

Hilltopper

Harrisonburg District

December 2015



Prayers
Presence
Gifts
Service
Witness

Special points of interest:

- Empowered by Grace
- UMW News
- Around the District
- Nurse's Health Corner
- Activities & Events
- Anniversaries & Birthdays



For unto you **is born** this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who **is** Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Let there be ...

Peace
On
Earth

Christmas Greetings

Long ago the prophet Isaiah, under the influence of the Lord God, spoke these words to a troubled nation and people, *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Of the increase of his government and of peace there will no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth; and for evermore. **The Zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.***

(Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the Almighty God who loves us with such great love promised us long ago that he would redeem his people Israel, and so he did. He comes to us yet again at this Christmas time to remind us of the great sacrifice He has made on our behalf. His gift of himself to us in the Baby Jesus resounds with hallelujahs'. He came, he comes, and Peace which passes our understanding presents itself as an offering to us for our time. May that peace of God, that love eternal dwell with you and yours during these days of celebration. Our Lord is born, our Lord reigneth where men and women and children hold him dear and blessed. The Zeal of the Lord is real...believe it.

MERRY CHISTMAS!

The New Hope Church Staff

New Acolytes

On Saturday, November 21, 2015 Susan Coffman and Pastor Tom met with Derek Deavers and Weston Powell for acolyte training. We welcome Derek and Forrest as our newest acolytes. Thank you to both Derek and Forrest as well as all our regular acolytes for your service each Sunday for our Worship Service.



Mission Opportunities

The Mabry Shiflett Circle is sponsoring a church-wide opportunity to provide WalMart gift cards of any amount for Valley Mission residents for Christmas. Please see Cindy Deavers or Phyllis Jarvis.

Also collected for Valley Mission is cereal. A box for your donations is available in the Wesley Sunday School Classroom.

Each year the United Methodist Women sponsor a Christmas collection for Kingsway Prison Ministry. Items of junior legal pads, pencils, toothpaste, and chap stick are needed. A basket is available in the Narthex for your donations. Questions see Wanda Harding.

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Around the District ...

Lay Servant Training



The Lay Servant Academy is about equipping Laity (those who are not clergy) to carry out the mission of the church. All of the courses are open to anyone who would like to take one. Each course is designed to help those serving the local church learn more about leadership, personal faith development, and a deeper understanding of the United Methodist Church. Lay Servant Ministries offers two avenues of recognition and training that go beyond the local church. Many of the courses offered this year will support those who are seeking to become Certified Lay Servants and Lay Speakers.

The **Lay Servant Academy** will be held on **February 26-28, 2016**, at **Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center**.

Courses offered this year: Leading Prayer, Preaching from Your Heart to Theirs, Spirituality and the Arts, Transforming Evangelism, Basic Pastoral Prayer, Growing Spiritually through Daily Disciplines, Music in Worship and Ministry, Revitalize the Church through Leadership Development, Basic Course, Ministerios de la oratoria laica-Curso basico, Curso Avanzado: Predicacion, Leading, Caring and Growing in Faith in the Second Half of Life, Polity of the United Methodist Church.

Mini-courses: Vital Congregations, Invite-Invite-Invite Again, Missional Excellence, Understanding the EVC Data, Leadership Development, Journaling Your Prayers, Telling the Story, A Pathway to Spiritual Spirituality, Small Groups Making Disciples in a Big Way, Developing and Intentional Discipleship Path.

For course descriptions and full schedule and to register for the Academy visit the VA Conference website at www.vaumc.org/LayServantTraining



Tri-District Men's Retreat at Overlook. This year the Harrisonburg District is responsible for the coordination of this event so come out in support. It is scheduled for **January 8-9, at Blessings Lodge**. You can register online or through the mail with Camp Overlook.



Bishop's Convocation on Prayer will be held on **March 5, 2016**, at **Trinity UMC** (903 Forest Avenue, Henrico, VA 23229).

The theme is Deepening Discipleship: Piety and Mercy through Prayer. The plenary speaker will be Dr. Frederick Schmidt, the Reuben P. Job Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Nurse's Health Corner

Maintaining independence is a goal most of us have for ourselves and our aging parents, other family members and loved ones. For many, independence is represented by maintaining a valid driver's license as we age. Older Driver Safety Awareness Week is December 7 – 11, 2015. Increased age brings about changes in physical, mental and sensory abilities that can challenge a person's continued ability to drive safely. The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) wants to educate about some solutions for our older drivers, rather than focus on it as a problem.

