



PUMC Reaches Beyond Our Doors to be Disciples!

We Made A Difference in World Hunger!

Do you know that a person dies from hunger every three seconds? Approximately 30,000 people die every day of hunger related diseases. Can we make a difference at PUMC?



Yes we can and have made a difference. On November 13, 2011 there were 70 volunteers packing high protein, dehydrated meals for use in crisis-burdened areas and in school feeding programs across the globe. We packaged over 10, 000 meals in less than one hour and forty-five minutes. Over 45 boxes of meals will be sent to over fifty countries because of the commitment made by PUMC.

The Outreach Committee would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the following: to the many special groups/individuals who provided soup, chili, hot dogs, potato chips, and desserts. A special thanks to the youth for unloading the supplies and to the Contemporary Studies Sunday School class for setting up and cleaning up. A special thanks to all those for financial support of this event. Finally, thanks to all those who volunteered their time and put their faith in action. Thanks for your commitment to helping God's children!





LET MUSIC FILL THE AIR

Sunday, December 18

Christmas Cantata

Hark! The Angels Sing!

Our Christmas Cantata, "*Hark! The Angels Sing!*" will be presented to all on Sunday, December 18th, for the 8:30am and 11:00am worship services. Our Voices of Victory have been celebrating the story of the birth of our Lord through this beautiful music since rehearsals began in September. We can not wait to share it with everyone! This musical is presented from the viewpoint of the angels, eagerly awaiting God's plan to send His Son to Earth! Gail Timberlake and Ed Cox will magnify the power of the season by their narrations, and the choir and soloists will touch your heart and fill your spirit with joy and excitement as you witness this overwhelming hour! Invite your family and friends, and arrive early, as seats go fast!

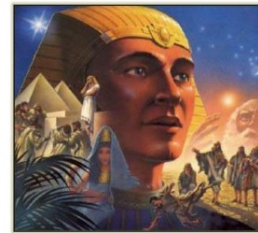
Love, Allison

CHURCH RECEIVES GIFT OF MUSIC

Our Worship & Song hymnals are given to the glory of God by member of our church family in the memory of her grandfather, Ted J. Sierzan. Ted was a proud member of the United Methodist Church in Bristol, Indiana and served in the choir for over 30 years. He was a wonderful Christian man with a lovely tenor voice. He is missed.



Just Older Youth will meet on December 14 at 11:30am. Come join us for our Christmas Luncheon and hear History in Person, Bill Young present "*Joseph, Prince of Egypt*". Bring a dish to share and enjoy good fellowship. We would like to welcome you. Questions, call Yogi or Jane Rager at 598-0775.



MNC

Monday Night Circle meeting and Christmas party, will be held on Monday, December 19, at the home of Frances Wiatt. Bring a \$10 wrapped gift and finger food.

UMM BREAKFAST MEETINGS:

We will meet on Sunday, December 18 at 7:15am. Please mark your calendars NOW and plan on joining us. See you at breakfast.



Celebrate

Christmas at PUMC

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 11, 7pm

Hark! The Angels, Sing Christmas Cantata

December 18, 8:30am & 11am

Christmas Eve Services

5pm & 10pm

Christmas Day & New Year's Day

Unity Worship at 10am



Over two recent weekends, more than 10,000 Scouts and volunteers participated in Central Virginia's 24th annual "Scouting For Food" drive to benefit hungry neighbors in the region. Scouts participated in "Scouting For Food" to fulfill their oath to "Help other people at all times." Scouting promotes community involvement and emphasizes youth helping others.

Locally, the Scouts of Cub Scout Pack 1823 and Boy Scout Troop 1823, both sponsored by Powhatan United Methodist Church, distributed over 350 bags in a local neighborhood. They returned a week later and collected over 1,000 pounds of food. Talk about a community service project! The donated food will be distributed by the Central Virginia Food Bank during the holidays to hungry families, children and home-bound senior adults.

For information about joining the Cub or Boy Scouts, contact Bruce Ashby at 804-514-9926.



POWHATAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

Deadline for January Messenger is Tuesday, December 15

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SANDRA LOWE, ADMINISTRATOR | church@powhatanumc.us

ALLISON STOWERS, MUSIC & ARTS DIRECTOR | musicdirector@powhatanumc.us

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SHARON BALTIMORE, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR | **HARVEY PAQUETTE, EVENT FACILITIES OVERSEER**

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YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Preschool News

The Christmas Season is always extra special for the young children in our preschool. Teachers will help each child make an Advent Calendar to help them as they count down the days until Christmas. Our favorite Powhatan potter, Denise Hennig, will be coming to help the children work with clay to make a gift for their families as we emphasize that Christmas is about 'giving'.

We are also very excited to welcome back Jeff Beatman, a musician and storyteller, who will be sharing a Christmas story and songs with the children. December Chapel Time will give our little ones a chance to see our beautiful Sanctuary decorated for the season and hear the story of Jesus' birth.

If you need to experience the joy of Christmas as seen through a child's eyes, come by preschool one morning and ask for a tour. We would love to have you!

