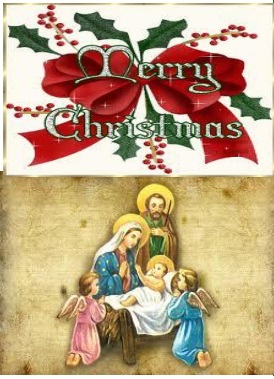


# December 2011

For updated calendar information contact Liz Needham or checkout the Church wall calendar or weekly bulletin

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
<p><b>January Newsletter Deadline:</b>  <b>Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Please leave your articles on the secretary's desk or you can email them to:</b>  <b><a href="mailto:office@francisaburyumc.org">office@francisaburyumc.org</a></b></p>		<p><b>ATTENTION:</b>  <b>All requests, changes, and/or cancellations to the calendar and/or use of the church facilities must be communicated to Liz Needham. Thank you for your cooperation.</b></p>		<p>9:30am 12:00pm Music Together (Murphy)            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            7:30pm 9:00pm Adult Choir (Music)</p>	<p>Meals on Wheels (Stehlik)            8:30am 11:00am Music Together (Murphy)            9:00am 10:00am MIT - Cox (CASS)            5:30pm 7:30pm Daisy Troop 126 Meeting (Preschool B)            6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 429 Meeting (Murphy)</p>	<p>9:00am 2:00pm Baby Shower - Sue Rice (Social)            9:00am 12:00pm Youth/Children Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)            3:00pm 4:00pm Girl Scout Dance Team (Social Hall)</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>9:00am 9:45am Contemporary Service (Social Hall)            9:30am 10:00am Fellowship (Welcome Center)            9:45am 10:45am Sunday School for all ag            10:00am 4:00pm Christmas Pageant Din            11:00am 12:00pm Worship Service (Sanc            12:10pm 1:10pm Spring Festival/Silent Au            5:00pm 6:00pm Youth/Children Christma            6:00pm 8:00pm Christmas Pageant Dinn</p>	<p>9:30am 10:30am MIT - College (CASS, Library)            1:15pm 2:15pm MIT - GNM &amp; JBD (CASS)            3:45pm 5:45pm FA Women's Book Study (Murphy)            6:00pm 7:30pm Cub Scouts Troop 63 (Murphy)            7:00pm 9:00pm Boy Scouts (Social)            7:00pm 8:00pm Webelo 1s (CASS)</p>	<p>9:30am 11:30am Knit 1, Pray 2 (too) (Welcome Center)            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            10:00am 11:00am Staff Meeting (CASS)            10:30am 11:30am Mom's Club (Nursery)            4:00pm 6:30pm Music Together (Murphy)            5:30pm 7:00pm Endowment Committee Meeting (CASS)            7:00pm 9:00pm Small Groups - "Crazy Sandwich" (Mason's House)</p>	<p>Meals on Wheels (Blackburn/Dalton)            9:45am 9:55am FAP Chapel (Sanctuary)            5:30pm 7:00pm Cub Scout Den (Murphy)            7:00pm 8:30pm Charge Conference (Social)            7:30pm 8:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 63 Leader Meeting (Murphy)            8:30pm 9:30pm Praise Band Practice (Social)</p>	<p>9:30am 12:00pm Music Together (Murphy)            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            7:00pm 8:30pm Preschool Board Meeting (CASS)            7:30pm 9:00pm Adult Choir (Music)</p>	<p>Meals on Wheels (Clark)            8:30am 11:00am Music Together (Murphy)            9:00am 10:00am MIT - Cox (CASS)            6:00pm 10:00pm YES Club Christmas Party (Social Hall)</p>	<p>8:30am 1:00pm Parent's Morning Out (Nursery &amp; Preschool)            2:30pm 4:30pm Piano Recital (Sanctuary, Welcome Center)            4:00pm 6:00pm Daisy Troop 168 (Murphy)</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>9:00am 9:45am Contemporary Service (Social Hall)            9:30am 10:00am Fellowship (Welcome Center)            9:45am 10:45am Sunday School for all ag            11:00am 12:00pm Worship Service (Sanc            3:00pm 5:00pm Cookies, Milk &amp; Photos            5:00pm 7:00pm Christmas Caroling            6:00pm 8:00pm Moore Circle Christmas            6:00pm 8:00pm Sunday Night Frank - Tu</p>	<p>8:30am 12:30pm Santa's Toy Workshop (Murphy)            9:30am 10:30am MIT - College (CASS, Library)            1:15pm 2:15pm MIT - GNM &amp; JBD (CASS)            7:00pm 9:00pm Boy Scouts (Social)</p>	