

As the Christmas holiday approaches I would like to encourage you to remember that Christmas is a holiday that celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I know that much of the world gets caught up in commercialism and focuses entirely too much on spending more money than they have at Christmas time. As a follower of Jesus, I admonish you to be prayerful and exercise wisdom this Christmas.



Know that the greatest thing we need in our lives, this and every season, is to know that God is with us. One writer put it this way:  
“What begins in the stable ends in our salvation. That’s why we celebrate Christmas, and it’s the best and only reason the human heart needs” (Charles J. Chaput).

Jesus is Emmanuel, which means God with us! This is what our children really need to know. Jesus is not only the Babe of Bethlehem, but He is also the Son who was born to live for our righteousness, and to die for our sins. Christ is the missing piece to life. Without Him our lives are incomplete. With Him our lives, even in their most complex or disappointing parts, make sense.

Jesus is with us! This is what our middle and high school youth and college age young people need to know. In the middle of their trials, identity issues, betrayals by friends, struggles to find their way in the world, and dreams for a great future, the Babe of Bethlehem, now the enthroned Christ of all Creation, is with them. This is the message of hope to single people, and single-again people, and young married people, and families with children and families without children, empty-nesters and young retired folks and senior saints. Even ministers of the gospel need this message. The light we long for is the Light we have been given. To receive Him is to be warmed by that Light and shown a new way through the trials and sorrows and even joys that we have on our journey.

This Christmas we bow again before the King, happy and confident that in Him all things turn out for our good and His glory.

*“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* John 8:12

This is our gift. This is our Christmas. And this is our hope for every New Year.  
Shalom.

Your brother in Christ,

*Pastor Joe*

Pastor Joe

## TRUSTEE REPORT

Although this is our Holiday Greeting to our members and friends, we continue to report repair problems, primarily with heat. First the elevator then the heat/AC for Fellowship Hall.

We have the elevator under control, mechanically speaking, including quarterly inspections. We have spent over \$5,000 this year alone and we do have a balance due of \$1,400. We had a small balance in the elevator account but in addition, we had to use some of the bequest balance from Bobby Jones' account because elevator contributions have been discontinued. If anyone cares to continue a small weekly or monthly contribution, it would be appreciated and offset quarterly inspections.

Second problem was heat (or lack thereof) in Fellowship Hall. When we installed the new heater in 2011 we also had to replace one heat pump for air conditioning supplement. However, the second unit was not replaced and recently needed repair. The total cost of \$894. Hopefully the Trustees can help with these expenses. We have tried to be very judicious with bequests we have received and have made a genuine effort to keep up with the repairs. We just need the problems to STOP. God bless you all for your cooperation and help.

We have been in discussion with several contractors regarding snow removal. All prices were comparable. We reviewed these prices with our current contractor, David Leager and he will be able to reduce our snow removal cost by obtaining less expensive salt mixture and modifying use of heavy equipment as permitted. Some JOLLY news for us: We are participating with Marshallton Civic Association for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The Mill Creek Fire truck with Santa will be at the cul-de-sac across from the church at 4:30p.m. on December 7<sup>th</sup> – FREE gift for every child.

Back to the church for FREE hot dogs, pizza, hot chocolate, AND after we eat, plenty of singing. Please participate in all three – TREE LIGHTING – EATING – SINGING.

May we all remember we welcome our Savior's birth in December and we extend God's Blessing to our entire congregation, friends and families

Betty Tull  
President, Trustees

## **36 Attended the First Circuit Leadership Gathering!**

Thanks to all who spent a Sunday afternoon at Christ UMC on November 16<sup>th</sup>! All three congregations were engaged in a conversation aimed at getting to know each other and identifying ways we might connect. This is generally how the day went....

We shared a devotion based on Matthew 28: 16-20 -The Great Commission, and Ephesians 4:1-16 - Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ, recognizing our charge is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in a way that strengthens our base by building a real and felt “connection” among the three churches while appreciating each unique congregation. We seek to identify, prioritize and engage in outreach to the extended Marshallton, Cedars and Elsmere communities.

Some of the metrics we might consider to gage our progress and in making choices are

- The number of unchurched persons touched in a positive way for Christ, and
- The number of opportunities to work in ministry together across church boundaries.

We sat together at tables of 8 for discussion, and listened to a representative from each church present what is current in areas of mission, discipleship, worship and facilities. After each topic was presented by the three congregations, we discussed and listed any connect points that we might look into and what additional information would be useful to know. The mood was positive and the atmosphere was energized! Ideas flowed and are too numerous to include them all here. The most frequently listed connect points are listed below.

