



# Neighborhood Gatherings December 2016

Newsletter of Relief and Hites Chapel United Methodist Churches



December is the time when people will think of gift giving and gift receiving. You may do a great deal of shopping trying to find the perfect gift for a loved one. You might try to guess what someone is giving you for

Christmas. Many persons have enough material possessions. For some, finding the gift is difficult. Still giving is part of the season.

God gave you a gift which is Jesus. Through God's gift of Jesus you and I have good news of life with God. Jesus is the perfect gift for you. During the month of December you can prepare yourselves spiritually to receive this gift. Often special programs are held which can be a means to prepare yourself.

Through Jesus you can be guided in how you use what has been given you. As you have received from Jesus, you can give. Many opportunities exist. Service projects occur during the Christmas season which might not be present during other times of the year.

As individuals and a church community we have been blessed. You can pray about how those blessings will be used. None of us can support everything. You decide what is best in response to what you have. Discernment is needed for individuals and churches. As individuals, take time to reflect upon the wise use of what you have been blessed with. That is true for churches. We can gather together and reflect upon the best way. This reflection can take place in planning sessions or through committees. Sometimes a group will meet to be open to God and decide an action plan.

God gave you a wonderful gift in Jesus. You can respond to that gift through your giving. The concern is how this occurs. You might have that ministry which you will support financially or with your time. As a church community, we can work together to reach out with the love we have received. God gave to you and you can give to people.

*In Christ Jesus,  
—Pastor Richard*





## HOLIDAY CAROL SING-ALONG

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm through 9:00 pm at Wayside Inn in Middletown, a Holiday Carol Sing-Along will take place. Cider, coffee, and sweets will be served. You are invited to come early for a meal. Invitations are located in the back of the Relief sanctuary. With the invitation you receive ten per cent off the meal. Items for the Laurel Center will be collected. The Laurel Center provides a safe, temporary place to stay plus counseling, education and resources to help break the pattern of domestic violence. Items to be collected are bottled water, gift cards (Shop 'n Save, Martin's or Walmart), new sweat shirts and sweat pants, new pillows still in their packages, WIN TRAM bus tickets, new twin sheets still in their packages, bleach, laundry detergent and light bulbs (45 and 60 watt).



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

This year a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held 7:00 pm at Hites Chapel United Methodist Church. Take time to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus through song, scripture reading, and candle lighting.



Happy Birthday,  
Jesus!

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

This year Christmas falls on Sunday. Questions have been asked concerning the worship service that morning. The worship services will be the same times as other Sundays. Some families travel and are not in the area on Christmas. For families with small children, Christmas is a time to open presents. As part of the body of Christ we can take time to gather and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**HITES CHAPEL NEWS**

*"The Church in the Corner of the Woods"*

150 Chapel Road (Rt. 627)  
4-1/2 miles west of Middletown  
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am.



- 12/03 Rhea Orndorff
- 12/04 Linda Orndorff
- 12/19 Mildred Orndorff
- 12/24 Ann Wymer
- 12/25 Jesus
- 12/25 John Tevalt
- 12/26 Greg Feathers
- 12/28 Wayne Miller



12/12 Andy & Stephanie Keeler



Our Hites Women's Group meets on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend our meetings!

**RELIEF UMC NEWS**

*"In Sharing, We Know Christ."*

5275 Middle Road (Rt. 628)  
Six miles SW of Valley Avenue

**Sunday Services at Relief:**  
Sunday School, 10:00 am  
Worship, 11:00 am



	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
10/23	14	46	\$ 2,023
10/30	15	46	\$ 1,799
11/06	15	43	\$ 2,189
11/13	13	44	\$ 1,462
11/20	<u>16</u>	<u>53</u>	\$ <u>1,167</u>
Avg.	15	46	\$ 1,728

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 57
Memorial Fund	\$ 200
Shoe Boxes	\$ 14
Scholarship Fund	\$ 50
Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use	\$ 200
Social Hall Tables	\$ 360

**HIS ULTIMATE WEAPON**

When God wanted to defeat Sin, His ultimate weapon was the sacrifice of His own Son. On Christmas Day two thousand years ago, the birth of a tiny baby in an obscure village in the Middle East was God's supreme triumph of good over evil.

