

Stephens City U.M. Church
5291 Main Street
P.O. Box 428
Stephens City, VA 22655

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The Messenger

December 2011 Issue



Stephens City United Methodist Church
Phone: (540) 869-2348

e-mail: scumc@verizon.net
web site <http://stephenscityumc.org>

Church Staff

Rev. Jeff Butcher,
Pastor

Rev. Waverly Reames,
Minister of Visitation

Janet Moore,
Administrative Assistant

David Renner,
Director of Music

Missy Legge,
Children & Youth Choir
Director

Sharon Cooley,
Children/Youth Choir
Accompanist

Jacquetta Owen,
Bell Choir Director

Bobby Cook,
Building Superintendent

Mary Levesque,
Childcare

Preschool
869-1368

Sunday Worship

8:30a.m.
9:45a.m.
11:00a.m.

Sunday School

9:45a.m.
11:00a.m.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear friends,

Richard B. Hays, Dean of Duke Divinity School, notes that the prophet Isaiah blurts out frustration and longing when he says, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come-down." (Isaiah 64:1) Those words are universal for humanity is frustrated because in the midst of conflict and pain, we sense that something has gone terribly wrong and we are powerless to fix it. Hays continues that the reason for humanity's longing is that we long for God to break into our stifling world and set things right.

This analysis leads Hays to quote William Butler Yeats:
*"Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity."*
(Yeats, "The Second Coming")

During the season of Advent we get in touch with the world's groaning and we long for God's justice to come. Advent also reminds us that our longing will not be in vain for Christ is true to His promises. By sending Jesus into our world God has torn open the heavens and is among us. Advent allows us to practice the discipline of faithful waiting. We wait because we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God and in that assurance we wait with confidence for the healing of the nations and of all God's creation.

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

I want to thank all of you for the prayers, phone calls and cards during my recent surgery. A special thanks to Pastor Jeff and Waverly for visiting me while in the hospital.



I am blessed to have such a wonderful Church Family.

Sincerely
Bobby Miller

Dear Friends of Blue Ridge Hospice,
Thank you for your generous support of Blue Ridge Hospice. We depend on your donation and support to help us continue to provide quality care to our patients and their families. We continue to provide hospice and palliative care to our patients and their families because you have recognized Blue Ridge Hospice with your generous gift.

With warm regards,
Ernest J. Carnevale, Jr.
President and CEO

Dear SCUMC,

Thank you for the box of goodies you sent to me at Shepherd. They were wonderful and I appreciated receiving them very much! It was very thoughtful of you to think of me in that way.

Sincerely,
Charley Moore

Special Prayer for WATTS as It Begins Its Third Season



On Monday evening, November 28, WATTS began at Welltown UMC. In only three seasons, the shelter concept has grown rapidly for an organization administered by only volunteers. Six churches have joined with the original eight to provide accommodations for 35 homeless each night of the now 15 week period.

This season, Welltown UMC's bus will pick up those that seek shelter when the county churches are housing. Several area church vans will be available as numbers increase, also.

In all, thirty or more churches are participating in the community outreach as they try to reach out to those in need. SCUMC rejoices that they will be able to provide an INN during Christmas Week.

The Staff of SCUMC wishes everyone a safe and joyous holiday!



December Birthdays



02 Ruth Clark	16 Linda Bursey	24 Jon Gustafson
Ray Judy	Adrian Dilg	25 Barry Miller
03 Joy Costello	Ginny Miller	26 Cathy Ritter
Russell Simmers	17 Susan Carter	27 Lindsay Carter
05 Lambert Brown	Matthew Dyke	Adelle Gunn
09 Sue Barley	18 Madison Hogbin	Alyssa Hollis
10 Rick Baker	19 Tom Whipple	30 Jason Yancey
Betty Landrum	20 Jerry Hogbin	Chalyn Drago
Ryan Magalis	Kelly Magalis	31 Kyle Colson
11 Ben Gustafson	21 Dorothy Carper	Celena Georgia
13 June Edwards	Carol Hitaffer	Christina Georgia
Loretta Lantz	22 Bethany Lewis	Kathy Headley
15 Jonathan Ames	23 Cheryl Reames	
John Clawson	Loretta Short	
Charles Thorne	Dan Zimmerman	

If you would like to have you and/or your family added to the birthday list, please contact the church office, 869-2348.

United Methodist Women

UMW Chairperson—Debbie Jones



December Events for United Methodist Women

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, and UMW has some very special events planned for December. Come and join us in celebrating our Lord's birth!

