Ponderings from the Pastor
Let Your Expectations Soar

Dear Members and Friends,

“And what do you want for Christmas?”
Growing up and still today, that is the question floating through the air starting a week before Thanksgiving. As a youngster I enjoyed being asked that question because I hopefully could get all the things on my wish list. But I now realize that question has trained us to have high expectations for this time of year. Unfortunately, I also know the holidays seldom deliver all the happiness and love we’ve come to expect from them. Hallmark advertising (still makes my eyes runny) with the images of romantic couples and laughing families may sell a lot of merchandise, but they often mock the heartache felt by so many people at this time of year - perhaps even some of you. What should we do? Shove our expectations deep down like cold hands in a winter coat? Put our hopes on long term layaway? Pretend we don’t really care? I have a suggestion. Instead of trying to downplay our expectations, why not let our
highest desires be kindled by this Advent season? That soaring hope is echoed in one of Charles Wesley’s great hymn:

\[
\text{Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,} \\
\text{Born to set Thy people free;} \\
\text{From our fears and sins release us;} \\
\text{Let us find our rest in Thee.} \\
\text{Israel’s Strength and Consolation,} \\
\text{Hope of all the earth Thou art,} \\
\text{Dear Desire of every nation,} \\
\text{Joy of every longing heart.}
\]

No holiday can deliver what we long for, but we can find our longings in Christ Himself. When Simeon saw Jesus, he praised God saying: “My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:30-32) This Christmas, watch your expectations, and see them wonderfully fulfilled in Jesus. I am reminded from our 40 Day Prayer Challenge to pray these words daily – God, Surprise me TODAY!

Linda and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!!

Peace,

Pastor Ed

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Annual Church Conference

Tuesday, December 20th at 6 PM
Fellowship Hall
All are Encouraged to Attend

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Articles for the January 2017 Messenger
Are due Dec 28, 2016
Christmas Happenings

Millsboro Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 3rd, 10am

Jingle Jam Family Event
Tuesday, December 13th
7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, December 15th
7pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 18th
10:30am in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services
Contemporary: 4pm in Fellowship Hall
Traditional: 8pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Day
One Service at 10am in the Sanctuary
The Whole Family (and bring along some friends!) are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for our version of the Christmas Story! There will be frolicking, fun, and reindeer games!

**Rehearsal Reminder for Cast: Sun Dec 11th after 1st Service!**

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**Youth Help to Give Back!**

On Tuesday, December 6th, we are inviting high school youth to join us with shopping for needy families in our community. We are partnering with the Town of Millsboro, and the Millsboro Police Department to assist in their charitable effort. The Police Department worked with their officers and residents for a “No Shave November” to raise funds for needy families. The Town will then gift the contributions to Grace Church so we can shop, wrap, and label the gifts to be delivered at Christmas time to several Millsboro families. We are thrilled to be able to be a part of this community effort to be the hands and feet of Jesus in stepping up and stepping out to help our community! We hope that the success of this pilot program brought to us by the Police Department, will bear more fruit next year and become an annual tradition. Youth are asked to sign up with Dawn Zimmerman to attend. graceyouthlead@gmail.com or 302-934-7969. Youth can shop with us from 4-5:30 or meet us back at the church to wrap, tag, and sort gifts from 6pm until 8pm in the Old Fellowship Hall. Or if schedules permit—join us both shopping and wrapping!
We Made Paracord Bracelets for our Veterans In November. Thanks for the Hard Work Everybody!

**Up next in December—Ms. Kim will lead Caring Kids in Making Beautiful Chrismon Ornaments for the local Nursing Home.**
Welcome New Members
Welcome New Members

Jan Davis

Jill McEwen

Lynne Wilmer

John Hoffman
Carol, Carol, Caroling
Everyone is invited to join the cherubs and their families as we go caroling on Wednesday, December 21st from 5:30-6:30. We will meet at church by 5:30 to go caroling. We will return to church for hot chocolate and cookies. Please join us as we spread some Christmas cheer around town.
Can you believe one whole year has gone by since the start of our JOY ministry!!! In reflecting back, I can see how God’s hand was with us all along, showering us with His blessings.

