



NEWSLETTER

Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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No.12



A Reminder...

Youth Skit

During the fall, the 8th through 12th Sunday School class has been working on a presentation to the congregation. This Sunday, December 11, they will present their skit titled *American Idol*. Everyone is encouraged to come to worship and support them in this endeavor.



Family Advent Service

December 18 at 9:30 a. m.

In James P. Kerr Fellowship Hall



Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. family service

7:00 p.m. family candlelight

9:00 p.m. family candlelight

11:00 p.m. candlelight/communion

Meditation

The Compassionate Joy of the Christmas Spirit

Christmas spirit is more often than not a Christmas sprint! One of the ironies of our time and religion

is that the celebration of the birth of Jesus has become the most frantic convulsion of commercialism. In many places the most audible Christmas bell is the one attached to the cash register. For a few days before Christmas we sing, "God rest you merry gentlemen." But there is little rest. We sing "Holy night, peaceful night," but there is little peace. Unfortunately, Christmas is more "sprint" than "spirit."

A Christmas Carol, a short tale written in 1843 by Charles Dickens, is probably the world's most sentimental Christmas story. It tells of the old miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who in a series of dreams learns about the true Christmas spirit. The Ghost of Christmas Present leads Scrooge to the true Spirit of Christmas.

We need to allow the Holy Ghost of our Christmas Present to lead us to the true Spirit of Christmas, which is a Spirit that does something for others, not just for oneself. It is a Spirit more interested in performing than in being ... more active than passive. It is a Spirit that directs us *to brings good tidings to the afflicted ... to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor ... to comfort all who mourn ... to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise*

instead of a faint spirit ... the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified (Isaiah 61:1-4) In other words, the true Spirit of Christmas is for God's grace to flow through us to others. --- the thought that Charles Dickens had in turning Ebenezer Scrooge from a miser into a conduit of generosity.

This Spirit of Christmas is the self-proclaimed first message of Jesus when he opened his ministry reading in the synagogue the very same words of Isaiah (Luke 4:16-21). It is not something the secular world can create on its own initiative nor in its own strength. It is of grace, in a manner that no humanist can claim that people can do by themselves. In fact, the world's great sin is in resisting the awesome might of the Spirit and in not having the faith to let the Spirit act through humanity.

The true Christmas Spirit is a compassionate spirit (Isaiah); it is a joyous spirit (Luke): "And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;" and it is an indispensable spirit (I Thessalonians): "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of the prophets, but ... hold fast to what is good!"



Announcements



Alan and Leslie Kohler are expecting their third child on or near December 31. Keep them in your prayers.



Congratulations to Megan Culp, daughter of Roger and Gail, who will graduate from Salisbury University on December 17, 2005, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with concentration in Molecular/Cell Biology.



Christmas Caroling for the Sunday School Class, Grades 5-7, will be held on

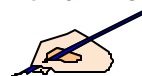
Friday, December 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. They will meet in Pollock-Williams Hall before going out to carol; then they will return for refreshments. For information, call Dee Smith at 301-428-3442



A special **Advent Study Group** meets on Thursdays, December 8 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary using the Advent Daily Devotional included in this newsletter.



Family Life presents "A Weekend to Remember." Marriage is defined by memories. In the early years are memories of passion and anticipation. Later come unexpected events, challenges, and disappointments. The events of life will lead either to memories of joy and fulfillment or pain and heartbreak. So much depends on how you cultivate the most important relationship in your life. For thirty years, the Weekend to Remember conference has helped couples create the kind of memories that build a healthy marriage. During 2006 there are five opportunities to attend: February 24-26 and March 3-5 in Baltimore; March 10-12, 17-19, 24-26 in Washington, DC. A brochure and further information can be found in the church vestibule. Also, Rick and Jennifer Schrock can provide first hand information.



The **Writer's Group** meets on the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is **Tuesday, December 27, at 7:30 p.m.** in Pollock-Williams Hall. For more information, contact Ginger Gibson.



The **BPC Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of each month. They will meet this month on December 13. For time and location, call Jane Mote, 301-972-5717.



