



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2017

Court Street United Methodist Church

Reflection for Christmas

Imagine, Jesus, the Son of God and our Savior born in a stable and placed in a manger. When God comes he usually comes in humility, silently and peacefully, without causing a great disturbance. God's humble coming in Jesus would not surprise us if we knew God better. But of course we will never know God sufficiently to understand. So no matter how much we try to understand God becoming human in Jesus we will not be able to comprehend, it will remain a mystery. The best reaction is that of the shepherds, simply to praise God. Let us praise God now in our own words. As we look on baby Jesus we think of the mystery of God's love for us. Why did God who is almighty and all-powerful become small and powerless as a baby? Quite simply, out of love for us. God became human so that we might become more like God. If Jesus had not come as a human like us, we might have had difficulty in believing that God really loves us. But now we know for sure. John the Evangelist says, *"This is the revelation of God's love for us, that God sent his only Son into the world that we might have life through him"*. Let us thank God for revealing his love for us in Jesus, that he who is so big and powerful became so small and weak for us, that he became one of us, to help us be more like him, to have life through him. As we see baby Jesus in the manger we reflect on God's way being a way of gentleness and tenderness. God's way is not one of violence but gentleness. There is a lack of goodness and love in the world but God is tender and loving. As we look on baby Jesus in the manger we see that he is the answer to today's problems. Instead of violence, in baby Jesus in the manger we see gentleness. Instead of hatred, in baby Jesus in the manger we see tenderness. Instead of selfishness, in baby Jesus in the manger we see love for us. Let us ask Jesus to help us to be gentle, tender and loving with those around us as he was in the manger. Jesus in the manger, you give us hope. In the darkness of our world, your light has shone. Your coming in gentleness encourages us to hold out the hand of reconciliation, to help one another, to work for peace. We remember the message of the angels; *"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace"*. Jesus, help us to be people of peace and to spread peace everywhere we go. Let us pray now for peace.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHER PEOPLE, SERVE BOTH



Musical Musings

Anthems for December



December 3rd

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come, by Paul Manz

Twice named “one of the Ten Most Influential Lutherans”, and listed among the “101 Most Notable Organists of the 20th Century”, American composer Paul Manz is especially known for his works for choir and organ. His most famous composition, the poignantly moving Advent motet “E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” is based upon Revelation 22:20, and has been performed in the prestigious King's College Christmas Eve ceremony of Lessons and Carols.

December 10th

Lessons & Carols

Court Street's annual tradition of Lessons and Carols continues in our morning service, featuring a combination of scripture, choral anthems, and congregational singing. Anthems will include Benjamin Britten's energetic “Deo Gracias”, from *A Ceremony of Carols*, and movements of Camille Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*.

December 17th

Of the Father's Love Begotten, arr. Matthew Lundquist

“Of the Father's Love Begotten” is a translation of an ancient Latin poem dating back to the fourth century, set to plainchant melody from the sixteenth century, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM. Lundquist's beautiful arrangement retains the chant quality, alternating phrases between sections of the choir.

December 24th

Christmas Eve Worship and Candlelight

Christmas Eve morning and afternoon services will feature soloists from Court Street's fine Chance Choir, and congregational singing of carols. Don't miss it!

*Thank
you*



The Sweeney family would like to thank the church and its many members for sending cards, donations, flowers, food, thoughts and prayers during Bill's long health decline and after his passing. Giving us much comfort. Thanks to all ~ *Nada Sweeney*



Every 2nd Thursday is
Lunch with members living at
Westminster-Canterbury

Join us on December 14th
Fauber 2 - 11:30am

**DUE TO RENOVATIONS; THIS
WILL BE OUR LAST LUNCHEON
UNTIL JUNE 2018**

A Family Holiday Extravaganza



DECEMBER 17

3:00 P.M.

E. C. Glass High School Civic Auditorium

Music from the movies!

How the Grinch Stole Christmas Albert Hague, with narration

It's A Wonderful Life Suite Dimitri Tiomkin

Frozen Anderson-Lopez

Toy Symphony Leopold Mozart,
complete with toys that make noises!