I love to remember events in life that were fun, filled with love and God's Presence! I get those feelings when I recall the past activities of the JOY ministry:

- **The Valentine’s Dinner Dance**  God blessed us that night with laughter, good music and the very talented YMCA group. Who knew they have a large fan base here at Grace!
- **The Share Fellowship Dinner** gave church members the opportunity to meet new people plus have a delicious dinner. New friends were made!
- **The Yard-Bake Sale** brought our Grace Family together to help finance the vision of the God Is Good Celebration. Through the grace of God a large amount of money was made (way more than we dreamed of) and with that blessing it helped make the vision a reality.
- **The Birthday Blast From the Past**  God gifts many people with creative talents and those talents were certainly reflected that night, with the decorations and the awesome clothes that were worn.
- **The Riverboat Cruise**  What a lovely, scenic ride it was down the Choptank River in Turlock Maryland. You couldn’t help but marvel at God’s creations.
- **The God Is Good Celebration** what a wonderful day! The Holy Spirit’s presence was surely felt. We gave Praise, Honor and Glory to God our Father who is so deserving of our love. Many lives and hearts were touched that day!

As part of the JOY ministry, through the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, Compassion in Action (CIA) was formed. This ministry tries to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We provide meals, send cards, visit those who are homebound. The best part of this ministry, is when spiritual moments are experienced. This happens when Communion is brought to those who can not attend church. God’s grace is felt not only by the recipients but also those serving. I give thanks and praise to God Almighty for the joy we receive when serving Him.

On behalf of the JOY Ministry, Compassion In Action and the Jesus Calling Ministry, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to everyone for all their help, support, donations, and prayers, that went into helping spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through these ministries.

May God bless you and may you feel His presence throughout the coming years. Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Loving, Healthy New Year!

In Christ,
Karen Lessey
Youth Rally

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP! $110 PER PERSON FOR A WEEKEND FULL OF PRAISE, WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND ADVENTURE!

FOR STUDENTS IN THE 6TH—12TH GRADES. (AND THOSE THAT ARE YOUNG AT HEART!) THE OCEAN CITY CONVENTION CENTER WELCOMES REND COLLECTIVE! I KNOW YOU KNOW THEIR “LIGHTHOUSE!” SONG! COME SING IT WITH US! CONTACT DAWN ZIMMERMAN—302-934-7969

The warming Tree will be back at Grace!

Please feel free to bring hats, gloves, mittens, hoodies and warm things to put under the tree throughout the month of December. We will collect these and donate them to East Millsboro Middle School and Millsboro Middle School the first week in January. Thank you for keeping kids warm in our community! We love your generosity!

DONATED WITH LOVE FROM THE SWINGLES!
God is Everywhere

“God is Everywhere
The Whole World is Full of His Glory” Isaiah 6:3

A lovely old barn near Millville
Photo by Charlotte

Camera People - If you have a picture that depicts God in places where we frequently don’t think to look, e-mail it to: charlotteh@mchsi.com.

One of Life’s Little Lessons

If we keep Christ in our Heart, Christmas has no end.
Leah, Melissa, DJ, Nathan, Avery, Harper and Gloria would like to thank Ms. Bev for her hard work in the nursery! She’s brought wonderful things to the Nursery to share with us! We love the new toys! Ms. Bev—be on the look out for a special nursery toy the stork is bringing in December!

THANKS BE TO GRACE! I’M SO GRATEFUL!

Dawn was able to attend the National Youth Worker’s Convention with the Pen Del Conference Youth Leaders. The Praise and worship was amazing; the education was inspiring, and being able to purchase the new Confirmation program for our middle schoolers hot off the presses! ——PRICELESS!
As I write this everyone is thinking about Thanksgiving and gathering with family and friends to share a meal and the blessings that God has provided. When you read this you will be thinking about Christmas and the Gift of God’s Son. The UMW will be celebrating the holiday with our annual Christmas dinner for UMW members and their guests on Monday, December 19th at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. The meal will cost $10.00 and members need to contact Denise Snyder (934-8655) or Helen Domozych (934-6802) to make reservations by Sunday, December 11th. Plan on attending and sharing the JOY of the holiday season with delicious food and fellowship with UMW members and their guests.