- The Alpha Program
- Combined VBS and Youth programs
- Combined Newsletter (or events page)
- Combined prayer chain (email/phone)
- ACT (Audio-visual, Communications and Technology) team
- Cantata
- Special music programs
- New Contemporary Worship service
- Combined Bible Studies
- Shared missions: Food Closet, Urban Promise, Family Promise, Conference missions, more...
- Shared discretionary fund
- Shared list of service providers

As we closed the meeting, we invited all present to take a Spiritual Gifts Assessment tool with them, complete it and mail the answer sheet back to Deacon Kymm before January 1. If you are interested in taking this inventory and learning your Spiritual Gifts, pick one up in your church office or email [Kymm.k.hockman@dupont.com](mailto:Kymm.k.hockman@dupont.com). In-person opportunities to take this will be announced in January. A congregational survey will also be distributed in January to gather some additional information before our next gathering in February 2015.

What a great start! The Holy Spirit was with us and will continue to guide us through this “New Day” in ministry together. A heartfelt THANKS to all who participated and who will do so in the future.

Peace,  
Deacon Kymm

## **MISSIONS REPORT DECEMBER 2014**

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Once again this year we acted as a Relay Collection center for Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse project. The annual shoe box campaign known as Operation Christmas Child ended on November 24<sup>th</sup> for 2014. There were 14 volunteers from our congregation who worked the various shifts during collection week. Although there was significant idle time during several of the shifts, the volunteers certainly became better acquainted with one another during those times.

The good news is that we collected a total of 389 shoe boxes from the MUMC congregation and surrounding churches. Although we did not break the MUMC record from last year of 117 shoe boxes, we did receive a creditable 97 shoe boxes from our own congregation.

Many thanks and blessings go to the members of our congregation who were able to contribute one or more shoe boxes for this worthy charity. Special thanks and blessings go to the volunteers who helped us serve as a relay collection center.

### **THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS**

A few of our members felt a special calling this year to resume our efforts to provide Thanksgiving Food baskets to a few needy families. Prompted by their Christian compassion, an appeal was made to those in our congregation who felt they were blessed with more abundance than some of us might have. This produced another show of the charitable Christian spirit of our congregation. The result was donations of enough turkeys, turkey breasts, and all the side dishes for full Thanksgiving meals to be provided to about a dozen families. Praise the lord! His will be done.

### **FOOD CLOSET**

The Food Closet operation continues at a steady pace serving roughly 30 families a week representing on average over 100 people. Each week tends to deplete our food supplies and needs continuous replenishment. Thanks go to all those in our congregation and some outside contributors whose donations have enabled us to sustain this high level of support to so many needy families in our area. Although we have on our roster 8 teams of 4 people each to serve the Food Closet operation, personal schedules sometimes preclude participation by some team members. Hence, we almost always could benefit from additional participants. Please contact Bob Tull if you would like to be a part of our Food Closet team. Praises go to the dedicated team members who have done the purchasing and stocking of the food closet.

### **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Although the Community Thanksgiving Dinner had not taken place at the time of this writing, the commitment to provide the necessary food supplies to permit it to take place has again demonstrated the unselfish generosity of our very own MUMC congregation. We always seem to hear the call and respond to the needs of others. We pray that this effort will be as successful this year as it was last year.

In His name and in His Service,  
Tom Pesickey, Missions Chair

## YOUTH GROUP

**But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory (Mark 13:24-26).**

Advent greetings to everyone! These darkened days of winter leave us longing for and searching for warmth and light. The bright lights of Christmas remind us of the Christ...long awaited by a world living in darkness. But, as I try to remind our youth...the light of Christ is always with us. We are in darkness no longer, because He has conquered sin and death!

Our youth are such a great light for our future. Although they are small in number, they are big in faith and love.

We had a fun November, even though we bid “goodbye” to our dear friend, Lorraine.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> we had an AWESOME time on the hayride on the Wilmington and Western Railroad.

We are still making plans for a possible Christmas program.....still working out the details for that.

*If you are in grades 6-12 (or know someone in that age group) and would like to learn more about our youth group, please contact me (cell 302-545-3961 or email [sharon1960@hotmail.com](mailto:sharon1960@hotmail.com)) with any questions. Also, feel free to “like” our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GTYMarshalltonUMC>). Also, if you are an adult, and would like to make a difference in the lives of our young members, I would love to hear from you.*



*Merry Christmas from all of us!  
Sharon*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It's Advent!!! In Sunday School, we are taking a break from our Veggie Tales curriculum to talk about Advent and the coming of our Lord Jesus! How exciting is that??? Thank you so much to those who have volunteered to help me with Sunday School. For December, the schedule will be as follows:

December 7 June Pesickey (tentative)  
December 12 Lynn Beatty  
December 19 Marcy Tull  
December 26 Joyce Medkeff

If we could get four more people to volunteer, then the rotation would only have to be once every eight weeks. Thanks again for all who have volunteered so far...and especially to Lori Copes who has been so faithful during Lorraine's illness and since her passing.