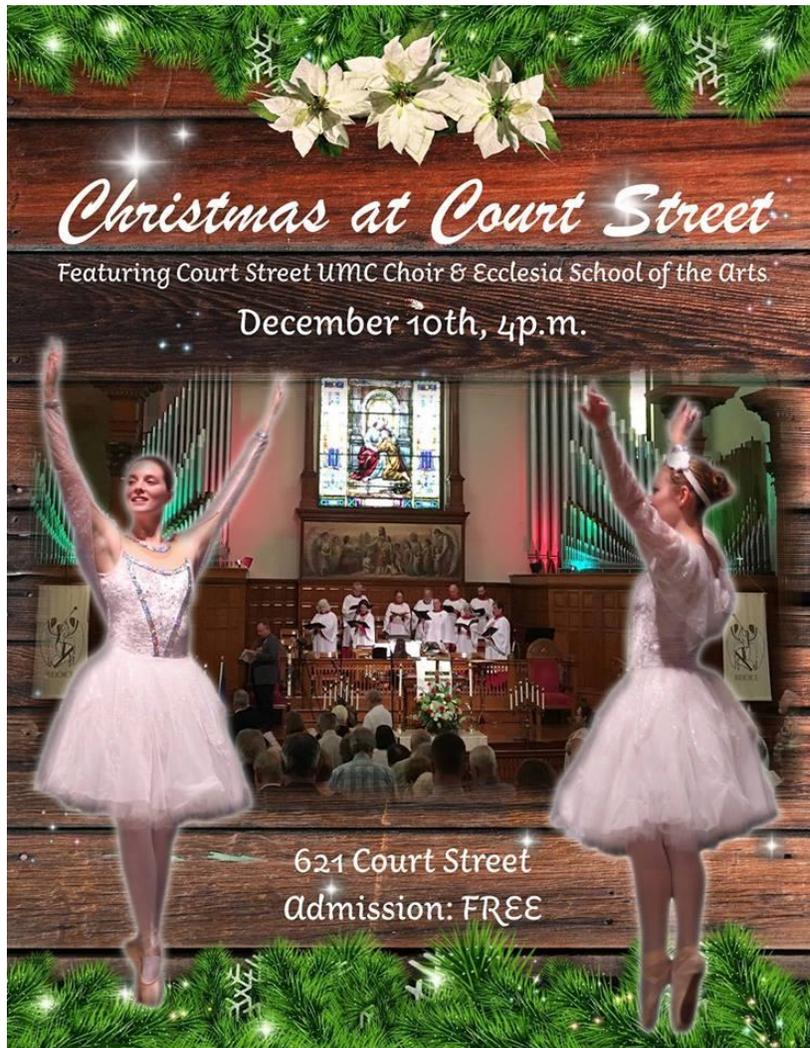
Sing-A-Long Finale of Familiar Carols
to celebrate the Season!

*This holiday concert is generously sponsored by
Martin & Lee Ann Parece*

Christmas at Court Street

Featuring Court Street UMC Choir & Ecclesia School of the Arts

December 10th, 4p.m.



621 Court Street
Admission: FREE

The Hall twins are in the play!!!
Taylor is "The New Star"

"THE NEW STAR"



A CHRISTMAS PLAY

BY CENTENARY'S YOUNGEST

DECEMBER 17TH

4:00PM

Centenary United Methodist Church
1501 Rivermont Ave. Lynchburg, VA 24503

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Birthdays	December Anniversaries	January Birthdays	
Hunter Alan Tyree December 02	Shelley & Bill Burleigh Dec. 16	Eddie Letchford January 01	
Milton West December 03	Bobbi & Randy Hurst Dec. 23	Jackie Parman January 02	
Brennalynn Diuguid December 05	Eleanor & Doug Pillow Dec. 24	David Hudnall January 03	
Phil Ripley December 05	January Anniversaries	Doris Lee Spriggs January 06	
Nancy Russell December 06	Brenda & Andy Whitehead Jan 04	Bobby Brown January 08	
Elizabeth Larkin December 07	Cheryl & Milton West Jan 25	Chelsie Price January 08	
Adam Bryant December 09		Patsy Wilkinson January 13	
Jeff Thaxton December 11		Meg Case January 15	
Suzanne Baker December 12		William Eric Sweeney January 17	
Susan Cobbs December 12		Eric Johnson January 19	
Lisa Thaxton December 14		Patti Montgomery January 19	
Randy Hurst December 20		Shelley Burleigh January 20	
Douglas Thom December 28		Dolly Clingempeel January 25	
Ray Pulliam December 30		Ray Brooks January 31	
Anne Langley December 31			