Nov. 30th (Wed.) at 3 pm- Decorating the Chrismon Tree

Dec. 4th (Sunday) @ 2pm in the Gathering Area- UMW Annual Christmas Gathering for all UMW ladies in both circles. We will have a short business meeting, install 2012 officers, present mission awards, reveal Secret Sisters, and much more. A program about the significance and history of the nativity will be explored. If you have a home creche (nativity) please bring it along. We also will be collecting our World Thank Banks and items such as toilet paper and paper towels for CCAP laundry baskets. Refreshments too!!!!

Dec. 25th (Christmas Sunday) @ 8am- UMW will be serving breakfast to our WATTS guests. If you would like to help, either by your presence or a donation of food, call Debbie @ 869-5468

Mark Your calendar: Saturday, January 7th the UMW will be catering a luncheon (fundraiser) and will need your help.

Scripture Lessons and Sermon Titles for December, 2011

December 4 – Mark 1:1-8 “A Truth That Hurts and Heals”

December 11 – I Thessalonians 5:16-24 “Rejoice Always for You Have Double Hope”

December 18 – Luke 1:26-36 “And Mary Said ‘Yes!’”

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services starting at 7pm and 10:30pm, Luke 2:1-20 “The Journey for Salvation”

December 25 – 11:00 am worship service only, Lessons and Carols



Gleaning Documentary to Be Shown

The gleaning effort sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew will appear in a one-hour documentary on ABC Television Network stations between November 20 and Jan 15. The program is called “A Piece of Bread: Faith, Food, and the Future.” This documentary shines a spotlight on how Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Jewish, and Muslims create fresh solutions to hunger.

The producer and crew of “A Piece of Bread” joined with SoSA in Winchester, Virginia for two days in August. Volunteers were gleaned peaches and corn and many local gleaners were interviewed.

If you are interested in seeing the documentary, you might consider calling WHSV-TV03 - ABC, Harrisonburg, VA. to find out when it will be featured. Or, call to tell the program director or assistant that you want to see “A Piece of Bread” that is part of the Vision & Values series.

A Child Is Waiting at UMFS

The title statement is the driving force behind the work of United Methodist Family Services. For more than thirty years UMFS has been providing adoption services to children in the foster care system, giving them a place to call home and a family who will love them.

Most of the children now being adopted are at high risk for aging out of the foster care system. These boys and girls have experienced abuse, neglect, and other trauma. Many are over the age of nine and some are part of a sibling group that needs to stay together.

Before being adopted, the young people receive counseling services which address issues such as grief and loss, abandonment and rejection. Likewise, adoptive parents receive their own training on how to parent those who have experienced abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

There are children waiting for both foster homes and permanent adoption through UMFS. If you would like to learn more, you might want to write to: United Methodist Family Services, 3900 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230, call 855-367-8637, or visit on line at www.umfs.org.

United Methodists Are Part of Virginia's History

Nearly 112 years ago, the Virginia Methodist Conference was granted a charter by the state to build an orphanage at 3900 West Broad Street in Richmond. So began the rich history of this organization of which you are a part. The orphanage evolved to become United Methodist Family Services. Over the years emphasis was placed on working with the whole family to help meet the needs of children. Today they are thousands of adults who once called the land on Broad Street home.



Middle School (6th-8th grade) & Senior High (9th-12th grade)
Youth Groups

Come join us!!

Middle School

Sun., Dec. 4—Reg. meeting, 4:30-6pm

Sun., Dec. 11—No meeting, "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen" concert @ 6pm

Sun., Dec. 18—Holiday potluck for youth and families. Bring a covered dish and drink to share

Sun., Dec. 25—No Meeting, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sr. High

Sun., Dec. 4—Reg. meeting, 4:30-6pm

Sun., Dec. 11—No meeting, Enjoy the musical!

Sun., Dec. 18—Caroling and Christmas Party

Sun., Dec. 25—No Meeting, Merry Christmas!

Sun., Jan. 1—No Meeting, Happy New Years!