To our church family, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We certainly do appreciate all the support you have given us during the 2016. We look forward to serving God in the coming year.

Linda Mitchell
UMW President

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Poinsettia Order Form

You can place it in the offering plate, leave it in the office, or drop it in the mail to us at: Grace UMC, P.O. Box 566, Millsboro, DE 19966

**Deadline – Sunday, December 11th**

A list of all donations will be published in the bulletin. All proceeds will benefit the general fund.

Name:______________________________________________

Phone:_____________________________________________

Number of Poinsettia(s) __________@ $10.00 each

Please make checks payable to: Grace UMC

In Memory of:______________________________________________

In Honor of:______________________________________________
Reflections from the Soup Kitchen

My Methodist Friends,

Got to thank you all for the stepping up to the many fund raisers we have had. Thanks, Thanks and God Bless. We have had new people and kids. Karen brings in a good group for Jesus Calling. She is a God Send. Now in the kitchen I couldn't do without that ole gal who has been with us almost from the beginning, Helen. (Tony, you are some kind of lucky guy!) Two retirees are Marie and Denise. The three of them will be taking over the Kitchen at the end of Feb. Good group. On the other side of the wall is Kit and her little brother Derb. Never leave home without them. They along with the ole stand by Doris, who knows how to handle a knife (kung foo style) in cutting up the bread. I can't list all who are faithful every Thursday, but know I know who you are and love you very much. My wife Jo will be staying on to keep Kit in line. We have a good time as the photos show, good group, couldn't do it without them. The photos are from the Halloween and Flood Victims dinner.

Well friends it's almost that time of year that we relive the birth of Christ. As a child I couldn't wait for the story, of the birth, Wise men, shepherds. I tried to live in that time. The distance Joseph and Mary had to travel. The wise men following a star for Months before. And of Course gifts from Santa. Dad read it to me every year and we tried to relieve it.

We just celebrated Veterans Day. Did you shake a hand of a Vet, thank him or her. We see them in town on their week end training. Just say Thanks. I was one month from being 5 years old when the war started. We went to Church and after breakfast started out to Onancock Va. to visit friends who did Dad’s photofinishing for his store. Mom and Dad heard on the radio that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Dad pulled in to Whispering Pines Motel to check. He said everyone was around the radio. Mom was crying, I don't remember if we went on or not. What I do remember was the many men and women from Millsboro who enlisted or were drafted in to the Army Air Core. A young man from Millsboro, Junior Pennuel, was Delaware’s first casualty of the war he was on one of the ships at Pearl. If you saw Torro Torro movie, you saw two Pilots who had kept their air craft at a small air field. They made it to the field and engaged in air battles with the Jap planes. One of those pilots was from Wilmington. He
was a WW2 Ace. Later became a test pilot after the war. Another drafted pilot was Martin Donaway from Millsboro, he piloted a bomber. They were shot up and had to bail out. Martin didn't have a chute. He tried to hold on to another airman but couldn't hold on and fell to his death. I mentioned him because he sent me a Boomerang from Australia. He had been in Dads store before shipping out to Australia and said if he got one he would send it to me. Not many left. Vernon Baker served (he goes to the second service) and I think his brother Leon was in the service also (Scot Bakers Dad). My Dad put every picture of all the men and women who served in his front window of the store. If they didn't have a photo he would take one of them in front of the Methodist Church (now the art league). Dad stayed open late on Saturday evenings, had a radio on with News about the war. People came in and sat at the tables, had a soda, Sunday, milk shake, or sat at the soda fountain and talked and listened to the radio. I slept under the candy case if I got tired. I can still see a lot of faces that I hope I never forget.

We all pray, so let's pray that there will be peace (asking a lot) and all those young men and women will be able to stay home a raise a family.

Now may God Bless and Keep You. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Soup Kitchen.