It is an awesome privilege to be with these young disciples. Once again, thanks to all!

*Christmas Blessings!*  
*Sharon*

**TUTORS NEEDED!** Qualifications: Warm heart and willingness to help Middle School kids with homework. Marshallton UMC will start tutoring students from Stanton Middle School in Mid-January 2015 on Sundays 4:30-5:30. We will provide general homework support to students who sign up. There will be a meeting and pizza party for Stanton parents and students here at MUMC on January 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-5:30. We hope to engage UD students as tutors as well. If interested, please contact Sharon O'Connor or Deacon Kymm Hockman. We would like enough tutors to create a rotating schedule.

## *ANGEL TREE*

**We want to make our congregation, families and friends aware that again this year we have several families in need. The Angel Wish Tree is in Fellowship Hall decorated with angels with wishes on them. Please take one or more angels and register at an available table in Fellowship Hall. Your generous support to this outreach each year is "your ministry" by helping others less fortunate.**

**Please return gift and angel no later than  
December 21 so the families can pick them up on December 22.**



# MUMS

## MARSHALLTON UNITED METHODIST SCHOOL

1105 STANTON ROAD,  
WILMINGTON, DE 19808  
PHONE: 302-994-4188  
FAX: 302-994-8838

[mums@marshallton.org](mailto:mums@marshallton.org)

### MUMS CORNER

Here it is December already and the cold weather is upon us! Christmas will be here before you know it. With all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season remember the real reason for Christmas- Christ's birth.

Once again MUMS is taking orders for Christmas greenery. We are offering grave mounds, evergreen crosses, and wooden stand up crosses, silk arrangements, wreaths and evergreen pillows. You can also order personalized ribbons for the greenery for an extra cost. Please see myself or Karen Lester for an order form. There will be two delivery dates-December 7 and December 14.

Sharon O'Connor has been volunteering once a week to come have music with the children. The children just love her and she is now working on our songs for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Have a great Christmas and keep Christ in Christmas!!

Tashia Charles-Director



# *Christmas Events for the Marshallton/Christ/Cedars UMC Circuit*



## **Sunday, December 7**

**Christmas Tree Lighting** in the circle, followed by pizza, hot dogs and refreshments in the fellowship hall. We will then go to the sanctuary for a **Christmas Carol Hymn Sing @ Marshallton**

**4:30 p.m.**

## **Monday, December 8**

**Weekday Advent service** – music provided by Frank Julian @ Marshallton

**7:00 p.m.**

## **Tuesday, December 9**

**Traditional Hymn Sing** followed by refreshments @ Christ

**7:00 p.m.**

## **Sunday, December 14**

**Traditional Christmas Cantata** presented by the choir from Marshallton in a Sunday service @ Marshallton

**11:00 a.m.**

**Traditional Christmas Cantata** presented by the choirs from Cedars and Christ in a Sunday service @ Christ

**11:00 a.m.**

## **Wednesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve service @ Cedars** - carols, Holy Communion w/candle lighting

**6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve service @ Marshallton** - carols, Holy Communion w/candle lighting

**7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve service @ Christ** - carols, Holy Communion w/candle lighting

**7:00 p.m.**



*Marshallton UMC  
1105 Stanton Rd.,  
Wilm., DE 19808  
302-994-7466*

*Christ UMC  
6 N. Clifton Ave.  
Wilm., DE 19805  
302-998-4584*

*Cedars UMC  
100 N. Harrison Ave.  
Wilm., DE 19808  
302-994-2664*

*MARSHALLTON / CEDARS UNITED METHODIST MEN*

Come at 8:30 p.m. and join the men of the church for an evening of fellowship and Thursday Night Football! It's a great way to make some new friends.  
All are welcome!!!

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - HOPE HOUSE BAGS DUE**

The gift bags or boxes we make go to Mary Mother of Hope  
(Hope House I), a women's shelter.

**ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED:**

Deodorant	Shaver
Tooth paste	Tampax / Sanitary Pads
Tooth brush	Comb or Brush
Hand or Body Lotion	Socks / Slipper Socks
Shampoo	Breath Mints or Gum
Soap	<b>NO MOUTHWASH / ALCOHOL</b>

Be sure to enclose a signed Christmas card.

Thank you for your help, Sharon McDaniel.

**Sunday, December 7 - 4:30p.m.**

**Christmas Tree Lighting** in the circle, followed by pizza, hot dogs and refreshments in the fellowship hall and a **Christmas Carol Hymn Sing** In the Sanctuary.

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - 11:00a.m. Worship Service**

Join us as our Chancel Choir presents the **Christmas Cantata, *Emmanuel; Celebrating Heaven's Child*** through narration and song. It's an event you won't want to miss.

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – The most special celebration of all – our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.** Join our community as we come together to celebrate the birth of Christ. **(7:00 pm Contemporary and Traditional Service.)**



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER, 2014

*GOD'S WORD: OFFERING US TRUE JOY*

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Mark	12:35-44	17	Isaiah	60:1-22
2	Mark	13:1-23	18	Malachi	2:17-3:12
3	Mark	13:24-37	19	Malachi	3:13-4.6
4	Jeremiah	10:1-16	20	Micah	5:2-15
5	Jeremiah		Fourth Sunday of Advent		
6	Nehemiah	8:1-18	21	Luke	1:1-25
Second Sunday of Advent			22	Luke	1:26-56
7	Zephania	1:1-18	23	Luke	1:57-80
8	Zephania	2:1-15	24	Luke	2:1-20
9	Zephania	3:1-20	Christmas Day		
10	Zechariah	1:1-21	25	John	1:1-18
11	Zechariah	2:1-13	26	John	1:19-34
12	Zechariah	9:9-17	27	Luke	2:21-40
13	Zechariah	10:1-12	28	Luke	2:41-52
Third Sunday of Advent			29	Luke	3:23-38
14	Isaiah	35:1-10	30	Psalm 81	
15	Isaiah	56:1-8	31	Psalm 84	
16	Isaiah	57:1-21			

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES FOR NOVEMBER 2013



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

<i>DECEMBER</i>				<i>JANUARY, 2015</i>	
1	Bruce Maguire	16	Megan Horstead	1	Elaine Shaw
	Robert Stackhouse	19	Doris Gooding		Karen Swientochowski
2	Dora Kaufman		Donna Owens	5	J R Lester
	Bill Binkley		Lynn Simpson		Holly Paoletti
3	Vanessa Horstead	20	Jean James	7	Jerry Howell
4	Dale Lenker		Matthew Godwin		
5	Diane Freebery	21	Darlene Pensinger		
8	Neal Lawson, II	22	Peggy Roberts		
	Sharon McDaniel	26	Daphne Reed		
	Gordon Parker	28	Charles Jackson		
10	Arlene Hendrickson				



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

<i>DECEMBER</i>				<i>JANUARY, 2015</i>	
11	Bob & Nancy Warner	27	Ron & Patty Caldwell		
17	Lee & Jane Tull	30	John & Edie McKenney		

## DECEMBER, 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>7</b> <b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>9:00am</b> Praise & Worship <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service <b>4:30pm</b> Tree Lighting & Christmas Hymns <b>6:30pm</b> - Youth Group	<b>8</b> <b>7:00pm - Weekday Advent Service - Music by Frank Julian</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30am - Alice Ball Circle Mtg. - Lunch 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:45pm - Chancel Choir	<b>10</b> 10:130am - Marian Rowe Circle Mtg. 6:30 - Celebrate Recovery 12-Step Bible Study	<b>11</b> 8:30pm - UMM Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	12	13
<b>14</b> <b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>9:00am</b> Praise & Worship <b>CHRISTMAS CANTATA</b> <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service <b>6:30pm</b> - Youth Group	15	<b>16</b> 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:45pm - Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery 12-Step Bible Study	<b>18</b> 1:30pm, 7:00pm - Disc. 2 Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm - Food Closet	19	20
<b>21</b> <b>9:00am</b> Praise & Worship <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service <b>1:30-4:30PM</b> - Circuit Leadership Gathering - Christ UMC <b>6:30pm</b> - Youth Group	22	<b>23</b> 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:45pm - Chancel Choir	<b>24</b> <b>7:00PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - CAROLS, HOLY COMMUNION, CANDLE LIGHTING</b>	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	26	27
<b>29</b> <b>9:00am</b> Praise & Worship <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service <b>6:30pm</b> - Youth Group	30	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	<b>A HAPPY AND BLESSED 2015 TO ALL</b>			