

# ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2017 • VOL. 15, NO. 12



*From Pastor Justin* My St. Mark's family-

While I can't believe that December is already here, I'm so excited to spend my first Advent and Christmas season with you! We are planning meaningful worship throughout the season, as we prepare to invite Christ into our hearts all over again.

Since Advent is a time of preparation, I hope you'll join us for worship as we explore the theme, "What Are You Looking For?" We search for Jesus in our lives in different ways and at different times. Are you looking for Jesus to be your Lord and leader this Christmas? Are you looking for healing and wholeness this holiday season, and a peace only Christ can give? Do you need Him to teach you and guide you in the new year? Are you looking for His gentle spirit this Christmas?

I hope you will find what you are looking for at St. Mark's this Advent. Let us celebrate the birth of Christ into our lives this Christmas!

Strength and Wisdom,  
Pastor Justin

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## ADVENT FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- December 2: Christmas Fair**
- December 3: First Sunday of Advent**
- December 10: Second Sunday of Advent**
- December 11: United Methodist Women's Christmas Party & Dinner** - 6 p.m. here at St. Mark's
- December 17: Third Sunday of Advent - Choral Cantata** during 11 am Worship Service, "**Sounds of the Season**" will be at 8:30 and 9:15 services
- December 17: Quiet Christmas** 7 pm
- December 24: Christmas Eve Morning Service** - 11:00 a.m. only
- December 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** - 5:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.



Mark your calendars!

### L A I T Y

### C O R N E R

Hi all. The prayer team has begun a new thing at St.

Mark's and we are excited to invite everyone to join us each **Wednesday from 5:30—6:00 pm** in the sanctuary for renewal through Contemplative Prayer, quiet time with God!! I know we are all crazy busy, especially with Christmas approaching. But read and ponder the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, taken from the book,

Seize the Day,

*"We tend to be slavishly preoccupied. Not only do the pressures and concerns of each day crowd in upon us, but we are constantly living toward the future—planning, hoping, striving for the things we wish to achieve. Consequently, we know little about a center point of stillness where we can hear again those things which God may wish to tell us. We therefore need to take time to become still and lay down all our concerns. Taking time to be still is productive time, for it revitalizes us and provides us with new direction."*

It is true that the busier we are the more we need to pause for quiet time with our Lord. See you Wednesday evening at 5:30?

Yours in Christ,  
Peggy Lootens, Lay Leader

### ST. MARK'S ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

At the prospect of inclement weather please note that St. Mark's posts delays and closings on WDBJ7. You may check them either by watching channel 7 or by going to WDBJ7.COM.

### QUIET CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 7 pm**

Does the holiday season have you feeling stressed out? Is this the first Christmas without someone special? Need a break from the noise of the season? Join us for a time of reflection, prayer, and calm at Quiet Christmas

### CPR AED TRAINING

On January 7th St Mark's will be hosting a CPR and AED training at 12:30 pm. Training will last two hours and costs \$50 per person. At the end of the afternoon you will have earned your CPR/AED certification. If you are interested in participating in this training or have any questions please contact Erin Huddleston by December 18th.

### ANGEL TREE:

This Advent we are going to be giving gifts to the residents of **Bethel Ridge Assisted Living & Adult Care**. There will be a small "Angel Tree" set up in the entrance of the main sanctuary and the Family Life Center starting on December 3rd. Each angel ornament will have a suggestion for gifts that will then be given to residents who may not otherwise receive much for Christmas. If you would like to take an angel to shop of gifts please do so and return the gifts to St Mark's by December 19th.

### ADVENT OFFERINGS:

Our Advent goal of \$5,000 will *all* be spent to support missions that are both local and

*(Continued on page 3)*

abroad. We will begin to take up our special Advent offerings on December 3rd—the first Sunday in Advent and will continue to collect until Christmas! Some of those missions that will benefit from our Advent offerings include...

**Community Outreach Program:**

The Community Outreach program provides after-school care and educational help for students in downtown Roanoke. Housed in Trinity United Methodist Church, COP helps children from elementary to high school age to complete their homework, study for up-coming tests, and raise reading scores. While children are at COP they are given healthy snacks and dinner.

**Red Bird:**

Red Bird Mission is a mission that reaches deep into the communities of Virginia in order to show Christ's hope into all phases of life. Red Bird offers job opportunities in a community store, education for young people who hope to be college-bound, and facilitates home improvements through mission teams. These are just some of the ways that Red Bird serves the community and shows Christ's love.

**Botetourt Resource Center:**

The Botetourt Resource Center is devoted to helping individuals and families who live in Botetourt County. During the cold winter months The Botetourt Resource Center is often called upon to help find affordable heating options. Throughout the year many people rely on the Resource Center for help finding affordable furniture, food, and transportation.