<p>8:30am 12:30pm Santa's Toy Workshop (Murphy)            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            9:45am 9:55am FAP Chapel (Sanctuary)            10:00am 11:00am Staff Meeting (CASS)            5:00pm 9:30pm Stroller Strides Christmas Party (Murphy)            7:00pm 9:00pm Small Groups - "Favorite Winter Foods" (Mason's House)</p>	<p>8:30am 12:30pm Santa's Toy Workshop (Murphy)            7:00pm 9:00pm Praise Band Practice (Social)            7:00pm 8:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting (CASS)</p>	<p>9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            5:30pm 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 63 Pack Meeting (Social)            7:30pm 9:00pm Adult Choir (Music)</p>	<p>9:00am 10:00am MIT - Cox (CASS)            10:00am 11:30am Music Together Christmas Party (Social)            5:30pm 7:30pm Daisy Troop 126 Investiture Ceremony (Welcome Center, Sanctuary)            6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 429 Meeting (Murphy)</p>	<p>8:30am 12:00pm CANTATA Rehearsal (Sanctuary)            4:00pm 6:00pm Daisy Troop 168 (Murphy)</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>9:00am 9:45am Contemporary Service (Social Hall)            9:30am 10:00am Fellowship (Welcome Center)            9:45am 10:45am Sunday School for all ages            11:00am 12:00pm Worship Service (Sanc            12:30pm 3:00pm Christmas Baskets Pre            5:00pm 6:00pm CANTATA (Sanctuary)            6:00pm 8:00pm Sunday Night Frank - La</p>	<p>9:30am 10:30am MIT - College (CASS, Library)            11:30am 11:45am FAP Christmas Play (Social)            12:30pm 3:00pm Christmas Baskets Preparation (Social Hall)            1:15pm 2:15pm MIT - GNM &amp; JBD (CAS            7:00pm 9:00pm Boy Scouts (Social)            7:00pm 8:30pm Finance Committee Meet            7:00pm 8:00pm Webelo 1s (Murphy)</p>	<p>NO YOUTH GROUP            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            10:00am 11:00am Staff Meeting (CASS)            11:30am 11:45am FAP Christmas Play (Social)            12:30pm 3:00pm Christmas Baskets Pickup (Social Hall)            5:15pm 7:00pm Trustees (CASS)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            9:45am 9:55am FAP Chapel (Sanctuary)            12:30pm 3:00pm Christmas Baskets Pickup (Social Hall)            5:30pm 7:00pm Cub Scout Den (Murphy)            7:00pm 9:00pm Praise Band Practice (Social)            7:00pm 8:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting (CASS)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            7:30pm 9:00pm Adult Choir (Music)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            Meals on Wheels (Blackburn/Dalton)            9:00am 10:00am MIT - Cox (CASS)</p>	<p>5:00pm 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)            7:00pm 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL            NO YOUTH GROUP            10:30am 11:30am Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            9:30am 10:30am MIT - College (CASS, Library)            1:15pm 2:15pm MIT - GNM &amp; JBD (CASS)            7:00pm 9:00pm Boy Scouts (Social)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            NO YOUTH GROUP            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            9:45am 9:55am FAP Chapel (Sanctuary)            6:00pm 7:00pm Staff Meeting (CASS)            7:00pm 9:00pm Church Council (Murphy)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            7:00pm 9:00pm Praise Band Practice (Social)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            9:30am 11:30am Stroller Strides (Social)            7:30pm 9:00pm Adult Choir (Music)</p>	<p>FAP Closed for Holiday            9:00am 10:00am MIT - Cox (CASS)</p>	<p><b>Hard copies of the Newsletter are available in the Welcome Center.</b></p>



*ALL THE NEWS*  
*FRANCIS ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*  
1871 North Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-1110  
Rev. Edward S. Martin, Jr.