"Without driving, older adults have been found to participate in less out-of-home activities," says Peggy Barco, MS, BSW, OTR/L. "Without driving, it has been found that individuals can risk social isolation, depression, and may lack a sense of control over their lives."

The American Occupational Therapy Association wants to prevent this from happening to older drivers who may simply need education, adaptations or modifications to the time of day or where they drive, to remain safe to themselves and others. Safety can be achieved in many ways. One example is CarFit, an educational program that includes a 12-point checklist to ensure that each driver's car is adjusted properly for the best "fit," and that the safety features of the vehicle are explained, increasing the likelihood that they are being used optimally. Another example is driving fitness evaluations. They can range from self-assessments, which can be a useful educational tool to help identify potential challenges, to a comprehensive driving evaluation from an occupational therapy driving rehabilitation specialist. The therapist can help the family understand that the older adult can learn to make judgments that are safer or use adaptive equipment that might make it easier to get in and out of the car or improve visibility, to maintain safe driving. Physical challenges can often be compensated for by equipment, adding to a driver's safety and confidence. Examples of adaptive equipment can be found at <http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Older-Driver-Safety-Awareness-Week/Thursday-full-article.aspx>

The main challenge with addressing this topic is to actually have a conversation about safety with an older adult. The conversations are easier when started while an older adult is still a competent driver, when the focus is on preparing for what may come in the future. "When an older adult is given a

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Mission Opportunities

Valley Mission—ongoing project of cereal. Bring your boxes of any kind of cereal and leave in Wesley Sunday School Classroom. Regular deliveries are being made. Thank you !!!

Henry Fork Service Center—ongoing project of saving our Campbell Soup labels.

Web Page

Web Page: mynhumc.weebly.com

Reminder to check out our church web page frequently for updates including the church calendar.

Lectionary Readings

12/6

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

12/13

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

12/20

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

12/27

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte

12/6 Kaylee McLaren
12/13 Penny Pence
12/20 Cindy Deavers
12/27 Clara Breeding

Nursery

12/6 Morgan Craun&Martha Fretwell
12/13 Robin Craun&JoEtta Walker
12/20 Tonja Meier & Taylor Meier
12/27 Betty Stout&Courtney Stout

Children's Message

12/6 Al Tuten
12/13 Dana Breeding
12/20 Cindy Deavers
12/27 Robin Craun

Ushers

12/6 Lewis Whitmer & Jake Botkin
12/13 Helen Shifflett & Al Tuten
12/20 Henry Breeding & Charlie Bill Fretwell
12/27 Darryl Deavers & John Morse

Anniversaries & Birthdays for December

1-Steve Broyles
 1-Robert Corbin
 1-Diane Miller
 2-Leslie Shaver
 2-Robin Craun
 3-Richard Booth
 3-Josh & Cheryl Bennett
 3-Herman & Carolyn Pace
 4-Matt Carr
 5-Susan Baldwin
 5-Charles Darrah
 5-Michele Taylor
 6-Clarissa Booth
 6-Karen Whitmer
 7-Betty Gruber
 7-Beth Rosen
 8-Peggy Corbin
 9-Josh Dively
 9-Mac Craig
 10-Bernie Powers
 12-Mary Jane Shaver
 13-Jennifer Bottenmiller
 13-Jake & Julie Botkin
 14-Brenda Price
 14-Dawn White

16-Carrie Reed
 16-Wyatt Markow
 16-B.F. Caricofe III
 16-Dwight Craig
 16-Shelvie Critzer
 16-Paul Whitmer
 16 Carrie Reed
 17-Kim Maugans
 17-Tim & Suzanne Lank
 20-Amye Bergman
 21-Emily Howdysshell
 22-Keith Chittum
 23-Julia Botkin
 23-Cheryl Howell
 25-B.F. Carifcofe, Jr
 25-Wally Smith
 26-Carl Caricofe, Sr
 26-Jesse Hartman
 26-Larry & Nadine Hinebaugh
 27-Jeffrey Shipe
 28-Logan Kraisser
 28-Mathew & Tanya Keys
 29-Christopher Dively
 30-Kim & Karen Maugans
 31-Andy & Dana Breeding

31-Gary & Kathy Lewis



If we have any incorrect information or are missing information, please leave updates in mailbox in church library for Hilltopper or email to altuten@vaumc.org

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS— December

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| December 7, Monday | 9-12 | Food Pantry Volunteers |
| December 9, Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Choir Practice |
| December 15, Tuesday | 8 - 8 | Wesley Class Trip – Dinner Theatre |
| December 16, Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Choir Practice |
| December 20, Sunday | 5:30 pm | Christmas Dinner |
| December 21, Monday | 9-12 | Food Pantry Volunteers |
| December 23, Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Choir Practice |
| December 24, Thursday | 9:00 pm | Christmas Eve Service |

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Advent Wreath Gift

Thanks to Kim Maugans for the beautiful wooden advent wreath for our Worship Service.



Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leon and Mary Sheets and their grandson, Lane shared the lighting of the Advent Candle on Sunday, November 29th.



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SACRA Benefit Concert (Staunton-Augusta Church Relief Association)

A benefit concert for SACRA is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Memorial Baptist Church on Taylor Street in Staunton. Several musical groups will be performing including the Faithful Men.

Christmas Dinner

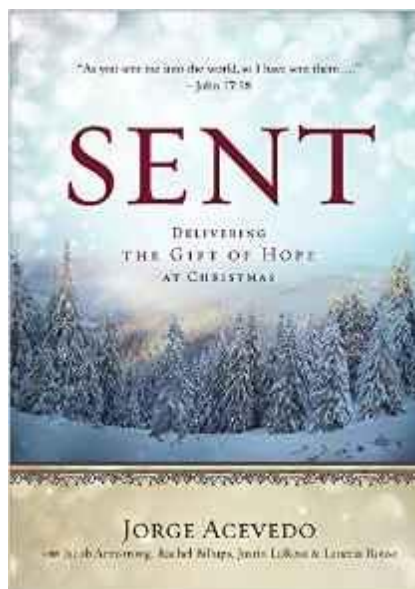
On Sunday evening, December 20th beginning at 5:30 pm we will gather for our annual Christmas Dinner and program. Plan to eat around 6 pm and program around 7 pm. Bring a covered dish, friends, family and neighbors to enjoy an evening of fellowship

Christmas Eve Service

Come enjoy our Christmas Eve service at New Hope on December 24th at 9 pm.

Advent Study

Hope you are joining us on Sunday mornings for Sunday School during Advent for the Advent Study – **Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope** by Jorge Acevedo. Our adult classes are meeting in the Social Hall for a ten minute video and then returning to our classrooms for discussion questions.



Also available in the Narthex for your devotional use are copies of the Advent Devotions from the Society of St. Andrews. Please pick up a copy and add these readings to your devotional/prayer times

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traffic ticket or has a minor crash, it may feel like a natural time to discuss safety in driving," says Mary Jo McGuire, MS, OTR/L, OTRP, FAOTA. "The problem is that this is when an older adult feels he or she must defend the ability to drive, and so the conversation with family members can, unfortunately, become argumentative."

During the 'Older Driver Safety Awareness Week', the AOTA will provide various educational topics for Occupational Therapists to comment on during the week, to share professional knowledge. At <http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Older-Driver-Safety-Awareness-Week.aspx> **anyone** can access these topics to download a podcast or click **read more** about the topic to read the article:

Monday: Anticipating Changes That Can Affect Driving

Tuesday: Family Conversations

Wednesday: Screening and Evaluation With an Occupational Therapist

Thursday: Interventions That Can Empower Drivers

Friday: Staying Engaged in the Community

At the end of each article, a list of resources are provided as to where to get more information, print outs to share and how to enroll in an educational class that will help improve an older driver's ability to drive safely.

Some Resources:

American Occupational Therapy Association: www.aota.org

AAA's Senior Driver Page: <http://seniordriving.aaa.com/>

Older Drivers Website: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Older+Drivers>

AARP's Driver Safety Course: <http://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>

Driving Safely While Aging Gracefully:

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/olddrive/Driving%20Safely%20Aging%20Web/index.html>

Information provided by Dana H. Breeding, RN Health Educator from Community Outreach, at Augusta Health. To contact her related to the above information, please call 332-4988 or 932-

New Hope United Methodist Church

PO Box 86

New Hope, Va 24469

Web Page: mynhumc.weebly.com

Address Service Requested



HILLTOPPER

Mission: Growing in discipleship, living our faith and reaching others

Identity: The New Hope congregation is a family of sharing and caring Christians who gather for worship and fellowship and through whom opportunities for spiritual growth are offered for all ages.

Vision: The people of New Hope will allow God to make a lasting and holy difference in us and through us as we apply ourselves to worship, prayer, study, witness and service



New Hope United Methodist Church

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New Hope, Virginia 24469

363-5940

Rev. Dr. Tom Murphy, Pastor

Email: newhopechurch@newhopetel.net