**Society of St Andrew:**

The Society of St Andrew works closely with local farmers, rescue missions, food pantry and Feeding America in order to supply fresh produce to families and individuals who are food insecure and would otherwise struggle to put fresh food on their tables. The Society of St Andrew also works with local farmers in order to "glean" fruits and vegetables in order to get food that would otherwise be wasted onto tables for the enjoyment and nourishment of those who otherwise would not be able to afford them.

**TAME NEWS**

The Meal packing event was a success thanks to the help from our congregation and friends.

We now are planning for our upcoming events. The first of these will be Holiday Coffee and Treats on December 17th in the narthex. Our TAME bakers will provide an array of seasonal goodies to sample for a donation to the TAME ministries. Plan to soothe that sweet tooth and help vital ministries to feed the hungry.

There is no need to worry about lunch on Super Bowl Sunday as we will host a Souper Bowl Soup and Sandwich in the Family Life Center following the service on February the 4th. A warm bowl of soup on a winter day along with a sandwich to take the chill off and fill you up. If you would like to prepare and donate a crock-pot of soup or a plate of sandwiches contact Karen Sledd at 992-3592 or Leann Critz at the church.

We would love to have new members to the TAME team. Join us on January the 11th @ 6:30 for our next meeting.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The wonderful missions and ministries of St. Mark's are only possible because of your support! Through the end of October, our giving was \$305,473 toward the annual budget of \$445,475. We need everyone to do their part to meet our goal!



**GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

If you need a break from the hustle and bustle of the season, join us for an evening of food and fun. The United

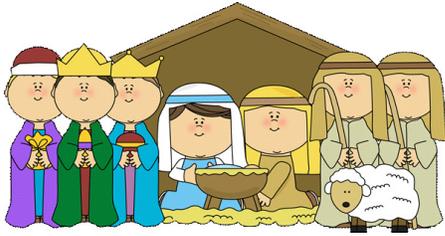
Methodist Women are having their annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck Dinner December 11th at 6:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall and all women are welcome. Bring a dish or two to share and you can participate in any or all of the following:

McDonald's or Hardees gift cards in the amount of \$5 to be given to The Rescue Mission to distribute to their residents.

Christmas decoration/ornament exchange - \$10 limit

Cookie/Candy Exchange – bring 2 dozen goodies and an extra container to take your goodies home in.

If you have questions, contact Nancy Craft at 992-4129. Hope to see you there.



## 41ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

St. Mark's UMC  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Saturday, December 2 - 8 am to 2 pm

How can it be? Less than a week to our CHRISTMAS FAIR! MANY HANDS and FEET will be busy this week putting on the finishing touches.

Along with the 36 quality crafters joining us, we will have our own St. Mark's craft table, delicious Bakery area and Breakfast and Lunch meals. As always, we will have our delicious Whaley's Pecans and for those of you who love our Apple Butter, we will have ½ pint decorated jars. The Botetourt Town & Country Women's Club will host their annual Silent Auction during the sale.

We know MANY of you have cooking, baking, canning, crafting and other skills. We would very much welcome and appreciate any special craft or other item that you would donate. Thank you for sharing and volunteering!

QUILT – in the narthex today! Every year, our talented St. Mark's ladies busily create a beautiful queen-sized Quilt. This year's Quilt, "Christmas Joy" is a 9-patch variation square with vivid greens and reds. Quilt tickets are available from Nancy Hamblin and at the registration table on FAIR day. Cost: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be at 2 pm on the afternoon of the FAIR.

FAIR FLYERS – be sure to pick up a flyer to share with a friend or post in a business you frequent. They are on the table in the narthex.

Plastic and Paper BAGS – At the FAIR check-out, our cashiers are in need of bags. No need to recycle, we will do it for you! Please bring and place them under the mail table outside the Church offices by Friday, December 1st.

For more information or if you have questions about the Fair, please contact:

Bakery – Donna Henderson 992-5333

Crafts and Quilt – Nancy Hamblin 992-5505

Vendors – Dottie Flinchum 992-2577

Reception/Registration – Barbara Wiley 992-4033

Publicity/Cashiers – Mona Tolley 992-3496

Kitchen – contact any of the names above

## ST. MARK'S COOKBOOKS

Delicious recipes for Christmas can be yours! Our best cooks have provided their wonderful recipes for everyday and for special occasions like Christmas! You will surely want to give some of these recipes a try!

We have dropped the cost a bit to make them very affordable. So now you can purchase one for yourself -- and as gifts for your family members and friends!

Cost: \$12 each or 2 books for \$20

To get a copy, please contact Nancy Hamblin, Mona Tolley, Barbara Wiley or the Church Office.