The **Mission and Merriment** group will meet December 12 and 26th at 11 a.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall. Call Jane Mote or Ginger Gibson for further information. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.



Address Changes

Merritt, Jeff and Diana

26776 Hamden Drive
Salisbury, MD 21801

Duggan, Lois

3405 Monarch Drive
Edgewater, MD 21037
410-798-9440



Worship Attendance

Nov.	Adults	Child	Teens	2005	2004
6 th	106	1	4	111	79
13 th	98	7	5	110	113
20 th	92	5	7	104	116
27 th	96	1	2	99	115



Stewardship ... a partnership with God!

November 13, **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**, was a wonderful celebration and praise for the Lord's work in and through Boyds Presbyterian. Approximately 152 people attended the Thanksgiving Dinner. To date, **75 pledges** have been received totaling **\$196,348**. The 2006 boxes of offering envelopes will be placed in the church vestibule on December 18. A warm thank you goes to Edna Reffit for coordinating the dinner, along with those who helped her in the kitchen: Marolyn Curry, Mary Virts, Grace Turner, Jeannie Warfield, Kay Curtis, and Dick Ernst; as well as those who helped set up: Ed and Brian Broadwell, Bill Fitzwater, Rowland and Linda New, Keith Vail, Bill Graf, Dick and Juanita Ernst, David, Hazel, Michael, Kate and Kelly Christensen, Steve and Ginger Gibson, and all those who cleaned up.



Appreciation and gratitude: to David Ashley for the wonderful new signs in Pollock-

Williams Hall and for repairing the names on the stain-glass windows (*David's business is "Signs One Hour" located at 19600 Frederick Road, Germantown*); Leslie Kohler for the countless hours repairing and upgrading the currently data base; Jeff Thatcher for trimming the hedges outside Pollock-William Hall by the parking lot; John Burdette, Chris Rau, Jim Pederson for trimming the hedges in front of the church; Marsha Ford for cleaning the windows in Kerr Fellowship Hall; Lisa Evans and Lisa Fiedler for organizing the Children's Christmas Workshop and Holiday Craft Fair on November 19; Jennie Broadwell, Jane Dassen and Marolyn Curry for the new set of banners depicting Jesus calming the waters; Arthur Virts for raising and lowering the cemetery flag when needed, as well as placing flags of veteran's graces honoring them on Veteran's Day; Ed and Jeannie Broadwell, for hosting the November fellowship; and to Sally Ertter and Mary Fitzwater for cleaning the sanctuary during November, as well as providing the Christmas wreaths on the church doors; Jane Mote for making the Advent Wreath for the communion table.

A special note: *Thank you to all of the adults and youth helpers that volunteered to help with the Children's Christmas Craft Workshop on Nov. 19. It was a big success! There was lots of paint, glue, glitter and smiling faces. As you begin decorating your trees and homes this year, tuck away any inspired ideas for next year! I'm already making my list! Again thank you and much appreciation. ---Lisa Evans*

Each year, families or two to three people, pick a month to weekly **clean the church sanctuary**. The 2006 signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.



Christian Education



Bad Weather Action

Plan: Because many teachers live a distance from

the church, sometimes it's necessary to cancel Sunday School due to snow or ice. If Sunday School is cancelled, Rev. Ednie will call all the teachers and put a message on the church answering machine before 8:00 a.m. that Sunday. Parents then may call the children's teachers or church. What is never cancelled is the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services, as long as Rev. Ednie is able to walk!



An **Adult Study Group** meets Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the church library. After the Advent Study and holidays, they will begin a new study in January 2006 from the series called *Witnessing: How to Give Away Your Faith*.

An **Adult Sunday School** meets in the first room on the left in the education building. They currently are studying the Book of Romans from the "Interpretation Bible Studies" series. Ask Ginger Gibson or Marj Turbyfill for copies.

