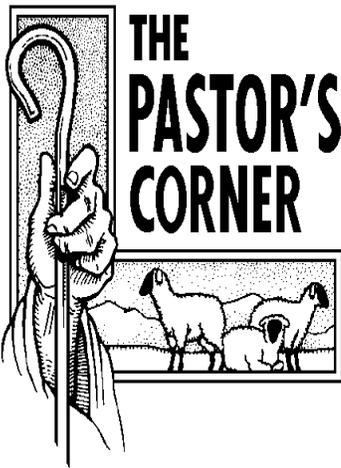




# Neighborhood Gatherings January 2017

Newsletter of Relief and Hites Chapel United Methodist Churches



A new clean sheet of paper. No marks or eraser stains are present. You can write or draw anything you want. You might dream of a new beginning unmarred by the past. There is the opportunity to make a resolution. None of us starts out with the clean paper in life except at birth. The past exists. You remember both the failures and victories. For some of us the failures are remembered more than the victories. With the internet, what you post about yourself will remain somewhere forever. You may wish you could delete the past and begin completely again.

With God there can be a new start. Forgiveness is offered you. You have a chance to learn from the past. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). With a new creation, the wrong attitudes and behaviors are changed. This is repentance. Repentance is much more than being sorry for an action. Some persons are

sorry that they got caught but they do not really want to change. Many of us become so comfortable with the way the situation is that even if the change is for the better we refuse. Repentance actually involves change. You might have experienced that you want a new start. The temptations are still present and you struggle to make the new a reality. God is present through the Holy Spirit to help you.

God guides you toward new life. In this process you experience the wrong ways being removed. This is like a refiner removing what is dross. For you this change might be a slow process. The temptations come and you may struggle to overcome. Some persons might think change is not possible. You cannot change the past or do anything about people who remind you of the wrong. You can allow God to renew and bring the needed change to you.

A New Year is one opportunity to focus on the new. Often that is what society guides us toward. You can be open to the ways of God each day. God did a mighty new work through Jesus and God continues in your life to bring a new creation. You can rejoice that there is much more

than the past. God can bring what is impossible, even a new beginning for you and other people.

*In Christ Jesus,  
—Pastor Richard*



# EPIPHANY

Epiphany means manifestation. Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This originally focused on the nativity, incarnation, and baptism of Christ. Today we celebrate the coming of the wise men, who brought gifts to the Christ child. For this reason, in Puerto Rico and in most Latin American countries this day is observed as Three Kings Day or Dia de Los Reyes. It marks the end of the Christmas cycle, which began the First Sunday of Advent. Congregations that do not worship on January 6<sup>th</sup> unless it is a Sunday may celebrate Epiphany on the first Sunday in January.

*—The United Methodist Book of Worship*

"Like water, be gentle and strong. Be gentle enough to follow the natural paths of the earth, and strong enough to rise up and reshape the world." - *Brenda Peterson*

"The entire way of life of stillness is interwoven with the following three virtues: with faith that comes from listening, and with hope and with love, out of which real faith is made known."

*—Dadisho, Spiritual Writer*

## 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.



### BirthDay Blowout

1/11 Janet Tevalt Lloyd  
1/11 Pastor Richard  
1/12 D.J. Tevalt Grim  
1/14 Mike Grim  
1/26 Timothy Feathers



Hites Women's Group will meet Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

### JANUARY LAYREADER

**Jolene Tevalt**

**THOUGHT:** Patience is the art of concealing your impatience.

*—Guy Kawasaki*

**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>
11/27	16	53	\$ 2,503
12/04	17	53	\$ 2,056
12/11	15	66	\$ 1,789
12/18	<u>13</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>\$ 1,782</u>
Avg.	15	57	\$ 2033

Also received:

Building Fund	\$ 100
C-CAP	\$ 148
Family Services	\$ 79
Memorial Fund	\$ 200
Laurel Center	\$ 375
Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use	\$ 500
Social Hall Tables	\$ 175
Student Day	\$ 4

**JANUARY LAYREADER**

*Elwanda Luttrell*

**SCRAPBOOKING**

Scrapbooking with Debbie will be on the third Friday of each month from 6:00 to 11:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Soup will be served!