Any questions, contact one of the Youth group leaders:

Senior High: Rocky Lorey 869-0605 or lorey5@verizon.net.
Cathy Barley 313-4352 or mwbarley@comcast.net

Middle School: Michele Hruska 869-4073 or chel64@comcast.net
Pam Simmers 869-5032 or claysimmers@aol.com
Stephen Kleffman 868-2985 or sdkleff@gmail.com

Special Music Benefit Concert

Saturday, Dec. 3 @7 pm, SCUMC Sanctuary

"Sing and Ring We Now of Christmas" Concert/Benefit featuring Carols sung by the audience, the Robert E. Aylor MS Select Chorus, directed by Melissa Legge, the Apple Valley Community Bell Ringers, directed by Jacquetta Owen, the SCUMC Chancel Choir Ensemble, the Symphony of the Valley, the Sherando HS Brass, SU Conservatory & SCUMC instrumentalists. The proceeds from the program will benefit the boosters' organizations of the musicians.



On Sunday, Dec. 4, The Chancel Choir, SCUMC Bells, Symphony of the Valley, Sherando HS Brass, SU Conservatory & SCUMC and instrumentalists will lead worship. Special Advent/Christmas preludes begin at 8:15 am and 10:45 am.



Hunters for the Hungry

The 2010—2011 hunting season had over 407,796 pounds of venison donated and distributed to the needy. Since 1991 over 4 million pounds of venison has been given to those in need. The goal for 2011-12 is 400,000 pounds.

It takes a \$40.00 contribution for the processing of one deer. If you would like to make a contribution to this worthwhile project, please place it in the offering plate and earmark it for "Hunters for the Hungry". For additional information, contact John Petrie, Sr. at 869-0187.

ABBACare Layettes

Clients who complete the series of maternity classes at AbbaCare, earn a layette. This provides some basic items to use when they first bring their baby home. Currently, our layette item stock is quite low as we provide these gifts to clients this winter.

I know that there is a lot going on in your church, especially this time of year, and there are many valuable organizations being helped by the outpouring of generosity. If your church or a smaller group within your church is looking for a "project" for the upcoming months, please consider helping provide these material resources for AbbaCare clients.

Please contact Lauren Van Drunen @ 722-4844 with any questions. The items (new and size newborn/0-3months) we include in a layette are: (*items are essential current need)

Diapers, Heavy & receiving blanket, socks, sweater/jacket, 2-3 washcloths, bottles/pacifiers
***baby wash,* lotion, *3-4 onesies, *4-5 outfits/sleepers, *hat & bibs, *toy**

Blue Christmas Worship Service

On Sunday, December 18, beginning at 4:00pm SCUMC will host a Blue Christmas service in the Sanctuary. The Blue Christmas service is for anyone and everyone who has experienced loss of any kind in their lives. If anyone has friends and neighbors who have experienced loss, please tell them about this service and invite them to come with you.

A Devotion from the Spiritual Life Committee

Daniel Barley and Stephen Kleffman



Things. Stuff. Possessions. Buying, getting, consuming. Everybody wants to *have* more, and popular culture seeks to capitalize on this fact. This is made no clearer than in the weeks (months) leading up to the holiday widely known as Christmas. As the jolly season rolls around, virtually every ad on television, every song on the radio, every department store aligns itself in harmonious unison to proclaim the same message: *get*. House to house festooned two months in advance with hundreds of dollars' worth of colorful lights, scores of children queued across the mall in anxious anticipation of getting to tell Santa what they *want*, heard upon the lips of nearly everyone at school, at work, on the street, at home indeed, *in church*, there is a ubiquitous excitement, be it spoken aloud or not: "What am I gonna *get* this year?"

As what one might call the Two Christmasses—that is, the secular Winter holiday colloquially referred to as "Christmas" and the coincidentally simultaneous Christian holy day of the same name—grow increasingly divergent, one thing becomes clear: the culture shall continue to bombard anyone with ears to listen with precisely the same message, ever louder. Such is the way it shall be, and one could hardly expect little more from a culture without God. But we in the faith are called elsewhere; we are called to be a *giving* people. This certainly isn't to say or suggest that Christians ought to simply cloister themselves up like so many scrooges, shunning the secular "humbug" of receiving gifts at Christmastime; there is nothing fundamentally *wrong* with receiving.

Rather, it is a question of heart: where is your *heart* this Christmas? December 25th is the date upon which we celebrate the day our Lord *gave* to us His only son, who, in turn, *gave* his life so that we might keep ours. The entire holiday is *founded upon* giving, and not receiving. This goes beyond vaguely echoing hollowed-out sentiments and antique aphorisms such as "Tis better to give than to receive". True enough, to be sure, but the saying has been around for so long that it almost seems inadequate; when Advent arrives, we as Christians ought not to simply benignly agree with "giving's better", but should be filled with an excited question: "What am I going to *give* this year?"