MISSIONS – BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS



THE ACC CHRISTMAS STORE ~ THANK YOU

The Missions committee would like to thank the members who donated items to the Christmas Store for the Adult Care Center. This gives participants at the ACC the ability to pick out a present for a loved one. The presents will be wrapped by the ACC staff and sent home with the participant.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Court Street provided pastries, coffee and creamers for the staff at Madison Heights Elementary School during American Education Week to recognize their dedication to their students. Thank you to Susan Leazer for delivering the goodies to the school.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR AND DEVOTIONS

Each day during Advent add an item from the list below to a reusable shopping/tote bag. Bring the bag to our *Christmas Eve Service* to be donated to Lynchburg Daily Bread.

Tote bags and a devotion book from Society of St. Andrew are available in the Bishop Early Hall while supplies last!

Suggestions from Lynchburg Daily Bread:

Razors, Soap, Lotion, Shampoo/conditioner, Good lip balm, Deodorant, Tissues, Band-aids, Socks, Gloves, Gift Card to McDonalds or Coffee Shop, Healthy snacks (trail mix/granola bars/peanuts), Hand soap, Dish detergent, Wipes, “Hot Hands”, Cans of tuna/chicken



Couple opens home to Randolph College students staying on campus for Thanksgiving



For students who attend college far away, going home for Thanksgiving sometimes is not an option.

Karen and Randy Speer were stuck on campus for Thanksgiving when they were in college, so when they started working for Randolph College in 2000 they decided to open their home and serve Thanksgiving dinner to students in the same situation.

Please follow the link to read the full article about Karen and Randy Speer.

http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/couple-opens-home-to-randolph-college-students-staying-on-campus/article_7fd607a7-8e97-5bb5-baea-f1147ece0a8d.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

What a wonderful and generous thing to do for Thanksgiving. How truly proud we are to say they are vital members of our congregation here at Court Street!

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Robert Shober – Fort Bragg, NC, son of *Eva Lee and *Reiman Shober
Kenny Kincaid and children, son of *Bobbi and *Randy Hurst

SICK

Ray Brooks – P.O. Box 2804; Lynchburg, VA 24505
*Clara Gurkin - 501 V.E.S. Road, Drinkard 613, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Bobby McDaniel – 3743 Woodside Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Ann & Phil Ripley – 1101 Federal Street; Lynchburg, VA 24504
Sylvia Shuff - Mother-in-Law of *Pastor Bill Burleigh
*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Audrey Tyree – P. O. Box 4463, Lynchburg, VA 24502
*Mary Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502

* Church members

GOD
ROCK
SAVIOR
MESSIAH
IMMANUEL
HOLY • CHILD
MIGHTY • GOD
LORD • OF • ALL
LAMB • OF • GOD
CHRIST • OF • GOD
KING • OF • KINGS
THE • WORD • OF • GOD
ALPHA • AND • OMEGA
PRINCE • OF • PEACE
LIGHT • OF • THE • WORLD
HEAD • OF • THE • CHURCH
SON • OF • THE • HIGHEST
EVERLASTING • FATHER
RESURRECTION • AND • LIFE
JESUS

Update on Capital Campaign for church repairs:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 11/26/17	\$239,526
Balance needed to reach goal	\$60,274
Received to Date	\$184,286
Received since last update	\$950
Elevator fund	\$10,028

Gifts in Memory

To the General Fund in memory of:

William "Bill" Sweeney by:

Susan Cobbs, Anne Langley, Bill Puckett, Shanda & Garnett Horner, Elizabeth & Michael Gamble, Nancy & Eugene Farley, Sarah Moore, Eleanor Dennis, Barbara & Lowell Sykes, Dr. & Mrs. William Hobbs, Jr., Ellen & David Petty, Lynne & George Walker, Jr. Kathy Mason, Chiswell Logan, Elizabeth & J.S. Johnston

To the Elevator Fund in memory of William "Bill" Sweeney by:

George Clark

To the Capital Campaign in memory of William "Bill" Sweeney

By: Eleanor & Doug Pillow

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetumcva.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact Randy Hurst at:
rwhurstva@gmail.com or (910) 443-4865 on or before Wednesdays to have
events and notices posted on the church website.
(The newsletter, The Courier, is also on the website)