—Debbie Fauble



- 1/01 Scott Boyd
- 1/01 Doris Hardy
- 1/05 Susan Chagrin
- 1/07 Neal Painter
- 1/08 Robin Sweet
- 1/11 Pastor Richard
- 1/12 Megan C. Williams
- 1/14 Scott Wilfong
- 1/15 Dennis Manuel, Jr.
- 1/17 Lauren Campbell
- 1/18 Bruce Painter
- 1/19 Nicole King
- 1/21 Denver Luttrell
- 1/22 Logan Douglas Arnold
- 1/23 Ashley Alger
- 1/28 Scott Palmer
- 1/31 Ellen Parker
- 1/31 Sharon Sweet



1/27 Neil & Molly Thorne

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between January 18<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup>. It is actually an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days.

—United Methodist Website



## **JANUARY OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT**

A special thanks for all the outreach/mission support for 2016. A complete breakdown will be in next month's newsletter.

I was able to take thirty shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child to the pickup location and \$226 for postage which was all donated. Also to date, forty-eight blankets, two children's sleeping bags, and three pillows were taken to The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

This month's spotlight for January is again the area C-CAP Program. C-CAP is the Congregational Community Action Project and is a cooperative ministry of forty-five area churches and one synagogue serving Winchester and Frederick County that have joined together to provide financial, material and supportive assistance to people in need.

It tells us: "C-CAP hours of operation are: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday thru Thursday, and 8:30 am to 11:30 pm on Friday.

"C-CAP maintains a complete food pantry, operates a clothing room of all sizes, and offers assistance in other areas such as rent, utilities, and prescription drugs.

### **Routine Clothing Needs**

"Clothing for men, women, infants, girls and boys, shoes and boots, coats for all

ages, underwear, socks, linens, blankets, sheets and pillow cases.

### **The Clothing Room**

"The Clothing Room is a relatively large area where clients are free to shop and select clothing that meets their family's needs. Each day generous donors bring us bags and boxes full of very good condition used clothing, linens, blankets and curtains. Volunteers carefully go through each bag, selecting, sorting, folding and displaying clothing that will meet our client's needs. The clothing is displayed on hangers and in bins for ease of access. Clients may obtain clothing items once a month. If there are special circumstances, this limit can be increased to twice a month.

### **Food Items Needed**

"Canned vegetables, soups, fruits, canned meats (spam, tuna, Vienna sausage, ham), canned beef and chicken stew, boxed pasta and all types of pasta sauces, pre-cooked packaged foods, cereals, crackers, cookies, peanut butter, jelly, jam, apple sauce, infant and baby foods (must have current dates), meats (hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, etc.), fresh dairy, or frozen foods (they now have walk-in freezers and coolers), toiletries, paper products, diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6), wipes and laundry detergents,

"Home-cooked soups and sandwiches are provided by churches for our homeless clients.

### **Volunteers**

"C-CAP always needs volunteers: There are many areas in which you could choose a

volunteer position. Please visit C-CAP any workday for a tour.

### Financial Assistance

“Financial assistance is provided less often, depending on the client's current level of need, his/her current financial situation, and the client's C-CAP history. On the day financial assistance is requested an interviewer will meet with the requesting client to determine the extent of financial assistance which can and should be provided.

### Other Services

“We also provide additional services depending on the availability of resources. Bus passes may be offered for trips across town; used bicycles may be provided for transport to work; and emergency living supplies may be offered to homeless clients. We make every attempt, within the limits of our resources, to assist every client who comes to us for assistance.

### The Pantry

“Our pantry is equipped with a walk-in freezer and two large coolers. We regularly store and distribute canned and boxed foods, cereals, fresh sandwiches, frozen soups and meats (chicken, hot dogs, hamburger, and venison), deli foods, breads, and cakes. Clients may obtain food items once a month and homeless every day. Emergency situations will be considered. C-CAP obtains food from many sources including grocery stores, gleaning, super centers, churches, and private donations. Due to the demand, we are purchasing food at retail price from grocery stores. Food is the most asked for type of aid.



Friends in Deed

During 2016, many food items were donated from Relief UMC, as well as laundry packets, and utensil packets. The communion offerings for the year were \$1013.76 which went to C-CAP.

We will be serving the WATTS Program the first night they are at Macedonia UMC in March, but I still don't have a date. I have contacted them, but am waiting for a call back with a date.

Still needed for the Our Family Easter Project are one-half-gallon and one-gallon bleach bottles.

Don't forget there is a box in the back office, where you can put used hearing aids and glasses for the Lion's Club.

Thanks again for your support.

