuesday AA  
 7:00 PM Advent Study  
 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training

**Wednesday, December 21**

9:00 AM Prayers & Squares  
 5:30 PM Children's Choir  
 6:00 PM Bell Choir  
 6:00 PM Jr. High Youth  
 7:00 PM AA Meeting  
 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

**Thursday, December 22**

9:00 AM CARE Prayer Group  
 9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study  
 12:00 PM Thursday AA Group  
 7:00 PM Praise Team

**Friday, December 23**

8:00 AM Church Office Closed

**Saturday, December 24**

7:30 AM AA #1  
 9:00 AM AA #2  
 5:30 PM Family Christmas Eve Service

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service  
 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service  
 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

**Sunday, December 25**

10:00 AM Christmas Day  
 Worship Service

**Monday, December 26**

8:00 AM Church Office Closed

**Tuesday, December 27**

10:00 AM Crossbearers - Woodmont Center  
 12:00 PM Tuesday AA  
 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training

**Wednesday, December 28**

9:00 AM Prayers & Squares  
 7:00 PM AA Meeting

**Thursday, December 29**

9:00 AM CARE Prayer Group  
 12:00 PM Thursday AA Group  
 7:00 PM Praise Team

**Friday, December 30**

8:00 AM Church Office Closed

**Saturday, December 31**

7:30 AM AA #1  
 9:00 AM AA #2



*Christmas Eve &  
Christmas Day  
Services*

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve Family Service** is a service for families with young children who all get to participate in the Christmas Story. The service ends with singing *Happy Birthday* to Jesus and birthday cake. It is loud and fun and joy-filled at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th in the Multi-Purpose Room.

### **Other Christmas Eve Services—**

At 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary we will sing Christmas Carols ending in a candle lit singing of *Silent Night*.

At 9:00 and 11:00 p.m., the services have communion, a Christmas message, and end in singing *Silent Night*.

**Christmas Day**—will be one service at 10:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. The children should bring their favorite toy to be blessed at Children's Time.

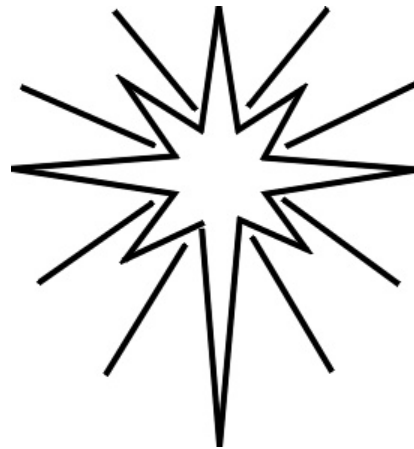
## **ADVENT DINNER**

By Sherri Stadtler

**You Are Invited...to the United Methodist Women Advent Dinner on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Multi Purpose Room.** This Dinner is for our entire church family and a great way to come together sharing the light and love of the season. The U.M.W. will provide the turkey; you bring a side dish to share. This is a wonderful way to have "Christmas Dinner" with your church family! There will be a video of the past year's events at Tabernacle, and we will sing some Christmas Carols! Come, slow down from the hustle and bustle and enjoy the season of Advent with your family and friends. Feel free to invite a friend to join you for this Christmas dinner!!! All are invited! Questions? Contact Sherri Stadtler 548-1629

## **DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

By Melanie Bolas



Join us in the musical telling of the Christmas story through a blend of new songs and familiar hymns. Listen to the Chancel Choir and the Young Chancel Choir present the birth of Christ and the majesty of that first Christmas so long ago. You will hear what the shepherds, the three kings, and Joseph and Mary heard, "Christ our Savior is born!"

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Worship services

Presented by the Chancel Choir and the Young Chancel Choir

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHORAL**

Please join us at the 9:45 a.m. service on December 4th for the Children's Christmas Choral.

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE AT THE CAMPUS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (CCC)**

By Gail Tedesco

Please join us for our annual Lessons and Carols service at the Campus Christian Community! Bring your family and friends at **7:30 p.m. on Friday December 2nd** for a traditional way to kick off the Christmas season. Festive treats and fellowship will follow the service. The CCC is located at **1213 Dandridge Street in Fredericksburg**. Please call Marlene Kindred, (540) 373-9255 for more information.

