

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Katherine Poe (1), Richard Hoagland (2), Josie Cuffe (3), Jimmy Lovelady (3), Billy Lovelady (3), Caroline Rhodes (4), Wilson Bujakowski (7), Betty Butler (8), Nancy Miles (8), Nathan Lee (9), Christine Frink (10), Joyce Butterworth (14), Donnie Karabaich (16), Carolyn Foxworth (18), Tad Henry (18), Dale Lipke (20), Judy Blevins (21), JoAnn Butterworth (21), Jane Bujakowski (22), Heath Dye (22), Seth Dye (22), Nicole Lee (22), Rodney Myers (24), Ethan Gable (26), Gus Robbins (26), Susan Nicely Wagner (26), Sun Kim Calloway (27), Ed Kaufman (27), Linda Frederiksen (28), Hattie Duncan (31)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bert and Christy Rackley (1), Richard and Carolyn Hoagland (20)



FIRST NEWS.....*Merry Christmas*

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First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA
December 2016

Merry Christmas First United Methodist Church!

I know, it is hard to believe it is that time of year again already! But, it is. Christmas is a time of blessing, of being blessed and of being a blessing. We were blessed when God came to earth in the form of a baby to reveal his means of our salvation. We are saved to serve, I once heard a preacher say that once (wink, wink). In the same way, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. To those we love and to those who are loved only by God, and don't know it yet.

Let's go back to the scene together now:

Luke 2:6 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. 8 There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. 9 Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. 10 The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: 11 A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. (THE MESSAGE)

First News is a regular publication for members and friends of First United Methodist Church. Articles for the newsletter should be submitted to the Church Office no later than the 15th of the month before the Newsletter goes out.

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Visit our website: www.fumchopewell.org

Chris Andress., Senior Pastor

Patti Williams, Admin. Asst.

Dennis Foxworth, Lay Leader

Judy L. Blevins, Director of Music

Phone (804) 458-8076

Nancy Honaker, Organist

Gloria Donati, Custodian

Margie E. Dowden, Nursery Attendant

Cindy Altman , Chapel Pianist/Children's Choir Director

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

Hopewell, Virginia

Permit No. 32

Address Service Requested

Do not waste this Christmas spending too much money on gifts for those who already have more than they need. YOU have been blessed by Christmas, so this Christmas go be a blessing!

Merry Christmas Church!

Chris

Letters of Thanks

Thank you...

.....To everyone who served as a Greeter this year, thank you for extending the hand of friendship to all who entered First UMC for either the 8:45AM or 11:00AM Sunday worship services and for special services. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. *(Verna Brundin)*

.....The Operation Christmas Child gift-filled shoeboxes are packed and on their way to needy children around the world. This was only possible because of your generosity. Thank you for the many gift items you contributed.....for the money (\$525) you gave which was used for shipping and to purchase additional gifts.....for the hand-made items for the children.....for the \$200 contributed by UMW toward shipping.....and a special thank you to the children and youth who added Christmas cards and had fun packing the gifts into the shoeboxes. Whatever you have done, these gift-filled shoeboxes will certainly brighten a child's life this Christmas. Thanks again for your generosity. *(FUMC Missions Committee)*

....*Thank you to the Guilders Circle of First UMC for your \$500 donation to Henry Fork Service Center.*

HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY

Dick Commander, director of the HFP, appreciates the prayers, staple food donations and the generous loose change collected by FUMC every month. He reports, "FUMC is one of the most supportive churches in the area." November loose change added up to \$66. For more information or to volunteer please contact Dick Commander at 804-530-3546.