Pastor's Email: [pastor@francisasburyumc.org](mailto:pastor@francisasburyumc.org)

Church: (757) 481-5016 \* Fax: (757) 481-7216

Church Email: [office@francisasburyumc.org](mailto:office@francisasburyumc.org)

**December 2011**

*"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."*

Isaiah 9:2



Mary was most likely a teenager when she learned that she was with child. Her Jewish family was most likely known to be devoutly religious – and she was a girl who loved the God of Israel. Mary was engaged to be married to a young man named Joseph who was also a believer. In that day, engagement was known as a “betrothal” and was in and of itself a form of covenant agreement. In a sense, Mary was no longer single and not yet married. As you would expect, she was a virgin and was the kind of girl that people in her home town of Nazareth respected and said would be a good catch and would make a wonderful mother. Their families were excited about the future when the unthinkable occurred. She indeed would be a good mother, for Mary was now to miraculously become the mother of God. Perhaps all things are possible after all!

So often the unexpected - the unthinkable - comes to us. Can these things be of God? Can the Lord use that which falls beyond our own plans to accomplish His will in our lives? The people of God have always had a certain hesitancy to allow Him to get but so close to their lives. In the Old Testament, the prophet Moses is said to be the man who saw God. On one occasion when he came down from the mountain, the Hebrew people were afraid and pleaded with Moses to cover his face as it reflected the glory of the Lord. Afraid? Perhaps they were afraid of drawing too close to the Holy; afraid that their sins would come to light; afraid that they would be seen for who they truly were ...or that God might ask them to walk a path that they otherwise would not choose. God with us can be a fearful thing. Perhaps this is why the angel who first visited Mary began with the words: “Do not be afraid.”

During Christmas we celebrate that God has broken into our world and come to us in a way that we find difficult to ignore or refuse. The initial fear of the shepherds, and all who would come to the manger, is turned to Joy. He is born among us and we gather round about to make over him and to find joy in the image of the baby Jesus in the arms of his young unwed mother. As with the birth of any child within our own families, we take our turn to hold him, to hear his coos and to look deeply into his newborn eyes. In the lamp light of Christmas we come to know that Christ our Lord is born - to us!

At Christmas, He chose a path of intimacy with his people. So great is God's love for us that he chose to become defenseless in our midst - to grow and live among us – and to give his life as a ransom for many.

From me and my family, I wish for you and yours a most blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas,

*Merry Christmas!*  
*Pastor Ed*

## Happy Birthday to:

12/02 Kathleen Holbert  
 12/02 Kelly Law  
 12/02 Katy Sanson  
 12/02 Jordan Quast  
 12/03 Jordan McEwen  
 12/05 Laura Brighton  
 Lundstrom  
 12/05 Lana Ittner  
 12/06 Marlene Cooke  
 12/06 Marina Dawson  
 12/06 Arthur Chevalier IV  
 12/07 Robert Greer  
 12/07 Gabriel Owen  
 12/07 Noah Gibson  
 12/08 Maura Nankervis  
 12/08 Michele Hackett  
 12/08 Rhett Williams  
 12/08 Susan Williams  
 12/09 Cathy Fowler  
 12/09 Sadie Workman  
 12/10 Jim Kelley  
 12/10 Ken Farmer  
 12/10 Ric Hackett  
 12/12 Dick Multer  
 12/12 Tyler Keffer  
 12/13 Tasha Hasty  
 12/13 Kristi Emerson  
 12/15 Judy Tillotson  
 12/15 Bob Rippel  
 12/15 Ella Colehamer  
 12/15 Brett Alan Jerasa  
 12/15 Eric Jerasa  
 12/16 Evelyn Miles  
 12/16 Oleta Wood  
 12/17 Alex Jerasa  
 12/18 Sissy Benda

