



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Court Street United Methodist

Rudolph

Since I was a kid I have always loved the story of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Rudolph became a major phenomenon in 1949, when Gene Autry recorded the musical version of Rudolph's story. Millions of copies of the cowboy singer's record were immediately sold, including one that an aunt bought for me one Christmas season. I played it so many times that year that, as Christmas day approached, my parents threatened to hide the record from me. As a child I puzzled a bit about the story. I had been a passenger in many cars on foggy evenings, and I knew that even two bright headlights could not really cut through the fog. What difference would Rudolph's glowing red nose make as a navigational aid on a foggy Christmas Eve? But still, the story resonated with me. Any child who has ever been teased on the playground, or who has typically been picked last when sides are being chosen for a game, will know exactly what it is like to be the one about whom "*all of the other reindeer/ used to laugh and call him names/ They never let poor Rudolph/ join in any reindeer games.*" J.R.R. Tolkein once made the case that the classic fairy story is a unique literary genre. He called it the good catastrophe. Every fairy tale, he pointed out, depicts a seemingly hopeless situation followed by a highly unlikely turn of events, with the result that "*they lived happily ever after.*" (Think handsome prince gets turned into a frog, and then beautiful princess kisses the frog.) Devout Catholic that he was, Tolkein went on to observe that the Christian Gospel has that very same structure — with the difference being that the Christian story, he said, is "*the true fairy tale.*" The Rudolph story has that same fairy tale structure. The despised one suddenly becomes the hero. That is not only a powerful lesson to a schoolyard kid. It also speaks to the hopes and fears that visit all of our lives. I don't hear Rudolph mentioned much in Christmas sermons. But one that stands out in my memory is from those early days. The preacher complained about this new character that had come upon the scene. It was yet another effort, he said, to divert our attention from the true meaning of Christmas. I'm not inclined to agree. It may be that, properly understood, the Rudolph story can actually nudge us in the direction of the Babe of Bethlehem. But back to the glowing red nose. The Christmas story is also about a world in which the usual lights are not enough to cast off the darkness that oppresses our lives. Rudolph gave it a nice try, but in the final analysis he was yet another light provider who cannot really get the job done adequately. Here too, the original Christmas story does the other stories one better: The Palestinian shepherds were tending their sheep on a very dark night, when suddenly "an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them." That light showed not only went down in history, it is profoundly good news for those of us who, while surrounded by much darkness, know that a wonderful source of Light has come into the world.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

A BABY BORN IN A STABLE; GLORY TO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.



Musical Musings

Anthems for December



December 1ST ~ First Sunday of Advent

“Advent Carol,” by Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Dale Wood launched his composing career when he was only 13 years old, winning a national Lutheran hymn contest. Born and raised in California, his entire career was spent in that state, in Hollywood, Riverside, and San Francisco. His contribution to sacred music in the twentieth century as editor, author, organist and conductor is indelible. His “Advent Carol” is a fine example of his hymn-based work, celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ for our redemption.

December 8TH ~ Second Sunday of Advent

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Michael Praetorius is considered one of the most versatile composers of his time. His most significant contribution was to the development of musical forms based on Lutheran hymns. Almost four centuries after his death, his work is still widely known – mostly through the beloved carol, “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming.”

DON’T MISS IT! The Chancel Choir is joining forces with the Randolph College Chorale and Chamber Orchestra Sunday evening, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Randolph College’s Houston Memorial Chapel for a Christmas Vespers program of readings, carols, and beautiful music. Come join us!

December 15TH ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Festival of Lessons & Carols

Our traditional lessons and carols, assisted by a string chamber ensemble, including well-known carols and selections attributed to J.S. Bach and new arrangements by Randall Speer.

December 22ND ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Sing We Now of Christmas,” arranged by Mark Patterson

A fresh arrangement of a favorite old French carol, “Sing We Now of Christmas” is a beautiful and exciting herald of Christmas Day.

December 24TH ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Helen Ford, soloist

December 29TH ~ First Sunday After Christmas

Randall Speer, soloist

DECEMBER’S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS ~ SUNDAYS ~ 9:45AM

December 1: **“Trusting with Hope”**, Anne Langley

December 8: **“Faith and Hope”**, Lewis Johnson

December 15: **“Hope for New Things”**, Richard Chaffin

December 22: **“Hope Fulfilled”**, Richard Chaffin

December 29: **“Hope for Spirit-Filled Living”**, Richard Chaffin



Lunch at Westminster

**Every 2nd Thursday is
Lunch with members living at
Westminster-Canterbury**
Join us on December 12TH
Fauber 2 - 11:30am



ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKS are available in the Bishop Early Hall courtesy of The Society of St. Andrew. Please take one for yourself and another to share with a friend or neighbor.



ECCUMENICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Christmas Party at the Shepherd's will be Sunday December 15th from 1-4 pm. 2299 Glencove Place; Please contact the Shepherds (434) 851-4849 for directions.