## PECANS ARE HERE !

Our annual Pecan Order has arrived! These delicious pecans from Whaley's Pecan Company in Troy, Alabama, are packaged in 1 lb. bags -- halves or chopped. Cost: \$10 per pound.

Be sure and get several bags for your Holiday baking! They will be available at the FAIR and at Church on Sunday morning.

## UMW BOOK SELECTION

**Not Just A Pretty Face** chronicles how a committed group of women fight to have a safer cosmetics and health care products industry. They learn that there are as many as 300 different toxic chemicals in the Shampoo, cosmetics, lotions, and health care products used in just one day. They learn that the companies producing these products are to police themselves. They declare that the products are safe despite studies to the contrary. Stacy Malkan, the author, organizes a group of women to expose how the industry uses terms like natural and herbal to lull us into the belief that they are safe. She uses scientific studies to show otherwise. Her group investigates the products and informs the public about their findings. Although unable to change the laws and the industry, a new concept is emerging followed by companies that care about safety and the health of the users of products. Women are supporting these companies and change is coming from this. To check into the safety of your products you can go to [SafeCosmetics.org](http://SafeCosmetics.org).

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### FROGs and Tadpoles

Next time we meet on December 10th, we will be celebrating Jesus' birth! The FROG store will be open that night, so the children may purchase Christmas gifts for family and friends. Gift Wrappers will be available to help the children! This will be our only meeting during the month of December. FROGs and Tadpoles will resume on Sunday, January 28th!

### Special Christmas Mission Project

We will also be collecting baby items for the Blue Ridge Women's Center at the December 10th FROG and Tadpole meeting and in The Garden Gathering room until December 17th. The following items are needed: Diapers (especially Newborn and size 4), Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Baby Lotion, Baby Powder, Baby clothing from Newborn to 18 months, Bottles and Pacifiers. Please let your child help pick their donation!

### Coloring fun!



### St. Mark's Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 pm

All are invited to our child-friendly Family Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24th at 5:30 pm. This year's Worship service will feature a "Spontaneous Christmas Pageant" for our young disciples! Each child may choose what role he or she would like to play in our pageant. The children will dress in simple costumes in the Narthex. Then, they will sit with their families in the Sanctuary until a Big Angel, Shepherd or Wise One lets them know it is their turn to participate. Once they are finished with their part in the Pageant, the children may return to their seats and sit with their families. This promises to be a special night for everyone! Please join us and bring your friends and family!

There will be a practice for all Youth participating in this service after the 11:00 Worship service on Sunday, December 10th. Lunch will be provided. Please let Lee Ann know if you are unable to attend by calling 580-3905 or email at: [leeanncritz@yahoo.com](mailto:leeanncritz@yahoo.com).

## YOUTH EVENTS AND NEWS:

**December 3rd:** All are invited to join us for Youth Council! Please bring your calendar and be ready to talk about 2018!! Come ready to start planning for Wesley Weekend, Monthly Missions, a Lock-In and your summer mission trip. Meet in the Youth Café at 5 pm. Dinner will be provided!

**December 10th:** Meet at St Mark's at our normal time (6 pm) in order to drive together to Bethel Ridge and bless the residents with carols and your smiling faces! From there, if time allows, we will go and make visits in order to carol to others in the community!

**December 17th:** The Shipyard will have a gift exchange in the Youth Café! If you would like to participate bring a wrapped gift that costs no more than \$10. We will be playing "Dirty Santa" during which we can give gifts, steal,



and pass along! If you have any questions, contact Zach Wilhelm!

**December 30th:** Let's go tubing!! We will meet at St Mark's at 9:30 am in order to go to Liberty's Snowflex and go tubing! Permission slips will be e-mailed out to parents as well as posted on the Shipyard Youth portion of the St Mark's web page: [www.stmarksmethodist.com](http://www.stmarksmethodist.com)

**December 24th and 31st :** There will be no Shipyard Youth.

**Mark Your Calendar:** On January 7th we will have an informational meeting about our upcoming mission trip! We are going to be using a different mission agency so even if you have gone on mission trips in the past please come to this one to learn more about where we're going and what we plan to do.



**Newsletter Deadline is the 20th of each month**  
**Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. AM**

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church**  
19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083

**Phone:** 540-992-3030

**Website:** [www.stmarksmethodist.com](http://www.stmarksmethodist.com)

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Erin Huddleston: [StMarksErinH@gmail.com](mailto:StMarksErinH@gmail.com)  
Michele Richardson: [stmarksmusicminister@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksmusicminister@gmail.com)

*For more on these stories you may view them on the United Methodist website at:  
<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/umns-weekly-digest-november-22-2017>*

**APPALACHIAN TRAIL CHAPLAIN  
 COMPLETES JOURNEY**

SPRINGER MOUNTAIN, Ga. (UMCOM) — The Rev. Matt Hall was joined by friends and supporters for the last mile of his 2,200-mile hike of the Appalachian Trail. Hall, the 2017 chaplain appointed to the trail by the Holston Conference, crossed the finish line Nov. 19. Asked what he would do the next day, he replied, “Probably go for a run and catch up on some reading.”