## **LONGEST NIGHT HEALING SERVICE**

By Susan Pleasants

We will have the Longest Night/Healing Service on Sunday, **December 18th, beginning at 4:00 p.m.** The service will be held in the sanctuary. The Joy Song Choir will join our Chancel Choir to provide music. In the Northern Hemisphere, the solstice that occurs on or about December 22nd is the longest night. For those who are not feeling joyous about the approaching holidays, this long night of darkness can be particularly difficult. In this last year, you may have lost a loved one, a job, your home or had other losses. We want to gather on this evening to declare that this darkness can be illuminated by the light of Jesus Christ. As it is written in *Psalms 119:105*, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Please join us in the hope that you receive comfort as we think of the one who is born and can share our pain. There will be people available after the service to pray with you for emotional well being, spiritual guidance or other healing needs.

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREES**

By Tracy Deitz

Committing to pray for someone is a priceless gift that we can give this holiday season. In the Fellowship Hall and Multi-Purpose room, you'll notice Prayer Trees. Please feel free to write a prayer expressing your joy to God for His love or to ask for a specific request. Place your written prayer card in a basket on the table. The next step is for someone else to pick up your card, pray for it, then hang it on the tree. Passersby reading these cards on the tree also can lift up the prayers. Much like the way we tie knots in prayer quilts, seeing the cards decorating the Prayer Trees symbolizes intercessions sent to the Heavenly Throne.



## **MICAH MINISTRY'S CHRISTMAS DINNER**

By Don Fowler

MICAH Ministry's Christmas Dinner for the homeless and needy will be held on Friday, December 16th at Shiloh Church. This meal will only be a success if we all pitch in and provide food items and seasonal clothing donations. We need roasted turkeys, pans of stuffing, deserts and many other items. The Christmas Meal donor signup sheets are now posted in the MPR and Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up and donate to help make this meal a success! The signup sheet indicates how many of each item is needed and provides space for you to sign up for one or more of the items and indicate if you will be bringing your contribution to Shiloh Church (new site) the day of the meal or to our MPR kitchen sometime during the week before the meal.

## **ADVENT WORKSHOP THANK YOU**

By Lynn Copeland Buckles

A big thanks to all the volunteers and ministries that participated in the Advent Workshop. Thank you to Melanie Bolas and the Youth Chancel Choir, Joe & Kelly Crisafulli, Sara Crisafulli, Carol Jensen, Pablo and Donna Cuadrado, David Akin, DJ & Sherri Stadler, Kim Carryer, Gary & Linda Gross, Denny & Laurie Ice-man, Mike and Debbie Bigelow, Pat Marlin, Tracy Deitz, Jim Ginther and Scott & Bev Graham. Thanks to our Senior High Youth who stayed on the church bus and raised lots of canned food for SECA. It was a blessing to have Santa in our midst and to make advent wreaths and ornaments to kick-off the Advent season. Thanks to those hands behind the scenes that helped out also.



## MAKE YOUR PREPARATIONS 'ADVENT'-UROUS

Advent — the first season of the liturgical year — includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent.

*Advent* is from *Adventus*, Latin for “coming,” referring to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope.

Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one pink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), and conclude with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we’re getting closer to celebrating Christ’s light coming into the world.

## ADVENT, THEN AND NOW

The church season of Advent began as a time of repentance for Epiphany, which was the second-biggest baptism day in the early church. Fasting was once a part of Advent, as it often still is for Lent.

Advent which is *Adventus* in Latin is translated from the Greek word *parousia*, which was often used to talk about Jesus’ second coming. So Advent is a season of preparation not only for the celebration of Jesus’ earthly birth but for his promised return.

Some Christians celebrate Advent by not putting the baby Jesus into their manger scenes until Christmas morning. This adds to the anticipation that’s a special part of the season.

## ADVENT SYMBOLS

In anticipation of Christmas, Christians often decorate their churches and homes with symbols. Many families use special Advent calendars with “doors” to open—one per day until Christmas. Each “door” may suggest a Bible reading and a family activity. Families may sing carols, light an Advent wreath, say a prayer or read a brief Christmas story.

Preparing for Christmas at home is a joyful tradition that draws family members closer to God and each other.

### Candles

The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.

### Christ Monograms

During Advent, many churches display Christmas trees decorated with Christian symbols called “*chrismons*.” The name comes from the Latin phrase “*Christi Monogramma*”, which means monogram of Christ.