DECEMBER - STEWARDSHIP

Ushers: J. Lovelady, J. Armstrong, W. Frederiksen, D. Parr, S. Williamson

Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service

December 4 - Christy Frank
December 11 - Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer
December 18 - June Capron and Curly Moore
December 25 - Margie Dowden

Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Carol Elmore and Verna Brundin

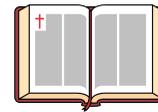
Altar Flowers: All dates available

Treasurer's Report for month ending October 31, 2016:

Operating fund:

Beginning balance as of 9/30/16.....	\$ 15,955.33
Income for October.....	22,083.56
Adjustment – bank deposit correction.....	(.78)
Expenses for October	(22,780.82)
Balance as of 10/31/16	15,257.29

Designated Funds Balance	41,055.89
Money Market Balance	55,403.82
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account) ...	500.00



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR DECEMBER

Your conduct among the heathen should be so good that when they accuse you of being evildoers, they will have to recognize your good deeds and so praise God on the Day of his coming. 1 Peter 2:12 Good News Translation

Following Christ isn't a popular path in today's culture, and the world is quick to criticize us for being vocal or for our slightest faults or failures. But the world watches as we visit the lonely, feed the poor, rebuild communities after disasters, promote literacy, share our garden, our books and our resources.

Jesus was born to teach us about our Father's grace and mercy so that we may reflect His love through our actions to others. Come to church. Together we can unite to show the world what God's love is.



WAVERLY REBUILDING OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever wanted to go on a mission trip but could not get away? This is your chance to go on mission **day trips** to join others in the rebuilding of tornado damaged Waverly. The United Methodist disaster relief is headed up by Forrest White, the Disaster Recovery manager and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) coordinator for the Virginia Conference. This is an ongoing project. Ages 14 and up are needed regardless of skill level. Tools will be provided at the site. To find out when you can go independently, as a family, or as a FUMC team please contact Billy Williamson. A packet of forms are provided upon confirmation of the scheduled date. In case of inclement weather inside work is also needed. Come on down to Waverly to show what Christ's love looks like.

More information may be found at the United Methodist Conference website:

http://vaumc.org/pages/news/2016vanews/2016vanews_2016-tornadoprovisionals

White emphasized that they need a constant flow of funding to help get supplies as well as to keep teams scheduled one behind the other. He also said that prayers were still needed for the survivors and for the teams that serve. Donations may be made on line on the website link or you may make a check to FUMC, with the memo: Waverly disaster relief.



UMYF CHRISTMAS DRAMA

You are invited to come see a Christmas Drama presented by the UMYF. It will be 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve in our Fellowship Hall, immediately before the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

This "drama" is probably unlike anything you've seen before. It is short but powerful in its message. It is our hope that we will open your eyes again, or maybe for the first time, to the depth of God's love. We hope to see you there.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING! The UMCOR certified organic coffees make practical, unique and impressive Christmas gifts. Our Missions Committee will be selling coffee on December 19th in the lobby for your convenience. Regular \$7; decaf \$8.



Your Christmas cards to others in our church may be filed alphabetically by last name in the red Christmas Card Exchange box located in the welcome/foyer area in December. Please check the box often to pick up any Christmas cards addressed to you.



ANGEL TREE - Our church "Angel Tree" is in the welcome area at the parking lot door. Anyone is welcome to take an angel, purchase a new gift from the list on the angel, wrap the item, tape the angel to a corner of the gift and return it to the tree. Please only ONE bag or package per angel (it can contain multiple items). The deadline to return your gift is Sunday, December 11th. If you would rather give a monetary donation, Carol Elmore will be glad to shop on your behalf! Please make your check payable to "First UMC" and note "angel tree" on the memo line or give your monetary donation directly to Carol. We hope to help 10 children have a brighter Christmas this year, so your help is greatly appreciated!

CHURCH NEWS:

We will have one worship service at 11:00 AM on Sunday, December 18th & Sunday, December 25th.

Also, please note that any 2016 contributions and gifts must be received by Sunday, December 25, 2016 in order to be posted on your 2016 Giving Statement. Thank you!



Children and Youth Christmas Card Visitation with area Nursing Homes and Assisted Living:

The Children and Youth will be delivering Christmas Cards to River View Health & Rehab, Hopewell Health Care and Brighter Living Assisted Living on December 10, 2016. We will meet at the Church at 9:00 and be ending our outreach with lunch at Rosa's Italian Ristorante Pizzeria in Hopewell. Children and Youth can be picked up at Rosa's at 1:30.