Nick
Wisdom and Education from the Bible

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of His birth. Luke 1:14

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.” Luke 2:14

All kings shall bow down to Him and all nations will serve Him. Psalms 72:11

Thank-You

Cathi Lind
Ellen Lorraine McCabe
Judi Thoroughgood
for decorating our church so beautifully for Christmas

Greg Hastings
John Thoroughgood
for setting up our nativity
Important Message from the Finance Committee

The one interesting thing I have found out since I have been on the finance committee is that we really do not know how much money we will receive from year to year in the collection plate. Fortunately, the people at Grace are generous and things usually work out. Unfortunately it is difficult to plan finances for the year without an estimate of church income. Many churches collect pledge cards from their members. This card informs the church of the person’s commitment to give a certain amount per week or per month. The pledge card historically made some people uncomfortable, as a pledge is like a promise and the financial situation of a person can change during the course of the year. The finance committee at Grace has instead chosen an “estimation of giving card” as our method of knowing what monies we might receive. A copy of this card will be mailed to each of you along with the 2017 narrative budget. A copy of this card is also included in this communication.

Should you decide to fill out this card and hand it in, we will have a better idea on how we might plan our finances. The more people that fill them out, the easier it will be to know where are finances are at a given time. When I fill out mine, it will be predicated on my earnings with the intention to reach a tithing status. Should I miss church for a Sunday, I make it up the week I return. At the end of the year I assess whether my approximation was accurate. If I fall short of a tithe, my intention is to make it up with a December gift of the difference.

I was rereading some literature I have on finances and stewardship. I came across a publication from the United Methodist Church that said the following; “Giving is not an option for God’s people, but is foundational to the lives of disciples. Both Testaments speak frequently of giving in order to support God’s mission.” I think that statement says it all. I hope you feel the same. If we all do at Grace, we will be able to serve our Lord in many special ways. Should you have any questions concerning the estimation of giving card, feel free to ask. It is my hope that most people will decide to share their intentions so that planning our finances will be more accurate.

Ken Zuiderhof
Finance Committee Chair

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You will be enriched
in every way for
great generosity.
(2Corinthians 9:8a)

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Yes! ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

I want to help support the work of my church.

I estimate that during the next year I will give to my church:

$_______ per week, or $_______ per month, or $_______ per year.

NAME: ________________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________________

**I understand that this giving estimate may be raised or lowered at any time simply by calling the church office.**
Christmas with Mercy’s Well

A Time of Fellowship and Refreshments Will Follow the Concert. All Are Invited!

40 Day Prayer Challenge - we are seeking testimonies from those who participated. E-mail your testimony to charlotteh@mchsi.com

Merry Christmas
Hands On Global Mission Food Packaging Event

Have you ever hoped to be involved in a “hands on” global mission project? Well, now you need hope no longer!! Grace Church will be hosting a Stop Hunger Now Mission Project Food Packaging Event on Saturday, January 28, 2017 in the Church Fellowship Hall, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Jesus parable in Matthew 25:34-40 indicates that rewards in the kingdom of heaven are given to those who serve without thought of reward. There is no hint of merit, for we are told that God gives out of grace not merit. Jesus words commission us “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat…whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Grace Church is partnering with Stop Hunger Now to host this meal packaging event. Before each event, Stop Hunger Now staff, set up supplies, recycling areas, packaging materials and weigh stations and an assembly line is established and specific jobs are tailored to each station. Then the packaging fun begins and the tunes are cranked. We will be packaging 10,152 meals. Each meal includes: Rice, Soy Protein, Dehydrated Vegetables and Vitamin Packets. This combination is chosen specially to ensure full quality protein, macronutrient and micronutrient content for the receiver. Many countries will then add their own variety of local spices to bring their own flavor profile to the meal.

A sign up sheet has been placed at the Information Desk. 40 to 50 volunteers are needed and we will be able to package those 10,152 meals in just two hours. It will be fun, with hair nets for guys and gals, a gong to be gonged for each 1,000 meals packaged and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that each Stop Hunger Now package feeds six people. You will have had a hand in feeding almost 61,000 people. Don’t be left out, sign up today. Come as an individual, a couple, a family - kids can be a part of this event too.