## Happy Birthday cont:

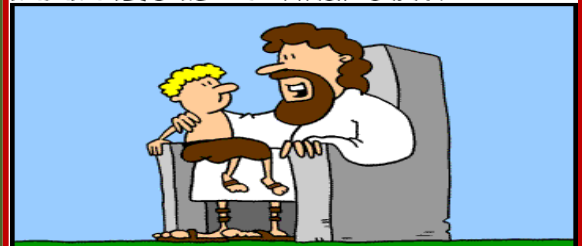
12/18 Liz Needham  
 12/18 Bridget Hale  
 12/19 Joy Longworth  
 12/19 Sue Jerasa  
 12/19 Lizzy Rehak  
 12/21 Janice Jessup  
 12/21 Jean Adolphi  
 12/21 Kelly Nottingham  
 12/22 Lana Farmer  
 12/23 Darlene Grainger  
 12/23 Elizabeth Holladay  
 12/25 Kristi Nixon  
 12/25 Millie Draper  
 12/25 Travis Bird  
 12/26 Debbie Jones  
 12/27 Nancy Schaefer  
 12/28 Susan Manning  
 12/28 Rob Waddell  
 12/28 Caroline Blackburn  
 12/30 John Burton  
 12/30 Marcia Perry  
 12/30 Kristen Gregory



## Happy Anniversary to:

12/03 Jan & Cathy Cohen  
 12/06 Wayne & Phyllis Duncan  
 12/19 Larry & Marie Strunk  
 12/20 Harry & Mildred Joyce  
 12/21 Neal & Terra O'Rourke  
 12/27 Dan & Kay David  
 12/27 John & Susan Manning  
 12/28 Robert & Deana Blackburn  
 12/28 Russ & Vickie Greatwood  
 12/29 Bob & Jane Stephens  
 12/29 Jeff & Denise Lawson  
 12/30 Mike & Mandy McCall

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998  
**HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?**



Do you have information about an event or group activity that you would like the members and visitors of FAUMC to know about?

Make your announcement in the Newsletter. It's a great media format that is distributed monthly.

Check for deadline dates on the monthly newsletter calendar.

## Remember In Prayer:

Garlyn Greenhalgh  
 Cari Jarvis  
 Marjorie Boyd  
 Betty McCandless  
 Thelma Perdue  
 Vera Meekins  
 Joy Longworth

## HOME BOUND

Ellie Myers Mildred Joyce  
 Ginger Anderson Sissy Benda  
 Herb Schriener Thelma Face  
 Lou Bunch Win Lawson  
 Maddie Meekings

OUR MILITARY

## Prayer Chain:

When prayers are needed, please call Eva Henley at 481-6991 or Mary Blackburn at 481-3755 to activate the prayer chain.

## **RECEPTION COMMITTEE CALENDAR - December**

### **Co-Chairs:**

Hazel White & Juanita Peek

### **Team Leader:**

Sylvia Campbell

### **Team Members:**

Jean Adolphi Kay David  
 Doris Bauer Judy Tillotson  
 Kathy Chaney

# VOLUNTEERS

Sunday Volunteers	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25
<b>Acolytes</b>	Leo Hickey & Patrick Hasty	Graham & Patrick Hasty	Payton & Paige Harris	5pm - Peyton Emerson 7pm -	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Coffee &amp; Snacks</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Strach	N/A	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Head Usher</b>	Maury Bailey	Maury Bailey	Maury Bailey	5pm - Maury Bailey 7pm - Hollie Tiedemann	Maury Bailey
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Joy Longworth	Poinsettias	Robin Strohsahl IMO Ada VanNess
<b>Greeters 9am</b>	Cathy Combs	<b>OPEN</b>	The Emersons	N/A	N/A
<b>Greeters 11am</b>	Pat Bailey & Sue Jones	Sue Jones & Jean Harrel	Rhonda, Elizabeth & Timothy Journigan	N/A	Rachel Roush & Donna Ripley
<b>Lector 9am</b>	Niel Mason	Dee Heyder	<b>OPEN</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Lector 11am</b>	Beverly Johnson	Kristi Emerson	Michael Hasty	5pm - 7pm - Rhianna Lawson	Juanita Peek
<b>Nursery</b> **To sign up to volunteer in the nursery, see Amy in the nursery or email her at <a href="mailto:amy@francisasburymc.org">amy@francisasburymc.org</a>	<b>9 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown <b>9:45 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown <b>11 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown	<b>9 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown <b>9:45 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown <b>11 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown	<b>9 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown <b>9:45 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown <b>11 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown	<b>5 pm</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown <b>7 pm</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown	<b>Combined 10:30 am</b> Mrs. Amy Ms. Brown
<b>Frank Youth Group Dinner/Chaperone 6:00-8:00 pm</b>	Christmas Pageant Dinner Reception	Tuckman	Lawson	N/A	NO YOUTH