Most *Chrismons* are made of wood or Styrofoam, and they can be handmade or purchased at Christian supply stores.

The symbols, which represent aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry, include stars, angels, keys, doves, boats and various types of crosses.



## **YOUTH NEWS:**

By Cynthia Hay

**Gently Used Shoes needed:** this December, the youth will be collecting gently used shoes for the needy. Please drop off your shoes (in the boxes) in the MPR room or the Fellowship Hall. Adult and children's shoes are needed.

## **TABERNACLE OUTREACH EVENTS—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

By Denny Iceman

"Hospitality Hosts" are needed for upcoming events. Their purpose is to provide a warm welcome at events we have to invite the community into the church building and the Tabernacle family.

- Some hosts will collect guest information so we can make follow-up contacts, inviting them back for other events.
- Some will help with ticket sales.
- Other people are needed to handle promotional materials before, during and after events.
- We will need someone to make sure our out of town performer is graciously hosted.

Help us practice 'Radical Hospitality'. Talk with Denny Iceman, Dave Kellison or Mike Conrad today or email [oldsanta@rocketmail.com](mailto:oldsanta@rocketmail.com) for more information.

## **UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES (UMFS)**

By Terry Waldenmaier

The goal of UMFS has always been ambitious – to provide a broad spectrum of human services to enable children and families to realize their hopes for the future. From residential treatment to adoption, they provide a wide range of services across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

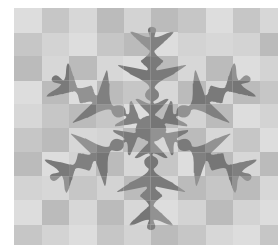
Throughout the month of December, United Methodist churches across the Virginia Annual Conference are asked to receive the annual UMFS December Offering. There are two options for giving. **Option 1, you may send your donations directly to UMFS** using the UMFS offering envelopes. **Option 2, you can make your donation out to Tabernacle UMC** and in the memo line of the check please mark it with "UMFS December Offering" and place it in the offering plate. Offering envelopes and additional information bulletins can be found at the various information tables around Tabernacle.

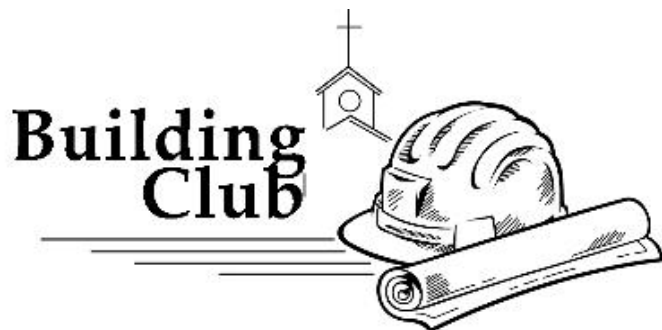
Your gift will touch the lives of the children and families we serve to create a more positive future for them and their home communities. Thank you for your support.

## **KEEP INFORMED: WEATHER CLOSURE INFORMATION**

In case of significant snow or ice and you want to know if there will be worship on a Sunday morning, listen to the radio, call the church (786-6162) or check the web page ([www.tabumc.org](http://www.tabumc.org)). We will contact WPER 90.5 FM and WBQB 101.5 FM to let them know of any changes. If there is no pop-up on our web-site or no announcement closings on the radio, church is on. Sometimes we will just have the 11:00 a.m. service if conditions are improving.

Rarely will worship be cancelled. Always we trust you to make the wisest decision for your safety and that of your family and loved ones.





## **FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT BUILDER'S CLUB**

By Dave Kellison

The Fredericksburg District is one of the fastest growing districts in the Virginia Conference. As a newly formed group of vibrant churches, the **Fredericksburg District** has been given a staggering opportunity to reach new people with the Good News of God's love in Jesus.

Many of our existing churches are located in growing areas and are embracing their new neighbors with the gospel. Experience has also shown us that new congregations are particularly effective at evangelizing persons with little or no prior faith experience. **In addition to supporting our established churches along interstate 95, the Fredericksburg District will look toward new church growth in areas from Fauquier to lower Reedsville.**

The **Builder's Club** is a group of Laity and Clergy from across the **Fredericksburg District** whose members have pledged financial support for building new churches, renovating and expanding existing church facilities on the district.