Grace Church…me, you, us, making a real difference in the world!!!
The ARK of Refuge has had so many blessing this year. We started out by welcoming our previous and new Board Members consisting of the following persons:

Larry Joseph (Grace UMC) – President
Pastor Ed Kuhling (Grace UMC) – Vice President
Beverly Mitchell (Hickory Hill UMC) – Secretary
Vonda Joseph (Grace UMC) – Treasurer
Mary Alice Collins (Laurel Wesleyan) – Volunteer Coordinator
Rev. David Archibald (St. Mark’s Episcopal) – Member at Large
Sally Heaney (Stonewater Creek Community Leader) – Member at Large

The feeding ministry has been as high as 70+ on a given Saturday and as low as 30+. The program seems to vary at different times of the year. We now have 8 cook teams with volunteers who schedule their Saturdays throughout the year. Some teams cook every other month, some once a quarter.

Grace United Methodist church has provided ALL the desserts for the past years and they are so delicious. Each of you that have taken your time to prepare a dessert is a true blessing to this ministry and a faithful servant. We appreciate you so much!

Starting in December The ARK of Refuge will be sending out emails to our dessert ladies to schedule their Saturday from January-June 2017. Larry Joseph has taken over scheduling our volunteers since Mary Alice has to step down to pursue other needs for a time.

Carey UMC, Hickory Hill UMC, Grace UMC and Stonewater Creek Community have been faithful in their donations throughout the year and supporting our special events. We also receive individual donations from others in our community. God has been so good to meet every need.

Over 600 meals were once again served for The Community Thanksgiving Dinner 2016. What a wonderful group of volunteers showed up and were definitely the hands and feet of Jesus. It was so heartwarming to see volunteers’ converse with those coming in to eat that had no family for Thanksgiving. The smiles made it all worthwhile once again. Pastor Ed and Lisa Workman again created organization out of the delivery chaos of over 270 meals to be delivered and taking care that the carry-outs were all done too.

They are an amazing team and say they love doing this.

Our next event will be our Christmas luncheon on 12/17th that will include a room that will be filled with Toys for Tots for parents to select from. A room for essential needs such as warm winter gloves, socks, scarves, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair products, etc. The Millsboro Library will once again be bringing books for everyone to choose from for Christmas. This is always an awesome Saturday.

Then our newest member to the Board will be Lori Moore (St. Mark’s) in January 2017 to replace Mary Alice Collins. Lori will be a Member at Large.

The ARK of Refuge Board continues to tithe 20% on their deposits and this year Soul Ministries was selected since they opened a shelter on Rt. 113 in Selbyville. We are thankful to have the opportunity to sow seeds in this ministry and watch it grow.

We are thankful for everyone for their prayers, their donations and your support in every way for this ministry.
The collection week for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes has come to an end and the boxes are now on their way to the next step to being placed in a waiting child’s hands! They now go to a processing center where every box’s contents will be examined, things taken out that can’t go, and filled to the brim with extra toys, if needed, then taped up, and shipped to the country they are designated for! We here at Grace filled 180 shoeboxes. Thank you to each one who brought in items during the year and contributed to our packing party. Grace also serves as a Relay Center, where other churches bring in the shoeboxes they have collected. These boxes are counted, put in cartons, and put in a rental pod each day. The pod is then taken to Salisbury to a Collection Center, loaded on tractor trailers, and taken to a Processing Center. This year we collected 2,366 shoeboxes during collection week at Grace. Thank-you to all volunteers that helped each day to receive and pack the boxes. Without your willingness to serve this system would not work! God bless each one that donated, packed a box, and volunteered to help!

Brenda Morris, Coordinator
Grace Church Relay Center

Thanks to Brenda Morris, for serving as Relay Center Coordinator again this year.
Well Christmas is here!!! Where has the time gone? I pray that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving—now it is time to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If you can find some extra time during this festive season, stop by the Resource Center in the Conference Room of the Fellowship Hall. There you will find several new selections.

Non-Fiction
“The Roar” (God's Sound In A Raging World) Author Bob Hazlett This book could radically alter your walk with GOD, taking you from a boring existence to the holy place of divine encounters.

“The Supernatural Powers of Forgiveness” Authors - Kris & Jason Vallotton You will discover that GOD can not only heal your wounds, but HE can also use the healing process to equipt you for a whole, fulfilled and powerful life.

“The Secret” Author Rhonda Byrnt When you read this novel you will learn the secret and you will come to know who you really are.