<b>Special Services Nursery</b>	Parent's Morning Out <b>Saturday, December 10, 8:30 am – 1 pm</b> Mrs. Amy, Ms. Brown, & Ms. Shirley
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<b>Meals on Wheels Dalton/Blackburn Team</b>	(Stehlik) Friday, <b>December 2</b>	Wednesday, <b>December 7</b>	(Clark) Friday, <b>December 9</b>	Friday, <b>December 23</b>
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Virginia Handbell Consort**, under the direction of Alan Reese, performs a concert of holiday classics & more at **4:00pm this Sunday, December 4**, at Wycliffe Presbyterian.

The Consort is an auditioned ensemble of ringers from throughout the Hampton Roads region, performing on over 5 octaves of Schulmerich bells, 5.5 octaves of Melody Chimes, and 3 octaves of Petit & Fritsen bells, plus assorted percussion instruments. Their speed, clarity, and virtuosity will amaze you!

**Donations will be accepted to defray their expenses, and seating begins at 3:30pm.**

Hope to see you there!

## News from your Church Council . . . .

### 11/29/2011 meeting:

The church needs able volunteers. At this time of year we plan out our volunteer groups for 2012. There are some positions open, each with unique responsibilities. These include Council Vice chair, Stewardship Chair, Nurture Chair, Boy Scout liason. Committees needing members include staff-parish relations, trustees, teller teams and the fun committee! If you have any desire to participate, speak with Ed or myself to find out what the time commitment and duties are. My own opinion is that this is a "can-do" church with positive people who love to give their talents. It makes volunteering rewarding indeed.

Church finance update: We pay our bills but struggle to pay our apportionments for the year. Ed explained that when we don't pay them, state and global ministries are affected. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated.

Our preschool is growing - we have 29 children with more enrolled for January. The preschool now finances itself after only 1 year and a few months in operation. This is a ministry we can all be proud of.

The sermons are not currently being recorded. This is also an area for a needed volunteer.

We have so much to look forward to in December - children's events, worship, togetherness, studies.

Our facility is in use so much of the time, it is important to put your event on the calendar via Liz Needham, church secretary. And to let her know if your event is canceled! This is a good problem to have and shows our growth and community involvement.

Respectfully submitted.  
Betsy Mason, Lay Leader



**LOVE** is patient  
is kind  
it does not envy  
it does not boast  
it is not proud  
it is not rude  
it is not self-seeking  
it is not easily angered  
keeps no record of wrongs  
does not delight in evil  
rejoices with the truth  
always protects  
always trusts  
always hopes  
always perseveres  
never fails

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

## Christmas BASKETS

We have accumulated some items for the Christmas Dinner Baskets.

Listed below are items we need to complete the dinners.

- (26) 10-12 lb Turkeys
- (7) Pkgs Stuffing Mix
- (9) Cans Cranberry Jelly
- (30) 1 lb pkgs Margarine
- (30) Cans of Corn
- (12) Cans of Green Beans
- (20) Pkgs Cake Mix
- (21) 1 lb Pkg 10X (Confectioners) Sugar
- (51) Boxes of Macaroni & Cheese

If you do not have time to shop, money is the "Universal Gift Certificate". Please make checks out to FAUMC (Christmas Dinners). For cash contributions, please place in an envelope marked "Christmas Dinners" and put in the Collection Plate.