—Charles Colson  
*A Dangerous Grace*



12/01 Ernie Campbell, II  
 12/01 Marshall Golliday  
 12/01 Richard Turk  
 12/06 Olivia Beringer  
 12/06 Michael Sipe  
 12/08 Jim Douglas  
 12/09 Leslie Lobell  
 12/11 Herb Earnshaw  
 12/15 Kim Martin Watt  
 12/25 Jesus  
 12/27 Donald Graff  
 12/29 Sue Boyd  
 12/31 Barnaby Watten  
 1/01 Scott Boyd  
 1/01 Doris Hardy  
 1/05 Susan Chagrin

*Anniversaries  
 to  
 Celebrate*



12/03 Earl & Elwanda Luttrell  
 12/04 Greg & Janet Unger  
 12/14 Roy & Jennifer Goldsmith

## **DECEMBER LAYREADER**

**Judy Boyd**

*When His joy  
 invades our lives,  
 it spills over into everything  
 we do and onto everyone we touch.*  
 —Charles Swindoll  
*The Glory of Christmas*



## **DECEMBER OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT**

A special thanks to all who participated in the cards for our Troops. We were able to send seven hundred twenty-five Christmas cards to our troops, VA Centers and Fisher Houses. The Boyd Reunion Group provided eighty-seven cards, the Our Family Peer Support Group one hundred six and the congregation, five hundred thirty-two. Also we contributed one hundred dollars toward postage for the many cards, and items that are sent through the South Washington County Military Support Group in Keedysville, MD.

I delivered thirty shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan Purse, as well as checks totaling two hundred sixteen dollars for shipping. Thanks to all who provided a filled shoebox and to those who provided the postage for the boxes as well.

Just a reminder, it isn't too late to bring in new blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, etc. This campaign will run to December 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are still collecting hearing aids and eyeglasses. I took three large plastic bags of eyeglasses to the Lion's Club recently. I still need a few more one-half or one-gallon bleach bottles. Please give bleach bottles to me.

This month the emphasis is on the Virginia United Methodist Family Services. This organization was formerly known as the United Methodist Children's Home from 1949 to 1974. It then became the Virginia United Methodist Family Services. This

agency is a non-profit social services organization that serves high-risk children, families, and communities throughout Virginia. It addresses behavior, emotional issues, and finds foster families. It also provides in-home services, special educational therapeutic services to elementary, middle and high school youth, as well as foster care, adoption and twenty-four hour residential treatment services.

A special offering will be received at the end of worship on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please come prepared for this special offering. If you would like to give by check, please make the check out to Relief UMC and mark for UM Family Services.

Mark your calendar—we will be serving a meal for the WATTS Program at Macedonia UMC in early March. A total of eight adults will be needed to serve the meal.

Thank you for your continued support.

—*Elwanda Luttrell*  
Outreach Chair



The following people are members at Relief UMC and these are additions, deletions or corrected addresses for them. Please change them on your address listing sheets:

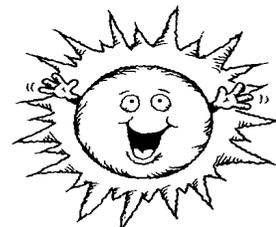
Remove: Marie Lauck

New Member: Pete Patterson  
540-664-6423  
153 Stonebrook Road  
Winchester, VA 22602

Change: Robert Snapp (Robbie)  
186 Springdale Road  
Winchester, VA 22602

If you have new information on your current address, phone or email, please let me know. You may call the church office at 869-5775, leave a note on the desk in the office or email me at amitch@shentel.net. Thank you for helping to keep our data current!

—*Brenda*



### **SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING** **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

I do my best to have the cards available very early in the Fellowship Hall for those who like to sign before worship. The more people who sign, the better!

The gift of encouragement and caring through greeting cards can truly warm the hearts of the people we care about. The cards show not only our love and concern for those we send to, but also God's love.