“Unfinished” (Believing Is Only the Beginning) Author Richard Stearns This is a wake-up call to remind us of how serious and strenuous are the demands of discipleship.

“The Law of Happiness” Author Dr. Henry Cloud (How Spiritual Wisdom and Modern Science Can Change Your Life)

“The Purpose Of Christmas” Author Rick Warren Regardless of your religious background, you need to know how the three purposes of Christmas solve your three greatness needs.

“The Power Of I Am” Author Joel Osteen --- two words that will change your life today. A great read!!

“Joy For a Woman's Soul” A devotional by the Women of Faith.

Non-Fiction continued
“GOD Is In the Small Stuff” (And It All Matters) Authors Bruce & Stan This devotional will help you to stop worrying and invite GOD into the details of your life.

A collection of 3 books: “Chicken Soup For the Soul”; “Messages From Heaven”; and “A Book of Miracles”---authors are Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and LeAnn Thieman. These 3 books can change your life, with attitude adjustments, overcoming challenges, answered prayers, miraculous healing and much more.

“The Parent You Want To Be” authors Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot Learn the three-step method to avoid being the you don't want to be!

“So Long Insecurity” Author Beth Moore This author is a best selling writer, Bible teacher, and speaker. She has used her GOD given gifts to help women find their way in this “hard to live” world. Her love for Jesus began at a very young age.

“Longing For Enough In a Culture of More” Author Paul L. Escamilla (A Senior Pastor in Dallas, Texas. This is a book of memorable insights that add up to a complete and balanced picture of the Christian life.

Enjoy the birthday of Jesus Christ! Praise GOD for new beginnings!

READING A GOOD BOOK CAN HELP YOU ESCAPE FROM THE EVERYDAY PROBLEMS !!

Thank you for all of the wonderful books that have been donated to the Resource Center.

Sandee Brigandi 934-5507
The day had been cool to cold with the wind swinging from N to NE most of the day, and the wind rate 5 to 10 miles an hour. It being December the days were at their shortest and all the birds had already sought their nests for the night. Along with the birds the cats had stopped their prowling and sniffing returning to their adopted homes.

One of the older cats by the name of “Potsie” had not been very active that day. She had not strayed from the garage and had not answered the siren call of the electric can opener at meal time. Potsie was the ugliest cat we had ever taken in. She had appeared one day running to our house from Mrs. Lawson’s next door. Potsie was a female cat of many colors. Predominately gray she could claim her share of the rainbow. When she adopted us she was a small 5 week old kitten having a job funding for herself in a cruel world. Someone had grown tired of Potsie and tossed her out on her own. She found our back door and easily learned how the hinges worked so she could duck under as it opened. But Potsie had grown to be a large friendly cat to humans with no friends in our cat family. Her rat like tail gave her a decidedly queer appearance.

After the false sunset, darkness fell with a thud! Up high - over head - a star like light began to glow with finger rays in all directions. The main ray - a deflection in the glass shade headed straight down as if to afford illumination in the garage.

Then, low and behold, off in the distance a melody was heard as if from some heavenly choir. The tunes were familiar and lovely. From ancient times they had been sung on hilltops and caves, in cathedrals and in mangers. They brought the message of Christmas and meaning of Christ to every human.

The heavenly music was coming from a group headed by Charlie. Ann, Doris, Art, Dick, Pep, et. al. as they advanced to the spot under the tall lamp near the garage. Such music must have been heard throughout the world at this season of the year. Such a cheerful group and such a chorus singing of the Joys of Christ in the world. We could not get enough of it!!

It must have been like this at a tiny manger in Bethlehem many years ago. And repeated annually over the hundreds of years since. There had been no room at the Inn and there were only a few friendly people to ease the care and toil for the days travel. But that night our Christ was born there!!

There is no attempt to compare our experience with the light from a star - like electric fixture coming on at dusk automatically as the Star In Tha East must have attracted the shepherds. Nor is there a desire to claim there is no room at the Inn for a traveler. The chants, choruses, psalms, and songs came later I am sure. But at Christmas time all things revert to the event of the Birth of Our Savior in a small manger, in a small Inn, while whole groups of loving people gathered about.