Please bring your items to church no later than Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and place them on the designated table in the Murphy Room

Call Jeannette Reeks if you have any questions  
757-481-5814

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Project Crossroads News from the Stransky's

Office: 136 Snider Branch Rd.      Home: 220 Walton Ave.  
Marion, VA 24354                      Chilhowie, VA 24319  
276-782-3339                              276-781-8020

[projectcrossroads@yahoo.com](mailto:projectcrossroads@yahoo.com)    [fullcreel56@comcast.net](mailto:fullcreel56@comcast.net)

Advance #'s: Mark – 803003 and Linda- 803004

Link for missionary support donations:

<http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/advance/donate.cfm?code=803003> or 803004

This last mission team season proved to be both challenging and amazing. When Mark had a complete tear of his rotator cuff the very first week, we knew it would be different. To not be able to drive or use his left arm proved to be a real lesson in patience. Then in July came 2 trips to California when my mother went into hospice and then home to the Lord. We grew in our understanding of 2 very important areas.... One, a greater understanding of some of the challenges that those we serve with disabilities face every day. And two, a reaffirmation of the ways that God provides for our every need.

This kind of provision was also so very evident in the story of the Ross family. Mr. Ross built his home and has always been a good provider. Now as he nears the end of his life and can't get out of bed, he worried about his wife living in their home that needed many repairs. What a gift it was to him to have mission teams come and not only make the needed repairs, but do loving touches like repairing and painting a wooden swing he'd made for his wife when they first moved in, adding their names and a scripture verse. Since he couldn't get out of bed, they "walked the house" making a video for him. Seeing that video gave him a sense of peace he hadn't experienced in a long time. Having nurturing folks to talk to at such a critical time, was exactly what Mrs. Ross needed... *God does indeed provide for our every need.*

\*\*\*\*\*

~ If you're looking for a good Sunday School project, the program that gives out seeds for gardeners in the spring has been cut from a local agency. We will be collecting seed packets in the spring to reach those people in need.

### Celebrations...

- ~ 40 mission teams completed work on 40 homes.
- ~ 197 Easter meal bags feeding 528 people were distributed.
- ~ 6 families have been helped this fall to start over through our "Start Over Tubs" and many more received furniture and appliances.
- ~ The Day Center for a Family Promise Network for homeless families is almost finished thanks to our "Adopt-a-Room" project.
- ~ A new group of volunteers called "the Good Samaritans" was formed. These folks from different churches will help with light construction and personal needs of the elderly and disabled, plus emergency needs for folks like new amputees or hospice patients
- ~ 35 households received 90+ loads of wood last winter.
- ~ 230 shoe vouchers were given out to help children with school shoes.

### Special needs and prayer requests...

- ~ If you want to be part of our wood ministry, but can't physically come to help us, we need new snow tires so that we can safely get to some of our more difficult deliveries. They are \$259 apiece (mark donations as "tire fund").
- ~ A group wants to partner with us to have a permanent community garden on their land, but there are a few more "hoops" before it can happen. Please pray for this project.
- ~ Harry, our Executive Director, will graduate in July as a physician's assistant, so pray for God's wisdom in how to shape this medical ministry.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Holiday's Lessons Last a Lifetime By Dr. Katherine Kersey

When you constantly ask me what I want and what I'm going to get, I learn that Christmas is Getting.

When you tell me I'd better be good, I learn that Christmas is Conditional.

When you make promises and don't keep them, I learn that Christmas is Disappointment.

When you are short-tempered and make idle threats, I learn that Christmas is Unpredictable.

When you hit and scream, I learn that Christmas is Scary.

When you are mean and lose control, I learn that Christmas is Disaster.

When you drink or eat too much, I learn that Christmas is Indulgence.

When you hurry around, get up early and stay up late, I learn that Christmas is Busy.

When I see the lights and smell the cookies, I learn that Christmas is Pleasure.

When you do things for other people and help me do the same, I learn that Christmas is Sharing.

When you buy and make gifts for others, I learn that Christmas is Giving.

When you go to church and take me with you, I learn that Christmas is Worship.

When you hum to yourself and smile at strangers, I learn that Christmas is Peace.

When you stop in your busy day and spend time with me, I learn that Christmas is Love.

Dr. Kersey is a professor of early childhood education at Old Dominion University. This piece first appeared in The Virginian Pilot in 1988 in a column entitled "Raising Children".