—Elwanda Luttrell  
Outreach Chair



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



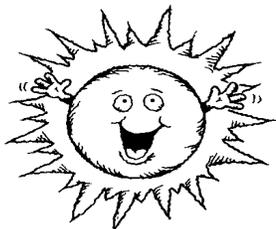
### **Birthday Lunch for Pastor Richard**

Pastor Richard will be turning another year older on January 11<sup>th</sup>, and we would like to help him celebrate his birthday. So, on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be having lunch together with Pastor Richard and his family right after the worship service in the social hall at Relief. Please bring a covered dish. Drinks will be provided.

Because of the pending change in the Relief-Hites charge, we have been unable to offer Pastor Richard an increase in his pay for the past two years. However, in order to show our appreciation, anyone who is so inclined is invited to give a free-will love offering to Pastor Richard.

Please join us to celebrate Pastor Richard's birthday on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

—James Douglas  
Lay Leader, Relief



### **SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 08<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

I'll do my best to have the mostly New Year's cards and others for special needs

people available very early in the Fellowship Hall for those of you who like to sign before worship. The more people who sign, the more joy is brought to those who receive them. It helps them to feel God's love and our support!!

We sent 33 Christmas cards, 3 Deacon's birthday cards, and 1 sympathy card making a total of 37 again last month. Signatures were Joanie Anderson, Jim and Margaret Douglas, Herb Earnshaw, Donald Graff, Kathy Holliday, Susanna Lockley, Earl and Elwanda Luttrell, Eunice Musser, Ruth Snapp, Sheila Snapp and yours truly. Those receiving cards are really appreciative. A big God bless and thank you to all who sign them. Also to those who help in other important ways. **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

**Sheila Snapp**: On Herb's and my Christmas card from Sheila and her husband, Donald: "Thank you for your Card Ministry which so many people enjoy, especially my Mother." Her mom, Madge Strosnider, has been receiving our Sunshine Cards for a few months, just after she broke her hip.

**Selma Harter**: Also on our Christmas card, Selma thanked us for the Card Ministry. We send cards to her daughter who does mission work in Malawi.

**Grace UMW**: Inside: "May the birth of Jesus be at the heart of your Christmas Celebration. Blessings at Christmas" by Teresa Cutlip, President: "Have a blessed 2017!"

Grace UMW was our UMW Prayer Partner last year.

**Irmgard and Jimmy Dick**: On a Day-Spring Christmas card to Relief Church Family who cares: Greeting inside said: "At the

holidays, we feel the joy...we see the beauty and sense the wonder all around us...we wish good things for those we love...especially peace on earth." In Irmgard and Jimmy's words: "Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and everything good in the New Year. Thanks for all the cards through the years and to everyone in your Church Family." Sincerely, Irmgard and Jimmy Dick

**Nat Painter** Verse on the outside of his Christmas card: God's love — Long ago, one silent night, God revealed His glory bright; His own image came to man for salvation's matchless plan. Jesus, Savior, Shepherd, King — Lord of all to you we bring praises, wonder, thanks, and love for this gift from God above. Bottom left inside: from Luke 19:10 NKJV *The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Verse on the right side: "Remembering you this Christmas and praying your celebration brings a heart full of joy as you remember God's amazing love shown through His Son, Jesus." Nat wrote: "Thank each of you for the many cards and those of you who write notes of well wishes. I will miss so much that little name written uphill at the fold of the card. In my life, Marie Rinker Lauck, her family and I go back to the mid/late 1950s. Marie played the piano for the early Relief Quartet and we often practiced at her home near Richard's Fruit Market. Her father was part of the ground-breaking group for the present Relief Church. Thank you Marie. You will always be loved and missed." Love, Nat

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

Hopefully, by the February issue, I'll be able to meet with Ruth Snapp to find out the details of the reason Relief got its name, other than Smith's steep hill, so stay tuned!



For Giving Tuesday on November 29<sup>th</sup> we doubled the impact of the \$125 collected during the year. Ten pounds of sweet potatoes were given to SoSA for every dollar we sent, meaning 1,250 pounds went on tables to help feed our brothers and sisters in Christ. Your donations this year to make that happen are greatly appreciated!



Our UMW has been providing the Upper Room to the congregation for many years. Since our unit is inactive, Nurture, chaired by Joanie Anderson, agreed to provide it. We sincerely appreciate that.

—Ruth Earnshaw



Thank you for my momentary gift and I would like to tell each of you at Hites and Relief churches how much I enjoy working with you as a church family. I thank you for your generous gifts you give me by helping me put together our newsletters, bulletins, updating our websites and other church information. Again, I thank you all! Have a blessed year in 2017.

— Brenda



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)

The deadline for our February 2017 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. The February 2017 Newsletter will be available Sunday, January 29<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 Newsletter is now on both church Websites. 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*