The **Club** raises money by issuing a call to its members two or three times a year. When members receive a call letter, they will receive information about the church, the location and information about the project. Members are then asked to respond with a donation to the Club. In the past, the Club has raised between \$5,000 and \$11,000 per call. There is no minimum or maximum pledge amount.

All donations are tax exempt and you decide the amount you wish to give for each call. No more than three calls will be asked of you during any given year. You can opt out of the Builder's Club any time if your circumstances change.

**You are invited** to become a part of the growing ministry of our district by enrolling in the Fredericksburg District Builder's Club. Please prayerfully consider joining the Fredericksburg Builder's Club. To join, please complete the attached form and send to the Fredericksburg District Office, Post Office Box 100, Ladysmith, VA 22501 or scan it and email to [fredericksburgdistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:fredericksburgdistrict@vaumc.org). Come experience the blessing!

Nehemiah 2:18

I told them that the hand of my God has been gracious to me...

Then they said, "let us start building!" So they committed themselves

to the command good.



## **PRACTICE YOUR SMILE— THE PHOTOGRAPHER IS COMING!!**

By the Photo Directory Team

We are excited to announce that we have contracted with Olan Mills to produce a new pictorial directory of all our families. Our photography will take place at the church Jan. 3 — 4 and 11 – 14, 2012. Weekday hours are 2:00 to 9:20 p.m.; Saturday hours are 9:30 a.m. — 5:10 p.m. Please make an appointment that suits your family's schedule. **If you are available during the afternoon, please consider one of those appointment times.** Make your appointment for the earliest date and time that will work for your family and do so right away to be sure you get the desired time.

You will be photographed and see your proofs immediately. Please allow an hour for your appointment. You may make your appointment at the church and, for a limited time, may do so on line. To make an on line appointment, go to the church website, [www.tabumc.org](http://www.tabumc.org), click on the **2012 Photo Directory** link, enter the church phone number (5407866162), as the password, and fill in all the required fields. You may then select a day and time for your appointment.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the lobby next to the MPR for your convenience for the several weeks. After that time, everyone who has not made an appointment will receive a phone call to help them get a convenient date and time. Everyone will receive a reminder call the day before they are scheduled for photos.

We are counting on everyone to participate so our directory will be complete and useful both for existing members and especially for those who join us in the future. Each participating family will receive a free copy of the directory and a \$25 Olan Mills Gift Certificate. There is no obligation to purchase additional portraits, although you may if you wish.



## **Are You Able?**

### **PRESCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY**

By Brenda Bishop

We are glad to see our preschool class growing with cheerful, energetic little ones eager to learn about God. Currently, the roster has over 25 children with 16 – 19 children who attend regularly. Each Sunday fun and exciting activities are planned to enhance their learning experience in Sunday School. Yes, we have participants, willing to learn. We have a wonderful, exciting curriculum. We have classroom space. However, we have only **ONE** teacher. Ms. Susan graciously gives her time, love, and patience to ensure the children learn about and feel the love of Jesus.

That being said, we are in urgent need of forming a second preschool class, and we need your help. Our current class is too large to effectively give each child the attention they need and deserve. We need three adults to accomplish this: one adult to join Ms. Susan in her class and two adults for a second preschool class.

Our hope is to be able to have both classes working in December. If we cannot recruit the adults needed, the current class will continue. Sadly, we will have to limit the number of children in the class. The Sunday School teacher deserves to be able to teach the lesson in a manageable environment. .

If you are able and willing to teach, please contact Brenda Bishop immediately at 786-0720 or email [bfbrbb@aol.com](mailto:bfbrbb@aol.com).



## **MISSION NEWS**

By Gary and Linda Gross

### **Communion Offering for December and Blanket Sunday:**

Tabernacle's Communion Offering for December will go toward purchasing blankets through Church World Service. Each donation of \$5.00 purchases one blanket (summer or winter blanket) for someone in need in the U.S. or around the world. CWS blankets are used for so much more than just keeping warm. They are used as a temporary shelter, for privacy, for stretchers, for carrying possessions, and much more. **Tabernacle's Annual Blanket Sunday will be held this year on December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

### **The Giving Tree:**

Throughout December, Tabernacle will have a Giving Tree located in the Tabernacle Atrium. The tree will be decorated with ornaments indicating "wish list" items needed by Hope House (HH) and Thurman Brisben Center (TBC). You can help the residents of Hope House and Thurman Brisben Center by taking one or more ornaments, purchasing the items listed on the ornaments, taping the ornaments to the items purchased, and then placing the items, unwrapped, under the tree. In early January, Missions will deliver the items to HH and TBC.