## *Our ministry to the Juvenile Detention Center*

Please help us in this important ministry by providing any of the following items. They may be placed on our table in the welcome center. The deadline for contributions is Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Plastic bottles and containers only:

Lotion	body wash	shampoo	conditioner
Deodorant	chap stick	snack chips	softbound books:
puzzle books	Word search books	sudoku puzzle books	crossword puzzle books

### NOTE: Residents are NOT allowed to have the following:

candy with sticks in them	gum	straws
hygiene items with alcohol in them	any glass items	

Please contact Barbara Stehlik (757-481-6142) with any questions. *Thank you for your assistance in reaching out to these young people in need of God's love.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## *APPORTIONMENTS report!*

FAUMC is current on all of its financial obligations to date except the Virginia Conference Apportionments and we are reaching out for your prayerful consideration!

### **Why is this important?**

Simply put, "Apportionments" refers to our giving to our ministry together with other United Methodist congregations through our Elizabeth River District, our Virginia Annual Conference, and through our other conferences structures.

Together we can do more in "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World" than any local congregation can by itself. These monies support people, ministries and mission both near and far that change lives for Jesus. When support is down – our ministry cannot be carried out.

### FRANCIS ASBURY UMC – REPORT TO DATE:

		% Paid
Our 2011 Conference Apportionment: (Down from \$69,985 in 2010)	\$55,601.00	27%
Our 2011 District Apportionment:	\$ 3,680.00	100%

*Please join us in praying that God will touch people's hearts  
in such a way as to make additional contributions to our  
"APPORTIONMENTS" during December.*

### **GOAL**

*Together we can hope to pay 50%  
or an additional \$12,600.00*



# Francis Asbury Preschool



This time of year always warms my heart! I love to see the joy in the eye's of people I pass in the store. Don't forget to share a smile, especially to those who may have lost the spirit of the season!

### FAP Thanksgiving Feast

Our first Thanksgiving Feast was a special occasion. Each class had a little performance on stage! I could not have been more proud of these little kiddos! Many of our returning families commented on how much our preschool has grown from our last Thanksgiving celebration to this year! We certainly have grown! We have much to be thankful for! I would like to extend an enormous thank you to John and Cindy Burton for lending a hand in serving our Thanksgiving Feast to our FAP families! They were so helpful!! We could not

have held our feast without their help!



### Children's Tag Sale

Our first Children's Tag Sale was a HUGE success!

We raised over \$400 in just four short hours! There has already been talk of having a consignment sale in the spring. We look forward to holding this sale twice a year! I must thank many people for the success of this sale! Please join me in thanking

Jenn and Mark Steliga

Tenna Belka  
Carolina Swalm  
Brooke Fischer  
Barbara Kimpan  
Kristen Gregory

Ellen Owen  
Amber Curtis  
Sarah Dunphey  
Jenn Strach

### Events Coming Up

We are excited to hold our first annual Santa's Workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be a fun event where the children are able to purchase items for their family members to give as presents on Christmas morning. If you would like to lend a hand as an elf on these special mornings we would love to have your help! We are needing elves to help the children select their gifts and wrap the presents selected. Please let me know if you are intereseted in being an elf on one of these days!



### What are we learning?

Looking into December... we are eager to begin to learn the true meaning of Christmas. We are excited to spend the entire month dedicated to learning about Christmas and our family traditions. We will also be learning about traditions from different cultures! This is a great time of year!

### Dates to Remember

December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Santa's Workshop  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> FAP is CLOSED

As always we would love to have you come in to the classroom to read a book, hear a story or just see a smiling angelic face! If you would like to pop in please contact me!

Blessings to all,  
Anna

Anna Chevalier, Preschool Director

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

[preschool@francisasburyumc.org](mailto:preschool@francisasburyumc.org)



**Kristen H. Gregory**  
Director of Family Ministry  
[kristen@francisasburyumc.org](mailto:kristen@francisasburyumc.org)  
[www.francisasburyumc.org](http://www.francisasburyumc.org)

December 2011

## Family Ministry News

# Happy Holidays!

### The Bethlehem Project Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm Potluck Dinner Reception at 6pm

Please join us for the children and youth Christmas Pageant, The Bethlehem Project. The Bethlehem Project features the traditional Christmas story but with a fresh twist that provides both fun and life relevance. The Bethlehem Kids and the Shepherd Kids don't get along until they find the same Savior. Join us on this night in the sanctuary for a magical Christmas story. Following the pageant, we will have a potluck dinner reception in the Social Hall. We are asking that all families attending help make the reception a success by contributing a dish. If you have a large family or are inviting several extended family members, we would really appreciate it if you bring a larger dish or a couple of dishes. Francis Asbury Preschool parents will be providing the desserts. It's going to be a special night that you won't want to miss!