In our garage at this time, under the light, amidst the beautiful songs Potsie was giving birth to three cuddly kittens in her box. I was struck by the coincidence!

Armel Long

Submitted to Dick Swingle shortly after a night of caroling in 1982
Prayer Concerns

Michelle Phillips
Bob & Phyllis Kelley
Rose & Al Brocato
Debi Persing & Family
Laura & Bob Eder
Aubrey & Hayley Eder
Rose Appezoto
Family of Nancy Hudson
Unspoken
Duane Gore
John Tozzolo
Debbie Lincoln
Janice Welch
Bob Holloway
Travelers
Caretakers
Bea Carey
Bea Shockley
Maridell West
Lynn Bullock
Youth Ministry
Sunday School
Ad Council - Greg Hastings
All Those Battling Cancer
Joanne Tidwell
David Robinson
Relationships
Darlene O’Neal
David Sigman & Family
Pastor Ed & Linda
Megan & Carolyn
Joann T.
Future of GUMC
Glen Timmons
Kellie Hall
Law Enforcement
First Responders
Our Country, State & Local
Grace Missions & Projects
Those Who Need to Know Jesus
Terry Stiles
Gloria Clausen
Jack & Debbie Rooney
Art & Edith Feeney
Mallory & Insley Family
Chris Lingenfelder, Sr
Ruth Lingenfelder
Our Democracy
People of Haiti
Mission/Outreach Pillar Meeting
Grace Family
Prayer Challenge
Jeff Morris
Dawn Morris
Mr. Elliott
Our Veterans
Those Serving Our Country
All Those Dealing with Loss
All Those Expecting
Gov. Minner
Jan Coxon
Joe K.
Ed & Ann Elliott
Ministries of Grace
Chris’ Grandmother
Wendy Cathell
Seán’s Friend, Larry
Colleen
Parker
John & Christine Jones
Carman Deldeo
Unsaved Loved Ones
Millie Morris
Chad Wilkinson
Trever Daisey
Sandy Warrington
Pat Cunningham
Trudy Smith
Estelle
Transition of Government
Deb’s In-Laws
Garrett Rogers
All Those Who Wear or Have Worn a Uniform
George & Elaine Klinger
All People Who Are Sick
Spouse Left Alone
Bill Simpson
Mim Simpson
Brittany Ebright
Jane Mooney
Hunter
Wildfires in Carolinas
Sharon Holloway
Tamarra Purnell
Mr. McBride & Family
UMW World Thanks Program
Dawn Zimmerman
Youth Renovation Team
Our Church Family
All Those Facing or Recovering From Surgery
IRSD
Susan Bunting
School Board
Lorraine & Harold
Mrs. Nance
Worship Participants
Homeless
GUMC Charge Conference
Linwood Downing
Robin
George Valiska
Summer
Janet Brady & Family
Tami Hilker & Alan Patrick
Chelsea Hauler
John Zell
Church Council Field Trip
Milligan Family
Operation Christmas Child
Marie’s Mother
John
All Military
Marilyn Kelius
USA
Dave & Family
Those Who Can’t Be With Us…

Please remember our friends and members who cannot be with us on Sundays.

Bill Simpson
Methodist Manor House
1001 Middleford Rd Unit 264
Seaford, DE 19973

Maridell West
26025 Morris Mill Road
Millsboro, DE 19966
302-934-7247

Betty Thomas
1001 Middleford Road
Seaford, DE 19973

Lillian Gray
28564 Dupont Hwy
Millsboro, DE 19966

Robert Parsons
5382 Glen Thorn Court
Rosedale, MD 21237

Jesus Calling Ministry

The Holy Spirit continues to guide our Jesus Calling Ministry. I am so very thankful for your continuing generosity.

We have a specific need for shampoos, lotions and soaps.

Our need for devotionals is never-ending. Thank you for keeping us supplied.

Please call the church office or send an e-mail to graceofficeemail@gmail.com with the name and address of those that we may include on this list.