Those who receive the cards really are really appreciative. Thank you and God bless all who sign them or help in other important ways. We sent 37 cards last month. Signatures were Jim and Margaret Douglas, Herb Earnshaw, Donald Graff, Lucille Hughes, Marie Rinker Lauck, Earl and Elwanda Luttrell, Eunice Musser, Ruth Snapp, Sheila Snapp and yours truly. **Please let me know of anyone to whom you would like a card sent.** If you'd like a copy of the Sunshine List, let me know by phone (540) 869-0220 or email [ruthearnshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthearnshaw@yahoo.com)

**Marge Strosnider**, Sheila Snapp's mom, who lives in Michigan, has been receiving cards for a couple of months. She related to Marie Rinker Lauck, in a phone call,

after recognizing Marie's name on the card, how happy she was to receive the cards.

I'm sad to lose Marie as a signer. Since she was called home by her precious Lord on November 23, everyone will miss her unique signature that was signed sideways in the fold.

**Irmgard and Jimmy Dick:** "Irmgard and I thank the Church Family. The cards are really appreciated. To receive a card, you know someone is thinking of you." Sincerely, Irmgard and Jimmy Dick

**Nat Painter** sent an inspirational Christmas message copied from an old card to "Relief United Methodist Church Family" with a "Merry Christmas to each and all": *Hopes and Fears* "Sacred Christmas carols are a cherished tradition. But during sorrow and struggle, some lyrics may seem hard to swallow. 'O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant'? Where is the joy when my loved one has just died? Where is the triumph if I've lost my job? 'Silent night, holy night, all is calm...'? Not in my house; I'm exhausted from the fighting. Yet... listen: 'And you beneath life's crushing load...Whose forms are bending low...Oh, rest beside the weary road...And hear the angels sing.' —*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

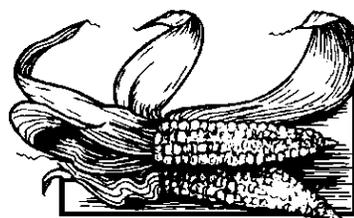
"Truly, God reaches out to the happy and hurting alike. The hopes and fears of all the years are met and gathered up in the Babe of Bethlehem, who shares our joys and troubles. There are Christmas carols for us all." (Author unknown) Love, Nat

### **? WHY NAMED RELIEF ?**

Several months ago, in a thank-you note from a missionary for their birthday card, they mentioned Relief certainly was an interesting name for a church and wondered how it got that name. I understood Esther

Brill to tell me the late Winnie Smith told her this version: many years ago in the horse and buggy days there was a hill in front of her house. It was hard for the horses to traverse, and when they did, the driver would say "What a relief that is!" When it came to naming the church, Relief seemed like a perfect name!

I've learned there could be another reason. Ruth Snapp is working on the details of that one, so stay tuned.



As mentioned in the Sunday Advocate bulletin insert on November 20<sup>th</sup>, Giving Tuesday is coming up November 29<sup>th</sup>. We have \$125 I will send in because ten pounds of sweet potatoes will be given to SoSA for every dollar we send. That means 1,250 pounds to go on tables to help feed our brothers and sisters in Christ. Praise God for that and thank you and God bless you and yours for what you've donated this year to make that happen!



At the present time, our unit is inactive. The only transaction in November was a generous monetary gift by the Lobells in honor of Gary Earnshaw. It was specified to be used for a Mission.

—Ruth Earnshaw



The deadline for our January 2017 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. The January 2017 Newsletter will be available Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.

It would be nice to have articles and information from your committee or group to let our congregation know what's going on in the church.

The Monthly Newsletters are now on both church Websites. I hope you like the new format and if you have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know.

*Relief and Hites Chapel  
United Methodist Churches  
5275 Middle Road  
Winchester, VA 22602-2788*

Call the Charge and Relief Office at 869-5775 or email me at home [amitch@shentel.net](mailto:amitch@shentel.net)

*Thank you, Brenda*

**FYI**

**Mailing address:**

5275 Middle Road

Winchester, VA 22602-2788

**Charge Office Phone:** 869-5775

**Pastor Richard's Cell Phone:**

1-434-989-1772

**Email:** [pastorrichard80@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrichard80@gmail.com)

**Websites:** [Reliefumc.com](http://Reliefumc.com)

[Hiteschapelumc.com](http://Hiteschapelumc.com)