



A Note from the Pastor . . .



"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Luke 1:68-69, 76-79

Zechariah was singing his praises to God at the birth of his son John, who would grow up to become the voice crying in the wilderness, proclaiming the Messiah: *"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29) John spent his life pointing others toward the Christ.

Once again we have begun the journey through Advent. Amid the hustle and bustle of the holidays, how do we hear John's voice calling us to see and receive Christ into our lives? One clue might be found in John's story – John lived in the quiet of the countryside, away from the day-to-day noisiness and busyness of the city. While he was there, *"people went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan."* (Matthew 3:5) There they discovered a quiet place where they experienced God in a new way as John gave the people *"the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins"* and John continued to point the way to Christ.

Have you discovered your quiet place? My prayer for you in this Advent season is that you would allow God to lead you to a quiet place where you will find the comfort and peace and forgiveness and pure joy that God offers to us in Christ Jesus. And as you do so, may your life then point others to Christ as well.

Grace and peace to you in this holy season.



Pastor Edna



Pastor:

Rev. Edna F. Moore

Co-Lay Leaders:

Laurie Bersack

Jim Simpson

Admin. Assistant:

Tonja Agey

Director of Music:

Ruth Nelson

Preschool Director:

Donna Thomas

Newsletter Editor:

Tonja Agey

MUMC Backpack Buddies Updates

We have learned that there are over 100 children attending Marshall Middle School that take part in the Federal School Lunch Program. We are assisting these children with a small healthy lunch for one day over the weekend when the schools are not able to provide a lunch. We are greatly encouraged by the generous outpouring of individual lunch items being dropped off each week and we pray it continues throughout the coming school year and for years to come! Our long range goal is to create groups within our community to assist all of our school children with a lunch over the weekend.

Each lunch will contain at least one of the following types of foods:



- Protein/meat (Chef Boyardee lunch buckets, Vienna sausage, tuna salad packs)



- Fruit (applesauce, fruit cups, dried fruit)



- Snack crackers (peanut butter or cheese crackers)



- Healthy snacks (cereal, nuts, raisins, granola bars)



- Juice (capri sun, juicy juice boxes or powder mix to add to water-i.e. Crystal Light)

(We are trying to avoid the chips and cookies and anything that might melt!)

Right now we are only supplying less than ten percent of the children in need. I hope to have that reach fifty percent by Spring.

Most items are under \$1.00 and we will continue to collect until the school year is over. If you know of other groups that might want to help, please contact the church (540-364-2506) for more information. We are also looking for volunteers to drop the box of packed lunches off at the school each Friday morning. If this is something you could do once or twice a month, please contact the church now!! It only takes a minute to leave the lunches with Ms. Moschetti, Marshall Middle School Principal. The school handles all the distribution to the children. Help us grow this ministry today!

Spreading God's love, one child at a time!



We would like to extend a Happy Birthday to all Church Family Members who were born in December! If your birthday is not displayed and you would like it to be, please call 540-364-2506 or email the church office at Admin@marshallumc.org. We would be delighted to add you!

1 – Mike Sweeney

6 - Betty West

8 – Lisa Burnside

10 – Jessica Soaper

11 – Susanne Arbogast

11 - Amanda Dooly

11 – Frances Snider

12 – Erin Kozanecki

14 – Mallory Wyne

14 - David Hill

17 – Adam Kowalczyk

20 – Julie Kohler

22 – Ruth Nelson

25 - James Edmonds

26 – Cathy Harris

28 – George Murphy, Sr.

30 – Cherie Clark

30 - Heather Wheeler



Season of Advent

Join us on Wednesday evenings

Dec. 7, 14, and 21

at 6:30 pm

for Food, Fellowship, Crafts, and Program

Mission News Updates, Submitted by Terri Hill

As the year comes to a close, we are blessed at all the opportunities we have had over the past 12 months to reach out to our neighbors, showing and sharing God's love. We will continue our Lunch Buddy collection throughout the year and increase our weekly lunch drop off as our collection increases.

We have also signed up to participate in the yearly Christmas for Seniors program, coordinated by the Fauquier County Department of Social Services, providing some Christmas gifts to some local seniors. We will publish a Wish List soon, but will also designate the 2nd Sunday in December as our Senior Collection Sunday. On Sunday, December 11th, we will have a special offering that will go towards gifts and grocery cards for our three 'adopted' Senior neighbors. Get your gift card early and be ready!! We are also looking for some volunteers to help deliver our gifts in person! Another great opportunity to reach out. Contact Terri Hill (terrih57@msn.com or 540-253-7070) if you are interested in delivering the week before Christmas!

A Special Thanks to our local Boy Scout troops that filled our Food Pantry once again with plenty of non-perishable canned goods to be shared with any individuals or families that need an extra hand with some groceries. If you know of persons or families that could use a bag of groceries, fill a bag and deliver it with God's love.

Our church family has once again been generous and compassionate for the needs of our community and our world. May we all be blessed by this continued mission spirit and always seek new ways to reach out to those in need.