CHRISTMAS MISSION the church has 4 James Crossing and area neighborhood families with 11 children total who need help providing for Christmas. All gifts should be returned to the church by December 8th so they can be delivered to and distributed by the school system. A big **THANK YOU** to the members who signed up to help!

POINSETTIAS will be in the Sanctuary on Sunday December 22ND for the 11:00am service and the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service. You can pick up your poinsettias after the service on Christmas Eve. Order your poinsettias by Monday the 16th. Please plan to join us Christmas Eve at 4:00pm for our candlelight service and invite family and friends to come with you. This service is always a wonderful way to begin the celebration of the birth of Christ.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AND SUPPORT OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AT COURT STREET!!!

*Lynchburg Symphony Youth
Orchestra & Junior Strings*
*With Special Guests from the Lynchburg City Schools
Elementary Honors Strings*

PRESENTS

**SOUNDS
OF THE
SEASON**

*Sunday
December 15th, 2019
3:00 pm
EC Glass Auditorium*

The poster features a white background with a treble clef on the left. The right side is decorated with a branch of a Christmas tree with red berries. The text is in various fonts, including bold serif and elegant script.

ECCLESIA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS PRESENTS

The Nutcracker

December 13th
7:00 p.m.

December 14th
2:00 p.m.

R. S. Payne Elementary
Lynchburg, Virginia

Tickets range from
\$10.00 - \$14.00

To purchase tickets visit
EcclesiaArts.com

Ecclesia
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

These materials, and the activity described herein, are not sponsored or endorsed by the Lynchburg City School Board.

The poster features a ballerina in a white tutu performing a dance move against a blue, snowy background. A large, stylized nutcracker figure is visible in the background. The text is in white and gold.

THANKGIVING EVE COMMUNITY DINNER was a great success! We served dinner to over 200 people from all walks of life – we had doctors, lawyers, politicians, homeless. People who were Jewish, Muslim and Christians who sat down and had a wonderful meal without conflict. We just enjoyed the company of each other and the simple things in life like a slice of turkey with some gravy and potatoes. That is something to be thankful for! Thank you to all who came out and participated. This was a joint effort with Lighthouse Mission; All Peoples Church, Marsh Memorial UMC and of course, Court Street UMC.

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	David Hudnall January 03
Brennalynn Diuguid December 05		Doris Lee Spriggs January 06
Phil Ripley December 05		Bobby Brown January 08
Nancy Russell December 06		Patsy Wilkinson January 13
Elizabeth Larkin December 07		William Eric Sweeney January 17
Adam Bryant December 09		Eric Johnson January 19
Jeff Thaxton December 11		Patti Montgomery January 19
Suzanne Baker December 12		Shelley Burleigh January 20
Susan Cobbs December 12		
Lisa Thaxton December 14		
Randy Hurst December 20		
Ray Pulliam December 30		
Anne Langley December 31		
	January Anniversaries Brenda & Andy Whitehead Jan 04 Cheryl & Milton West Jan 25	



PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Travis Dean Burleigh – 5271 Avenue Unit 373, Shepherd AFB, TX 76311
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

Robert Shober – Fort Bragg, NC, son of *Eva Lee and *Reiman Shober

SICK (Church members*)

*Patsy Cundiff – 1559 Lexington Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh

*Warren Martin – 174 Salisbury Circle, Lynchburg, VA 24502

*Eleanor Pillow – 1201 Langhorne Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Ann & Phil Ripley – 60 Jill Alison Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176

*Eva Shober - 172 Shober Lane, Monroe, VA 24574

Sylvia Shuff - Mother-in-Law of Rev. Bill Burleigh

Noah Slocum – 698 Don Pablo Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Great Nephew of Karen and Randall Speer

*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Elaine St. Vincent – 501 VES Road Drinkard 415, Lynchburg, VA 24503

* Church members

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 11/24/19	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$207,016
Received since last update	\$550.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	Nutcracker Rehearsals 4pm-7pm	LSYO rehearsal 3pm – 7pm LSO rehearsal 7pm-10pm APC Ladies Fellowship 7pm – 9pm Wesley Guild	AGLOW 9am Bible Study 7pm	Lunch at Westminster 11:30am Faubert 2		LSO Rehearsals 9AM – 1PM Unity in Our Community 9AM ~ Wesley Guild Nutcracker Rehearsals 1pm-4pm All Peoples Worship Service ~ 6pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am			Bible Study 7pm			IOA Open House Court Street ~ 1PM ESA cast party 4PM All Peoples Worship Service 6pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	ACC Board Meeting 10AM		Bible Study 7pm			All Peoples Worship Service 6pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am		Church Office Closed Candlelight Service 4pm	Christmas Church Office Closed			All Peoples Worship Service 6pm
29	30	31	January 1			
Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am		LSYO 3pm – 7pm Refectory	Church office closed			

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.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