Hope House provides a safe haven for homeless mothers and their children who seek to turn their lives around and become independent and self-sufficient citizens. Thurman Brisben Center provides comprehensive programs and services to assist individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless or who have recently become homeless. Since 2000, TBC has provided residential services to more than 15,000 individual men, women, and children.

### **Chancellor Community Blood Drive:**

The next Chancellor Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Chancellor Ruritan Building, 5994 Plank Road. Give the gift that everyone wants, but money can't buy. Give life --- the perfect gift --- give blood. One hour of your time could save up to three lives.

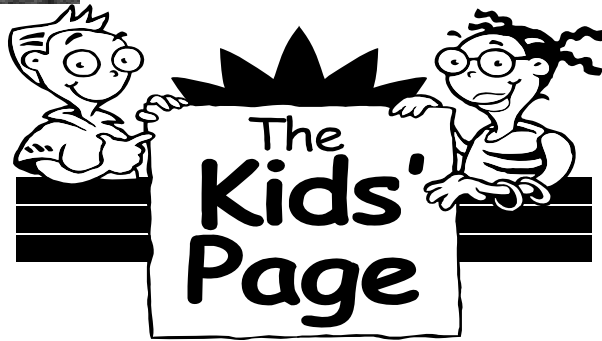
In addition to receiving regular blood donations, the Red Cross is planning to bring double red blood cell (2RBC) automation to this blood drive for interested blood donors of blood types O-, O+, A-, and B-. This automation allows the Red Cross to collect double the normal red blood cells from a single donor and still not collect as much total volume of blood from the donor as with a whole blood donation --- the reason for this is that the donor's platelets and plasma, along with a small amount of saline to help with hydration, are returned to the donor's body. Another benefit is that double red cell donations count as two units.

### **Thank You --- 3 Communities Event to Fight Hunger:**

Thank you, Tabernacle, for your wonderful support of our 3 Communities Event to Fight Hunger on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Tabernacle had 72 members and friends help with the event to pack 210 Thanksgiving Food Baskets for local families in need and to pack 40,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now. Thank you for hosting the event, for your hard work to pack the baskets and meals, for your fellowship with each other and our neighboring churches, for the wonderful music from the Children's Choir, for helping with clean-up, and especially with making meals available for people in need in our community and internationally. **What a great job by all who participated!!!!** The total number of volunteers from all four churches participating in the 3 Communities Event was 230.

# **MISSION NEWS**





# SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

**What you need:**

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

**What you do:**

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.


"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_

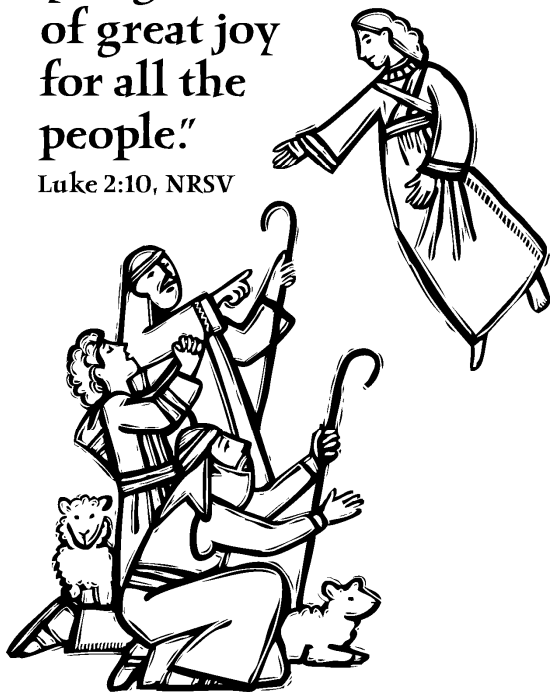
\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

**"I am bringing  
you good news  
of great joy  
for all the  
people!"**

Luke 2:10, NRSV



## Tabernacle United Methodist Church

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