**LIVING IN GRATITUDE**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Interpreter) — United Methodists who have joined a movement of people emphasizing gratitude in personal and community life say giving thanks can redirect one’s life.

**2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORTS**

MUKONO, Uganda (UMNS) — United Methodist News Service is posting reports from all annual conference sessions. The latest is from the new Uganda-South Sudan Conference, which had its first gathering in August.

**MOUNTAIN SKY AREA**

An 'inclusive church' as a bridge-builder  
 HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. — More than 200 people attended the “Toward an Inclusive Church” event Nov. 14 at St. Andrew United Methodist Church. The event was sponsored by the United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy, a new advocacy group.

**ACCIDENTAL CHURCH SHOOTING  
 INJURES TWO**

TELICO PLAINS, Tenn. — A man accidentally shot himself and his wife at First United Methodist Church while he was showing off his gun during a discussion on recent church shootings. Their injuries didn’t appear to be life-threatening, police said.

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, THE STRAITS  
 TIMES**

First Asian bishop in Singapore, Malaysia dies  
 SINGAPORE — The Rev. Yap Kim Hao, elected the first Asian bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore and Malaysia in 1968, died Nov. 16

at the age of 88. The Rev. Donald Messer, former head of Iliff School of Theology, said he admired Hao’s courage as a champion for inclusion within the church. “The poor, the marginalized, the discriminated against knew Bishop Kim Hao stood in solidarity with them,” Messer wrote in an email.

**'A TASTE OF HOME' SERVED AT  
 CHURCH'S FILIPINO POTLUCK**

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Every Sunday at First Church, a United Methodist community in Melbourne, 50 to 70 friends join for an authentic Filipino potluck meal. They share fellowship, speak their common language and enjoy dishes such as lumpia (egg rolls) and pancit (rice noodles).

**CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES  
 THAT EXCLUDE**

DES MOINES, Wash. — It’s easy to criticize the overt racism of neo-Nazi groups and some politicians, writes the Rev. Paul Jeffrey, a Pacific Northwest Conference missionary. But Jeffery said what is hard is challenging that rhetoric of fear with a language of solidarity and hope. “We in the church must speak words that unequivocally break through the stereotypes that exclude others from our communities,” he writes.

**WELCOMING MILLENNIALS  
 BY PRESERVING ANONYMITY**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Churches often welcome young adults with such urgency and expectation that younger visitors can feel overwhelmed. The Rev. Scott Chrostek, pastor of Resurrection Downtown, offers ideas for being hospitable while letting newcomers blend in.



# December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Christmas Fair Kitchen Prep 6 pm	2 Christmas Fair 8 am-2 pm
3 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am Youth Council 5 pm Youth Group 6-8 pm  <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	4 NarAnon 6:30 pm <b>Cub Scouts 5:30 pm</b> <b>Worship Band 7 pm</b> AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	5 <b>Women's Morning Bible Study 9 am</b> The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm <b>SPRC 7 pm</b>	6 <b>Midweek Service 11 am</b> Adult Fellowship Luncheon 11:30 am Youth Group: 4-6 pm <b>Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm</b> Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	7 Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm	8	9 <b>Round Table Class</b> <b>Christmas Party</b>
10 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am <b>FROGs and Tadpoles 5-7 pm</b> <b>Youth Group Monthly Mission 6 pm</b>  <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	11 NarAnon 6:30 pm UMW Girl's Night Out 6 pm UMM 7 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	12 <b>Women's Morning Bible Study 9 am</b> <b>NO Diner's Club</b> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm <b>Worship Band 7:30 pm</b>	13 <b>Midweek Service 11 am</b> Youth Group: 4-6 pm <b>Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm</b> Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	14 Trinity Outreach 5 pm <i>(Norman's Team)</i> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm	15 <b>Cub Scouts 4:30 pm</b>	16
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24 Worship 8:30 & 11 am <b>Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am</b> Sunday Classes 10 am NO Youth Group  <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	25 NarAnon 6:30 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <b>NO Diner's Club</b> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	27 <b>Midweek Service 11 am</b> NO Youth Group <b>Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm</b> AA Meeting 8-9 pm	28 <b>Prayer Shawl 1 pm</b> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm	29	30 Youth Group: Tubing @ Snowflex 9:30 am
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