Military Care Packages:

The TAGG Team (Youth Group) is collecting items to send in care packages for those serving our country. Those receiving the packages are from this church, or are connected to this church through family and friends. There are 2 ways to help:

- 1) **Send us the current address of men or women serving. Addresses in the military change frequently; so if you have given the address prior to this, please do so again so we know it is current!!***
- 2) **Put items you collect for this ministry in the box labeled for Military. It's located in the Senior High classroom. Items given can include: batteries, used paperbacks they can read and pass along to others, personal notes of appreciation for all they do, playing cards and all kinds of balls, used or new DVDs, etc.***

Your youth ministry will do the rest!

(Unfortunately we cannot send Christian materials for distribution to those of other faiths.) If you have questions, please contact Brenda Bell. Thank you!

KIDS WITH PURPOSE

December will be quite busy with play practice on Saturday, December 3 (cereal & pop tarts) at 10am. Parts will be handed out at this time and I really would like the Kids with Purpose to have the speaking parts and the younger children will fill in all the rest. We will practice again on December 10 and the play will take place on Sunday, December 11 at 7pm. Please encourage your child to participate in this play as we are not doing a Night in Bethlehem this year.

Call Malene Utley with questions at 347-7913.



UPCOMING YOUTH CALENDAR

Dec. 2-4 **Sr. High Retreat** to Eagle Eyrie

DEC. 4 **BISCUIT BAKE FUNDRAISER** – JR. HIGHS HAVE THIS ONE
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
Youth Group! Jr. Highs 5 - 6:30 pm
SR. HIGHS 6 - 7:30 PM

Dec. 11 Sunday School 9:45 am
Children's Christmas Play 7 pm

Dec. 18 Sunday School 9:45 am
Christmas Cantata: both services!
Youth Group! Jr. Highs 5 - 6:30 pm
SR. HIGHS 6 - 7:30 PM

Dec. 19- **Ski Trip! Got to have another adult willing!**

Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve:**
5 pm Lessons and Carols
10 pm Worship Service

Dec. 25 **Christmas Day!**
Church is open for Business!

Dec. 31 **Happy New Year All-Nighter!**

JAN. 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY!**
10am Unity Service



Ponderings...

From Pastor John



Jesus is the "Reason for the Season". I hope you enjoy this wonderful adaptation of the famous poem, Twas The Night Before Christmas. Merry Christmas to you and yours and may the peace of Christ be experienced in all of your celebrations.

Pastor John and Norma

Twas the Beginning of Advent

'Twas the beginning of Advent and all through the Church Our hope was all dying-- we'd given up on the search. It wasn't so much that Christ wasn't invited, But after 2,000 plus years we were no longer excited. Oh, we knew what was coming-- no doubt about that. And that was the trouble-- it was all "old hat." November brought the first of an unending series of pains With carefully orchestrated advertising campaigns. There were gadgets and dolls and all sorts of toys. Enough to seduce even the most devout girls and boys. Unfortunately, it seemed, no one was completely exempt From this seasonal virus that did all of us tempt. The priests and prophets and certainly the kings were all so consumed with the desire for "things!" It was rare, if at all, that you'd hear of the reason For the origin of this whole holy-day season. A baby, it seems, once had been born In the mid-east somewhere on that first holy-day morn. But what does that mean for

folks like us, Who've lost ourselves in the hoopla and fuss? Can we re-learn the art of wondering and waiting, Of hoping and praying, and anticipating? Can we let go of all the things and the stuff? Can we open our hands and our hearts long enough? Can we open our eyes and open our ears? Can we find him again after all of these years? Will this year be different from all the rest? Will we be able to offer him all of our best? So many questions, unanswered thus far, As wisemen seeking the home of the star. Where do we begin-- how do we start To make for the child a place in our heart? Perhaps we begin by letting go Of our limits on hope, and of the stuff that we know. Let go of the shopping, of the chaos and fuss, Let go of the searching, let Christmas find us. We open our hearts, our hands and our eyes, To see the king coming in our own neighbors' cries. We look without seeking what we think we've earned, But rather we're looking for relationships spurned. With him he brings wholeness and newness of life For brother and sister, for husband and wife. The Christ-child comes not by our skill, But rather he comes by his own Father's will. We can't make him come with parties and bright trees, But only by getting down on our knees. He'll come if we wait amidst our affliction, Coming in spite of, not by our restriction. His coming will happen-- of this there's no doubt. The question is whether we'll be in or out. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Do you have the courage to peer through the lock? A basket on your porch, a child in your reach. A baby to love, to feed and to teach. He'll grow in wisdom as God's only Son. How far will we follow this radical one? He'll lead us to challenge the way that things are. He'll lead us to follow a single bright star. But that will come later if we're still around. The question for now: Is the child to be found? Can we block out commercials, the hype and the malls? Can we find solitude in our holy halls? Can we keep alert, keep hope, stay awake? Can we receive the child for ours and God's sake? From on high with the caroling host as he sees us, He yearns to read on our lips the prayer: Come Lord Jesus! As Advent begins all these questions make plea. The only true answer: We will see, we will see.

-Rev. T. Jenkins