Parish Nurse Corner (*Body, Mind, and Spirit*)

By Susanne Arbogast, MSN, RN, FCN

December 2011

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalms 136:1

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17.

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

As I write, Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching and Christmas will be fast behind. What is your spiritual attitude during this holiday season? Human response to the happenings of 2011 is to dwell on the personal struggles and pain, and spin into the events of our country and It never seems to end. The devil is good at what he does—he keeps us unsettled and depressed. He knows our weakness.

The greatest blessing of my journey through pain has been the closer relationship I have developed with the Lord. Each day now, I listen for His messages. This holiday season the message has been to be "Thankful for the Thorns" - www.homeward.com had a radio broadcast on (91.7FM) and the devotional, "The Thanksgiving Thorn Bouquet" by George Matheson. The story is about a florist who prepares a table centerpiece with the rose blooms cut off, leaving the thorny stems. The thorny stems remind us to be thankful for the bad times in life because "thorns show the beauty of God's comfort . . . the Bible says that "God comforts us when we're afflicted and from His consolation we learn to comfort others". (Matheson, G. 2004). We easily say thank you to the Lord for the good things in life – the flowers, but how often do we think to say thank you for the thorns - the time of refining us into the image of the Lord. The flower card in George's story is a prayer:

"My God, I have never thanked you for my thorns! I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear, teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed to you by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow."


I pray that through life's joy or sorrows/tears you come closer to the Lord this year and next. That, through His love, you can see your rainbows. Man does the possible, God does the impossible. I heard this said on the radio after I was thinking about not being able to travel as I had always hoped. Yes Lord, I hear you . . . I wait on your timing; I have faith and trust in your plans for me. Listen for the Lord daily in your life; His words will give you peace and the warmth of His love.

Tips for Creating a Spiritual Sharing Environment in your Home

- Read the Bible as a family (Devote one or two evenings a week at first – increase to a daily habit worth sustaining.)
- When you read your Bible, have the children listen/look for KEY WORDS in the passage. Mark Jesus with a red pencil cross. Discuss how God is telling us to live—how does this apply to our lives.
- As a family, commit to reading the whole Bible in a year.


December 2011

Sunday School @ 8:45am * Worship Services Sunday @ 10am
JOIN US!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
4 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service 11:30am SPRC Mtg (S) 5 pm Middle School Youth (FH)	5 Pastor's Day Off Church Office Closed 7 pm Scout Pack 177 Comm. Mtg (MH)	6 11 am MUMPS Chapel (S) 6 pm Men's Group (L) 6 pm Scout Den Mtg (FH) 6 pm Webelos Mtg (MH) 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	7 6:30 pm Advent Dinner & Event (FH/K)	8 7 pm Iglesia Cristiana Nuevo Renacer Svc (FH)	9	10 8 am UMM Mtg (FH/K) 9 am—11 am LV Emmaus (MH)
11 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	12 Pastor's Day Off Church Office Closed 3—5:30 pm Sunbeams (FH/K)	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6 pm Men's Group (L) 6 pm Boy Scout Pack Mtg (FH) 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	14 6:30 pm Advent Dinner & Event (FH/K)	15 8 am—1 pm MUMPS Christmas Prog. (FH/S) 6 pm Cub Scouts (YR) 7 pm Iglesia Cristiana Nuevo Renacer Svc (FH)	16	17
18 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service Christmas Program: "Something Happened" 7 pm Choir Cantata	19 Pastor's Day Off Church Office Closed	20 6 pm Men's Group (L) 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	21 6:30 pm Advent Dinner & Event (FH/K)	22 7 pm Iglesia Cristiana Nuevo Renacer Svc (FH)	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	26 Pastor's Day Off	27	28	29	30	31
Church Office Closed for Christmas and New Years—Reopens on Tuesday, January 3rd @ 9am						

Sunday School @ 8:45am * Worship Services Sunday @ 10am
JOIN US!

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am -Worship Service 	2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> Church Office Closed 7 pm Boy Scout Pack 177 Comm. Mtg (MH)	3 11 am MUMPS Chapel 6 pm Webelos Mtg (MH) 6 pm Boy Scout Den Mtg (FH) 6 pm Men's Acct. Mtg (L) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	4 	5 12 n Senior Luncheon (FH/K) 6 pm Cub Scouts (Y) 7 pm Hispanic Ministry (FH)	6 	7
8 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> Church Office Closed 10 am—5pm District Superintendent Clergy Interviews (YR)	10 11 am MUMPS Chapel 6 pm Webelos Mtg (MH) 6 pm Boy Scout Den Mtg (FH) 6 pm Men's Acct. Mtg (L) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	11 7 pm Trustees Mtg (YR) 7:30 pm UMW Mtg (FH)	12 7 pm Hispanic Ministry (FH)	13 	14 8 am UMM Mtg (FH/K)
15 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service 5 pm Middle School Youth Mtg (FH)	16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> Church Office Closed	17 11 am MUMPS Chapel 6 pm Webelos Mtg (MH) 6 pm Boy Scout Den Mtg (FH) 6 pm Men's Acct. Mtg (L) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	18 	19 6 pm Cub Scouts (Y) 7 pm Hispanic Ministry (FH)	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21
22 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> Church Office Closed	24 11 am MUMPS Chapel 6 pm Boy Scout Pack Mtg (FH) 6 pm Men's Acct. Mtg (L) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	25 6:30 pm Finance Comm. Mtg (FH) 7:30 pm Council Mtg (FH)	26 7 pm Hispanic Ministry (FH)	27 	28
29 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> Church Office Closed	31 11 am MUMPS Chapel 6 pm Webelos Mtg (MH) 6 pm Boy Scout Den Mtg (FH) 6 pm Men's Acct. Mtg (L) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)				