### Parent's Morning Out December 10, 8:30am-1pm

HO HO HO, Merry Christmas! Join us for holiday fun and games as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Snack and lunch are provided. Drop off and pick up will be in the nursery. \$20 per child, \$5 per sibling. Register online by December 7<sup>th</sup> at [www.francisasburyumc.org](http://www.francisasburyumc.org) under Events or email Amy for more information at [amy@francisasburyumc.org](mailto:amy@francisasburyumc.org). Spaces are limited so register early and bring a friend! Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Cookies, Milk & Photos with Santa! December 11, 2-5pm

We are so excited to hear that Santa Claus is coming to Francis Asbury UMC! Please join us on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> as we enjoy cookies, milk and stories with Santa. We will have a professional photographer to capture all of the special memories. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Sibling tickets are \$5. All tickets include a photograph with Santa and additional photos will be available for purchase. We have a limited amount of tickets available, so please purchase them early! You may purchase them at church on Sunday mornings, reserve them under Events at [www.francisasburyumc.org](http://www.francisasburyumc.org) or by contacting Kristen Gregory.

### Children's Choir

Exciting news! Nancy Probert has started up the Children's Choir just in time for the holidays. The children are practicing during Children's Church and Sunday School. The choir will sing Away in the Manger during the 5pm service on Christmas Eve. If you would like your child to participate, please get in touch with Nancy.

### Christmas 2012

*Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>*  
5pm - Contemporary Service (Social Hall)  
7pm - Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

*Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>*  
10:30am - Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
(no Sunday School)



*The cast of the Youth and Children's Christmas Play*

## Frank Meetings

The Frank Youth Group meets three times each week for Sunday School, Sunday Night Youth, and Small Groups.

**Sunday School** meets in the youth room every Sunday morning 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in between services. If you are in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade you are welcome to join us for an interactive bible study and fellowship!

**Sunday Night Frank** meets in the youth room every Sunday night from 6 – 8 p.m. Anyone between 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade is welcome to come out for dinner, fellowship, games, and devotional!

**Small Groups** is every Tuesday (except for the last Tuesday of the month when Church Council meets) 7 p.m. at the Mason's house. Come and enjoy a themed pot luck dinner, games, and a bible study in which the guys and the girls separate to discuss more gender related topics!

\*For more information on meetings and events, please contact Youth Director, Vickie Greatwood [Vickie@francisaburyumc.org](mailto:Vickie@francisaburyumc.org).

## November Recap!

I hope all of you had a wonderful and Blessed Thanksgiving!

The youth spent the month of November preparing for the Youth and Children's Christmas Pageant!

In addition to that, we also elected our 2012 Youth Council! The new Youth Council will begin their meetings when the new year begins.

## Upcoming Events

The Youth and Children's Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. Following the play there will be a potluck dinner reception in the Social Hall. Please help us make this dinner reception a success by bringing a dish to share.

We will have dress rehearsal for the cast the day before the play (Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>) in the sanctuary from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. It is a mandatory practice so that we can run through the show exactly how we will on the 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are in the play and have a conflict, please get in touch with Vickie or Kristen.

We will begin Confirmation Classes in the New Year for those in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above who have not yet been confirmed. If you or your student is interested in getting confirmed, please contact Vickie Greatwood for more information.

## How to keep up with upcoming events!

Upcoming youth events as well as Small Groups themes and dinner schedules are posted on the main calendar of the church website: [www.francisaburyumc.org](http://www.francisaburyumc.org). If you have youth group related questions, please contact Youth Director, Vickie Greatwood

[Vickie@francisaburyumc.org](mailto:Vickie@francisaburyumc.org).

God Bless!

Vickie Greatwood  
Youth Director