How much of yourself can you, will you give this Advent? Not just *things*, not just *stuff*; for Christians, giving is and should be more than simply adding to the pile of possessions with which we as Americans are already quite thoroughly endowed. Would any among us give our heart? How much of your spirit will you pour out upon God's beloved children this Advent? Who, indeed, would give their very lives in service? What of the wonderful gift that we have already received through Christ? Is such a gift too glorious to share? What earthly gift could we possibly give that would be better than the love of Christ? This year, let us celebrate a *giving* God by giving *God*.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the blessed gift of your Son; the gift that we celebrate this season. We pray for the strength to focus ourselves on You this Advent season, and we pray that we might give Your love to those who need it. In Your Son's holy name we pray. Amen.

STEPHENS CITY UNITED METHODIST YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

present

ARREST THESE MERRY GENTLEMEN



A Christmas Musical for Kids

Created By

Steve Moore Rob Howard David Guthrie

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:00 p.m.

Stephens City United Methodist
Fellowship Hall

Please direct all questions or inquiries to:

Missy Legge

leggem73@yahoo.com

869-5330



2011 Fall (September—December) Schedule



Choir Rehearsals on Wednesday Nights

Primary Praise/Wesley Singers/Youth Choir Director, Missy Legge
Rehearse in Rm. 200

5:30-6:00pm, Primary Praise Choir (K-Grade 2)
6:00-6:45pm, Youth Singers (Grades 6-12)
6:45-7:15pm, Wesley Singers (Grades 3-5)

Hand Bells Director, Jacquetta Owen
Rehearse in Rm. 212

5:30-6:15pm, Stephens City Ringers (2+ years exp.)
6:15-6:45pm, Wesley Ringers (Grades 2-5)
6:45-7:30pm, Youth Ringers (Grades 6-12)

Director of Music, David Renner
7-8:30pm, Chancel Choir (Adults, rehearsal in the Sanctuary)

DECEMBER 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 4 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Advent/Christmas Prelude at 8:15am and 10:45am. The Chancel Choir, Symphony of the Valley, Sherando HS Brass, SU Conservatory & SCUMC instrumentalists and SCUMC Bells will lead worship

Dec. 11 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 Stephens City Ringers, Children's Choir—"Arrest These Merry Gentlemen"
11:00 Stephens City Ringers, Chancel Choir
6:00pm "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen", Children's Christmas Musical

Dec. 18 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 Wesley Ringers & Wesley Singers
11:00 Chancel Choir

Dec. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00pm Primary Praise, Wesley Ringers, Wesley Singers, Youth Ringers, Youth Choir
10:30pm Prelude
11:00pm Chancel Choir & Stephens City Ringers

Dec. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

11am "Lessons & Carols" service, Youth Ringers, Youth Singers

Join a choir today! Contact: Missy Legge, Jacquetta Owen or David Renner

**If you would like to make a donation for special music, checks can be made to:
SCUMC, c/o Music Performance**

SCUMC INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL CHOIRS 2011-2012

Wesley Ringers—A bell choir for children, 2nd grade-5th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring occasionally at the 8:30 or 11am morning worship, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Youth Ringers—A bell choir for youth, 6th grade-12th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring every 4th Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am morning worship, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Joyful Ringers—A bell choir for adults with 0-2 years experience. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the 8:30 and 11am worship services, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Stephens City Ringers—A bell choir for adults with over 2 years experience. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring on the 1st Sunday of the month at the 8:30 and 11am worship services, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Primary Praise—A vocal choir for children, K-2nd grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 200. The choir will sing every 2nd Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am worship, September-May. They will have an Advent/Christmas program and lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Wesley Singers—A vocal choir for children, 3rd-5th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 200. The choir will sing every 3rd Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am worship, September-May. They will have an Advent/Christmas program and lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Youth Choir—A vocal choir for youth, 6th-12th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 200. The choir will sing every 4th Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am worship, September-May. They will have an Advent/Christmas program and lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Chancel Choir—A vocal choir for adults (18 yrs. and beyond) that read 4 part choral music-soprano, alto, tenor and bass. They rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night., 7-8:30pm in the sanctuary. The choir sings every Sunday at the 11am worship service. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Youth Participation Policy—In fairness to all, musical participants will sing or play in their own age/grade level ensembles unless invited by a director to ring bells or sing in a different choir. If invited by the director to join an additional ensemble, the musician's primary responsibility is to ring or sing in his/her age/grade level ensemble.

Soloists—Soloists and small groups who sing throughout the year are regular committed members of a choir.