“The Circuit Writer” Goes Electronic in January

Beginning with the January 2012 issue, *The Circuit Writer* will be delivered via email and will be available for pickup at the church. After careful consideration, the Council has decided that a cost effective move had to be made to cut expenses (see the present and predicted expenses listed below). Homebound members will continue to receive copies through the U.S. Postal system.

If you currently receive the newsletter through the U.S. Postal system and would like to continue receiving it via email, please contact the church office using the form below.

NEWSLETTER COST ANALYSIS

	PRESENT Annual Cost for 200 Copies per Month	PREDICTED Annual Cost for 50 Copies per Month	
Paper	\$192.00	\$48.00	
Labels	\$17.42	\$1.56	
Postage	\$384.00	\$115.20	mail 15 copies @ \$.64 each
Labor	\$576.00	\$144.00	
Annual Bulk Mail Fee	\$150.00		
TOTALS	\$1,319.42	\$308.76	

CHANGE OF NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Option #1: Call the church office with your latest email address—540-364-2506.

Option #2: Email the church office with your request to receive the newsletter electronically— (Admin@MarshallUMC.org).

Option #3: Mail this slip to the church with your latest email address:

Mail to: Church Admin., Marshall UMC, PO Box 144, Marshall, VA 20116

Please change my Circuit Writer newsletter to email delivery using the following email address: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

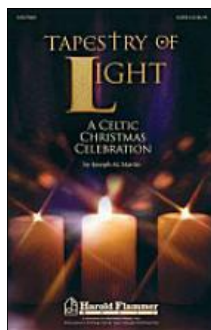


ADVENT SEASON EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday, December 18th

10 am—Christmas Program: "Something Happened"

7 pm—Choir Cantata: "Tapestry of Light—A Celtic Christmas Celebration"



Saturday, December 24th

7 pm —Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Sunday, December 25th

10 am— Christmas Morning Service: Refreshments and Carroll Sing

Advent Dinners and Activities

Join us for Food, Fellowship and Crafts! A different craft each week, including Christmas ornaments, wooden gift boxes, and gingerbread houses!

Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 14th, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 21st, 6:30 pm



(Continued from page 4, Parish Nurse Corner)

- Discuss building a Godly character to use as a plumb line to make good choices in life— Proverbs has it all laid out for us.

Dr. Kara Powell wrote a book on Sticky Faith: creating an environment for kids to develop a faith that sticks. A recent survey result was that only half children who grow up in a vibrant church stick with their faith through college. I heard Dr. Powell on the homeward broadcast and have ordered her book to share with you in the next year.

Health Ministry Mission: “To encourage and promote wholeness of the spirit, mind, and body within our congregation and community through prayer and education following Christ’s example of love, support, and compassion.

Health Ministry Scripture: “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.” 3 John 1:2



MUMPS HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 3, 2011
9am—3pm

Please come and join us for a fun filled day.

There will be a Cake Walk, Food, Silent Auction.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be joining us after the Christmas Parade, please bring your camera for photos!

This is MUMPS largest fundraiser for the school year, all proceeds go towards the children's educational supplies. We need your support to make this successful!

We need cakes, pies and other baked items for the above mentioned activities. You may drop them off on Friday, December 2nd between 9am-Noon.

Newsletter Deadline for January 2011

The deadline is **Tuesday, December 13th**. Articles for the newsletter may be emailed, mailed, or called into Tonja Agey at the church office at any time up to the deadline. You may reach her by phone at 540-364-2506 or by email at Admin@marshallumc.org. Articles that are mailed in may be mailed to the church post office box listed on this newsletter.

Last Issue

The newsletter will be delivered by email and personal pickup beginning in January 2012 (see article in this month's issue). Homebound members will still receive their newsletters via U.S. Postal service. If you are homebound and would like your newsletter mailed to you, please contact the church office 540.364.2506.

**Please join us each Sunday for Sunday School (for all ages) at 8:45 am
and Worship Service at 10:00 am.**

122011



Marshall
United Methodist Church

Location: 8405 W. Main St., Marshall, VA
Mailing: P.O. Box 144, Marshall, VA 20116

Phone: (540) 364-2506

Pastor Edna F. Moore
Pastor@marshallumc.org

Admin. Assistant—Tonja Agey
Admin@marshallumc.org

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