The 2nd Service is in need of audio support. If you are able to help, please see Jim Powell or call the office at 302-934-7969.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE, December 1st</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 1st</td>
<td>Jesus Calling Devotional Soup Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 2nd</td>
<td>Knitting &amp; Crocheting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 3rd</td>
<td>Grace Church Singles Christmas Potluck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 4th</td>
<td>Women's Prayer Circle Caring Kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 5th</td>
<td>Praise Band Practice Foundation Fund Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 6th</td>
<td>Stay &amp; Play Cherub Choir Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata Practice English as a Second Language Youth Gives Back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 7th</td>
<td>Community Bible Study Bells of Grace Grace Notes Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 8th</td>
<td>Jesus Calling Devotional Soup Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 11th</td>
<td>Sunday School Operation Christmas Child Packing Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 12th</td>
<td>Praise Band Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 13th</td>
<td>Grandparent Ministry Stay &amp; Play Cherub Choir Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata Practice English as a Second Language JINGLE JAM!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 14th</td>
<td>Cherub Choir Practice Bells of Grace Grace Notes Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 15th</td>
<td>Jesus Calling Devotional Soup Kitchen Blue Christmas Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 16th</td>
<td>Knitting &amp; Crocheting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 18th</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 19th</td>
<td>UMW Christmas Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 20th</td>
<td>Stay &amp; Play English as a Second Language Church Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 21st</td>
<td>Bells of Grace Grace Notes Practice Christmas Caroling—ALL ARE INVITED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 22nd</td>
<td>Jesus Calling Devotional Soup Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 24th</td>
<td>Contemporary Service Traditional Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 25th</td>
<td>Christmas Day Service Christmas Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 29th</td>
<td>Jesus Calling Devotional Soup Kitchen</td>
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## December Volunteers

### Contemporary Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month of December</th>
<th>Host/Hostess Worship Leader</th>
<th>John &amp; Judi Thoroughgood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking Lot Information Desk</td>
<td>Mike Todd</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greeters/Ushers Scripture Reader Nursery</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/4/16</td>
<td>Brett Dorey</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy Miles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike &amp; Lisa Todd</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lillian Melson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Balback</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11/16</td>
<td>Jay Meyer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Greenwalt.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Richardson, Colleen Scrimshaw</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jill Elliott</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tammy Murphey</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18/16</td>
<td>Tom Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donna Milligan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susan George, Nancy Scorah</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Todd</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fred &amp; Lynn Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/25/16</td>
<td>Parking Lot Information Desk</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greeters/Ushers Scripture Reader Nursery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Greenwalt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John &amp; Judi Thoroughgood</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Linda Mitchell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bev Hohn, Tammy Garcelon</td>
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### Traditional Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month of December</th>
<th>Altar Chair Parking Lot Greeter</th>
<th>Ellen Lorraine McCabe, Judi Thoroughgood George McColley, Larry Stough</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/4/16</td>
<td>Host/Hostess Information Desk</td>
<td>Linda Kuhling</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lobby Greeters</td>
<td>Daisy Williams</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ushers Scripture Reader</td>
<td>Lois Allan, Ann Bradley</td>
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<td>Harriet Mair, Ken Zulderhof</td>
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<td>Randy Peterson</td>
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<td>12/11/16</td>
<td>Host/Hostess Information Desk</td>
<td>Debby Gregory</td>
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<td>Lobby Greeters</td>
<td>Doris Brittingham</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ushers Scripture Reader</td>
<td>Sherry Sutton, Bernice Murray</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Patty Jones, Pat Hall, Mike &amp; Judy Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sandee Brigandi</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18/16</td>
<td>Host/Hostess Information Desk</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lobby Greeters</td>
<td>Gloria Coley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ushers Scripture Reader</td>
<td>Gene &amp; Nancy Geiger</td>
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<td>Ron &amp; Suzanne Sams, Harriet Mair, Larry Stough</td>
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<td>Kitty Hartshorn</td>
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<td>12/25/16</td>
<td>Host/Hostess Information Desk</td>
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<td>Lobby Greeters</td>
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<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Harriet Mair, Linda Kuhling</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scripture Reader</td>
<td>Daisy &amp; Pep Williams, Gene &amp; Nancy Geiger</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Judy Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grow in Christ Through Grace, Faith, Love and Service.

Merry Christmas to You and Your Family