



NEWSLETTER

Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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VOL. XVI

December, 2006

No.12



A Reminder...



The community **Tree Lighting** in front of Boyd's Post Office is scheduled for Friday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.



This Sunday, December 3 is the first Sunday in the Season of Advent. The **Lord's Supper** will be celebrated at both services.



The Session has called a special **congregational meeting** to be held this Sunday, December 3, at 10:45 a.m. (*between the worship services*) for the purpose of electing church officers.



Sunday, December 24

Worship Services: 9:30 a.m. in the James P. Kerr Fellowship Hall, a Family Advent Service (*there is no Sunday school or 11:00 a.m. service or 5:00 p.m. service*); three Christmas Eve Services --- 7:00 p.m. family candlelight; 9:00 p.m. family candlelight; 11:00 p.m. candlelight/communion

Meditation

Lesson: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. ... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace. (Isaiah 9:2b, 6, 7a)*

Advent

The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised his baton.

In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of door tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been before and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

The Salvation Army clang their bells. The sidewalks are so crowded you can hardly move. Exhaust fumes are the chief fragrance in the air, and everybody is as bundled up against any sense of what all the fuss is really about as they are bundled up against the wind chill factor.

But if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of you somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath. (Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark*)

Peace (Shalom)

Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make; something you do; something you are, and something you give away. --- *Robert Fulghum*

The welfare of each is bound up in the welfare of all. (and) I do not want the peace which passeth understanding; I want the understanding, which bringeth peace. ---Helen Keller

Taking an active part in the solution of the problems of peace is a moral duty, which no conscientious man can shirk. ---Albert Einstein

I think that people want peace so much that one of these days, government had better get out of their way and let them have it.

---Dwight D. Eisenhower.



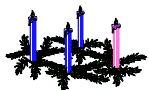
Announcements



WUMCO HELP is in need of new unwrapped toys. If you would like to donate some toys, please have them at the church by December 11th giving the Mission and Merriment group time to distribute the toys.



Christmas Caroling for the 5th through 8th grade Sunday School Class is scheduled for Friday, December 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The kids will gather in Pollock-Williams Hall before going out to carol; they will return for refreshments and can be picked up at P-W Hall.



A special **Advent Study Group** will meet on Thursdays, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The *Daily Meditations for Advent* titled

"Redeeming Light" by Robert C. Hereth will be used to help people spiritually prepare for the Christmas season.



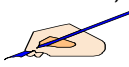
Wyatt Sayer New, grandson of Rowland and Linda New was born November 13; weighing 7lbs. 11 oz. Trever Paul Martin, son of Melissa and David was born November 14, weighing 7 lbs. 7.4 oz. Please keep in your prayers these **December expectant parents**: Kevin and Aimee Staley Weiss; Dan and Carol Koch Worrell; Thomas and Andrea McEvoy; Jerry Ruth and Melinda Tibbals.



The **Mission and Merriment** group will meet December 11 at 11 a.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall; information regarding the activity, call Jane Mote or Ginger Gibson.



The **BPC Lunch Bunch** will meet Tuesday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. For time and location, call Betty Allnutt at 301-349-5304.



The **Writer's Group** will *not* meet in December; the next meeting is January 30, 2007. Contact Libby Schleichert for further info: epschleichert@yahoo.com or 301-540-2117.



Creative Spirit is planning a field trip in late January, 2007. For more information, contact Jennie Broadwell at 301-407-0037.



The **2006 Nominating Committee** will present the following candidates for nomination: for the office of elder for a three year term, Betsy Christie, Rowland New and Mark Stunder; for the office of Deacon for a three year term, Cornelia Burr, Sally Ertter, Hammet Hough; for a two year term, Ken Beal; for a one year term, Rachel Stunder and Skylar Jewell; for the office of Trustee for a three year term, Marj Turbyfill and Don Pleasants; for the office of treasurer for a two year term, Sarah Gamage. Others may be nominated from the floor by the congregation with the consent of the one being nominated.



Confirmation Class: Rev. Ednie will conduct a class for 9th through 12th graders on four Friday evenings: February 2, 9th, 16th, and 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall. There will be a light supper served at 6:00 p.m. After receiving instruction, those who chose to confirm their faith, will meet with the church Session on March 5. Please call Rev. Ednie to convey your interest, questions, and attendance.



Church Directory changes

Terry and Alin Springer
1708 Hartsville Trail
The Villages, FL 32162

Paul Ednie
822 South Ivy Street
Arlington, VA 22204-1733

Dotty Nicholson
Indian River, Delaware



Christian Education and Youth Fellowship Activity



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 by 8:00 a.m. that Sunday morning. Parents may call the children's teachers or the church. What is never cancelled are the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services!



Every adult is invited to attend the **Adult Sunday School** class. Currently, they are studying the life of Jesus using a study guide titled *Jesus, Authentic Leader*. The class meets in the education building library at 9:30 a.m. For information regarding the class or materials, contact Marj Turbyfill at 301-972-0265, or mdmarj@earthlink.net.



The **Adult Study Group** will meet after the holidays starting Thursday, January 4 at 7:30 PM in the church library. We will start a seven week video based study from Abingdon Press by Adam Hamilton: *Confronting the Controversies; Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues*. The topics are Separation of Church and State, Creation and Evolution in Public Schools, the Death Penalty, Euthanasia, and Prayer in Public Schools, Abortion, and Homosexuality. For a study book or further information, contact Dick Ernst, 301-674-2454 or dickernst48@yahoo.com.