The 2006 Winter Fellowship of Christian Athletes Sports Club Season Registration is now open! It's time once again to mark your calendars (and register) for the 2006 Winter FCA Sports Club season. This year in addition to basketball, we will be offering two new sports! Wrestling and Poms. All activities will be conveniently offered at Rocky Hill Middle School every other Sunday beginning January 8th. **Everyone must register** in order to participate this year so use the link below to get all the details including a registration form. We have a great coaching staff committed to helping each and every athlete sharpen his or her skills and you are guaranteed to have lots of fun so don't wait, sign up today! We are looking forward to seeing everyone again in January and don't forget --- invite a friend! Contact Kevin Hutto at 301-775-2615 with any questions regarding the program.

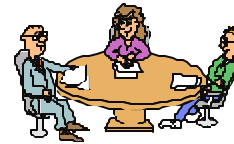
<http://www.metromdfca.org/FCASportsGameClub/Schedule.lsp>



Prayer List

Prayers for those who grieve: family of **George Youngerman**, who died on November 26; family of **Ralph Sewell**, Linda Abbott's father, who died on December 2; family of **Ron Brewington**, April's husband, who died on November 25; **Vicki Crawford**, whose mother died on November 24; family of **Elwyn Pratt**, Bill Graf's brother-in-law, who died on December 3.

Prayers for those who need comfort and healing: **Chuck Turbyfill; Hurshel Deavours; Henri Dassen; Arthur Leach; Susanne Johnson; Patsy and Arnie Nygaard; Aimee DeReggi; Tyler Dressel; Dawson Clay; Shane Chazin; Sarah Katz; Tracy Hahn; Thelma DeFriece**, friend of Anne Davies; **Kathy Newell**, Jennifer Schrock's cousin; Melane Hoffmann's father; **Joe and Georgia Clay**, Debbie's parents; **all military personal** particularly those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; those recovering from their wounds, and their families.



Session, Trustees, and Deacons

The **Session** met on November 7. Rev. Ednie reported the wedding of John and Emily Riner on October 15; communion was planned for Nov. 20; a discussion centered on changing the church by-laws to include a one year term on the Board of Deacons for church youth; reviewed the 2006 Challenge Budget and Stewardship program; received a report from the Task Force searching for additional part time staff to help with Christian education and youth ministry. The next meeting is **Monday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.** in Pollock-Williams Hall.

The **Board of Deacons** met on November 14. They made final plans for the Christmas Party (which was attended by 134 people); reviewed the usher

schedule for November and December and made plans to cover all the Christmas Eve Services; made final allocation of the budgeted local mission monies; discussed ways of welcoming new people into the church. The next meeting, which will be a dinner meeting, is **Monday, December 12**; the time and place to be announced.

The **Board of Trustees** met on November 15. They received a certificate of analysis that the church's well water was clear of pollutants; submitted the mail audit for Worker's Compensation; new storm doors were installed at the manse; a new water pump was installed at the manse; a new office copier may have to be purchased in 2006 since it is breaking down weekly. They reviewed the Church Cemetery By-laws and increased the cost of individual lots: BPC active communicant members from \$450 to \$500; non-communicant members from \$750 to \$900; all others from \$2,400 to \$3,000. There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting is **Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m.** in Pollock-Williams Hall.



This is an example of how to expand the church's mission projects by way of church members:

Merritt --- Just wanted to let you know that I was successful in connecting with Tina McKendree at Stepping Stones. I was in charge of our company's Thanksgiving celebration that is basically a huge pot luck event. My organizing team thought it would be good to do something like a food drive, but more special. I contacted Tina and she gave me a list of things they needed. The list was basic supplies (very humbling) like paper towels, pillows, blankets, and spray cleaners. My organizing committee put up paper posters of turkeys with "feathers of opportunity," each feather was an item from Tina's list. Each employee was asked to take a feather off the turkey, something they wanted to contribute. We collected nearly 200 items, which I dropped off that Friday afternoon. It was very gratifying. ---Doug Fiedler

Hi Doug! All I can say is "WOW!" What a wonderful collection and donation. The pillows themselves are amazing. Please extend my heartfelt thanks to your entire team that participated. This was truly a greatly needed and appreciated gift. ---Tina



Smiles (puns)

1. I went to a seafood disco last week ... and pulled a mussel.
2. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are sure?" The First replies, "Yes, I'm positive."
3. What do you call a fish with no eyes? A "fsh."
4. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