Christmas Cards Delivery to FUMC (Local) Special Friends: The Children and Youth will be delivering Christmas cards to local FUMC special friends after the Children's message on Sunday Dec. 18, 2016. The outreach will be followed by a Happy Birthday Jesus Party at the church. Any questions or further information contact: Kim Taylor (804)720-1489

Come and cheer for **FUMC** on 2016 Hopewell "Light Up the will have a nativity-themed float support. We still need folks to candy to the spectators. If you please contact Kim Taylor (458- and let her know how you can Cavalier Square at 4:00PM and ends at the Ashford Civic Plaza in downtown Hopewell.



Sunday, December 4th at the **"Night" Christmas Parade.** We and would appreciate your walk next the float to hand out have not volunteered as yet, 0921; mtaylorktaylor@aol.com) help. The parade begins at



WINTER HATS AND GLOVES NEEDED

Winter hats and gloves are now being collected for the children in our area. A bin for the donations is now available at the end of the main hallway near the Crib Room. **The deadline is February 28th.**

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Wesley Circle is hosting the evening and will provide smoked pork. Please bring a covered dish or dessert for accompaniment. Following the dinner Linda Frederiksen will lead the evening program with installation of officers. This year we are asking everyone to bring items for the James House, items needed include **laundry soap.** We look forward to a wonderful evening of fun, food and fellowship and hope all United Methodist Women will attend.

Thank you to all who supported the Annual Yard and Bake Sale! The work and dedication of all involved provides UMW with the opportunity to serve and support women and children locally, nationally and internationally!

The annual United Methodist Women Covered Dish Dinner will be Monday, December 5th 6:30 PM. Wesley Circle is the host for the event. Bags of toiletries will be collected for the James House. Officers for 2017 will be introduced and installed during the program.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, November 12th, the UMM held it meeting at Rosa's Restaurant. Our speaker was Wade Lanning. He brought us a rogram about Prince George War Memorial Project. On December 10th, Tom Wagstaff, CEO of Capital Area Program for Uplifting People, will provide breakfast in the fellowship hall and speak to us about his non-profit's activities in the Hopewell community.



Family Missions: Calling ALL WHO LOVE CHILI

Chili Cook Off has been set for **January 14th**! If you are planning to enter a chili, please submit a registration form by January 12th to the church set up for chili cooks will begin at 5 PM with the tasting beginning at 6 PM. A free will offering will be accepted at the door will the proceeds going to purchase and update items in the kitchen! Come join us for a fun filled evening and see who takes home the trophy for best chili!!!



*“Don’t let this be . . .
Just another Christmas this year.”*

Just Another Christmas

Special Christmas Music
Presented by the FUMC Chancel Choir
Sunday, December 18th – 11:00 AM

“All is Calm, All is Bright”
Randy Vader - Jay Rouse - Camp Kirkland
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A Christmas Musical to be presented  
by the Combined Choirs of Hopewell  
at First Baptist Church  
401 N. Second Avenue, Hopewell  
Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM



**MISSIONS**

We received a nice letter from Carol Betzler of the [Hopewell Humane Society](#). Our congregation gave over \$550 in support of this worthy cause. We received a letter from UMCOR thanking our congregation for their generous donation of \$1270 to support Global Ministries. Our mission’s committee members continue to sell fine coffees to support the UMCOR-qualified coffee growers on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Dear First UMC Members,

A few months ago I told you about an organization called Days For Girls International that makes reusable feminine hygiene product kits that are distributed all over the world to enable young girls to stay in school during their monthly periods. Some of you responded very generously, and with some of the funds I purchased some fabric.

As your UMW representative, I have had the privilege of attending two of the workdays to create and assemble these kits. We meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month in Vienna, VA from 1 to 5 PM. We bring our sewing machines, sergers, scissors, ironing boards etc., as you can imagine, we have a lot of fun. We are women using our abilities to improve the quality of life of our sisters and daughters wherever it is needed.

As this is an ongoing project, your support is welcome. If you would like more information on this very worthy cause and a list of what is needed, check out their website at [daysforgirls.org](#) - if you would like to make a monetary donation just designate “days for girls” on your check. If anyone would like to accompany me one Saturday (we leave at 10 AM and return about 7 PM), contact me at [dalelipke@yahoo.com](mailto:dalelipke@yahoo.com) or 804-840-8250. I have included some of the pictures taken at the last workday. Once again, thank you.

Sincerely, Dale Lipke