Stewardship ... a partnership with God!

November 12, **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**, was a wonderful celebration and praise for the Lord's work in and through Boyds Presbyterian. Approximately 165 people attended the Thanksgiving Dinner. To date, **67 pledges** have been received totaling **\$170,030**. The 2007 boxes of offering envelopes will be placed in the church vestibule on December 10. A warm thank you goes to Edna Reffit for coordinating the dinner, along with those who helped her in the kitchen: Marie Allnutt; Marolyn Curry, Mary Virts, Grace Turner, Kay Curtis, and Dick Ernst; as well as those who helped set up: Dick Ernst, Hazel, Michael, Kate and Kelly Christensen, Marolyn Curry, Mary Virts, and Edna Reffit, and all those who cleaned up.



Appreciation and gratitude: to **Sally Ertter and Mary Fitzwater** for cleaning the church sanctuary during November, as well as the decorating Pollock-Williams Hall for Christmas; to **David and Jennifer Carpenter** and **Greg and Alisa Mitchell** for hosting a fellowship during November; to those who contributed to the Pot Luck Fellowship; to **John Burdette** and **Chris Rau** for trimming the hedges in front of the church; **Arthur Virts** for fixing the flag pole in the cemetery, as well as placing flags on veteran's graves for Veteran's Day; **Lisa Evans** for organizing and coordinating the Children's Christmas Workshop.

A **Special Thank You** goes to all of the adults and youth helpers that volunteered to help with the Children's Christmas Craft Workshop on November 18: Betsy Christie, Sara and Cory Gamage, Missy Lankler, Celeste Kelly, Jana Shupe, Jennie and Brian Broadwell, Dee Smith, Sarah Santini, Karen and Jenny Unruh, Cornelia Burr, Dreama Hemingway, Amanda Toone, Cathy Jewell, Amy Stunder, Will Korzeniewski, Sarah Carpenter, Bailey Bodell and Hannah Putt. 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, coordinator



Families or individuals are asked to pick one month to **clean the church sanctuary** weekly. The 2007 signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.



Prayer List

Prayers for those who grieve: the family of **Kenny Gamble**; who died in November, the family of **Lawrence Richards** who died on November 24; the family of **Thomas Epting** who died on November 24.

Prayers for those who need comfort: Margaret Jordan; George Jewell, Todd's father; Gail King, Sarah Gamage's mother; Anne Davies; Mary Naylor; Connor Long; Karly Long; Nic Criddle; Bill and Helen Owens; Jeri Hough; Betty and Ernst Hartline; Henri Dassen; Georgia Clay; Jessica Howard; Delores Jeter; John Tyner; Ann Schmidt; Tracy Conner; Judy Gottleib; Lydia Rock; Chris Stevens; Ethan Sharlow; Steve Kennedy; Alice Page; Jim Allen; Mabel Myers; Mike Gargiulo.

Military personal: Sally Ertter's grandson Michael Watkins; Rusty and Kathy Turner's son Danny Turner deployed to Iraq; all military and civilian personal serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; those recovering from their wounds; particularly Christopher Claude, Geraldine Barteel's grandson.

Global Prayers: the people of Darfur, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Congo, Niger, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan,

Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine (*pray constantly for peace in the Middle East*).



Soldier Care Packages: During the month of November, the Mission and Merriment group, packaged supplies for military personnel serving in Iraq. Thirteen boxes weighing over 275 pounds filled with toiletries, socks, food, and activity bags were packed and mailed to a unit of Marines near Baghdad. A heartfelt "thank you" goes to everyone who contributed to make this mission project a blessed success.

A letter from the American Red Cross

Dear Pastor Merritt,

Usually I do not write thank you notes for the Red Cross due to my lousy penmanship. In this case, I must make an exception.

Lorraine Jones has been one of the Boyd's angels who has been the link between you and the soldiers.

This is a true story I am about to tell you. This morning a soldier with severe leg injuries came down on an upright stretcher with his aunt and beautiful daughter. It was the first time out of his room. He needed to get something to cover his feet. The fleece fixture covers were absolutely perfect. Having been in such hot weather he was extra cold. We had the perfect fleece jacket for him. He showed emotion upon receiving this.

As if Boyd's Angels had not done enough, next came a soldier who wondered if we had something warm he could wear in his wheelchair. He chose one of the blankets the Mission and Merriment group made and was so appreciative. This is a long winded way of telling you how your continued support and generosity is helping in the most personal way - Keeping our uniformed men and women warm and healthy and cared about.

We could do nothing without you. Thank you ever so much.

God bless you abundantly,

Kate Coopersmith, *Volunteer on behalf of the ARC at Walter Reed Army Medical Center*



Worship Attendance

November	Adults	Child	Teens	2006	2005
5 th	84	3	1	88	111
12 th	108	7	2	117	110
19 th	77	3	0	80	104
26 th	89	3	1	93	99



Smiles

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two deacons standing by the door? They're hushers!"

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Announcements in church bulletins

1. The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals;
2. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus;"
3. Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help;
4. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs;
5. The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict;
6. The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door;
7. Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation;
8. Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottle and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

