

The Messenger

Fairfield Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1088 / 6930 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



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December 2009

“ADVENT is Upon Us”

Dear Friends,

When you read these words Thanksgiving will be past and Advent will have just begun. Advent is derived from the Latin term for “coming.” The Church celebrates “the coming of the Christ Child each season” and calls this season of anticipation (or time of waiting for Christmas) ADVENT.

Think of the songs and carols that highlight the Child’s coming:

*Come and worship, come and worship, Worship
Christ the newborn King.
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

This festive season beckons Christians “to keep the feast” in three ways. First, we prepare ourselves for the Savior’s birth. Secondly, we celebrate this heavenly gift—the incarnate Son of God. Finally, like the angels, we exalt or glorify the Father who sends us this great gift.

We understand preparing for Christmas Day—the presents, the feast, the stockings, families and friends together. But how can you prepare for Jesus coming when He arrived 2000 years ago? Are we preparing for His Second Advent? Yes, we are urged to be ready for Christ who will come again like a thief in the night. But we also prepare our hearts to re-live the drama and to enter into the story ourselves in a deeper way.

The Christian Faith is a grand narrative with broad themes: Creation, Fall, Covenant, Exile, Incarnation, Redemption, Resurrection, Consummation. God is fashioning His covenant community with people from every tongue and tribe because of His grace and mercy that redeems us. We enter the Story in our time and place but we

belong to the whole story. Retelling the story is how we learn our family history. Re-living the drama is one of the ways we see how we fit into this divinely wrought pattern of good creation, disfiguring sin and glorious restoration.

When we understand what God is doing we realize we have much to celebrate. And we want to sing with the angels, “*Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth...*” Singing surely is one of the appropriate ways we prepare for, celebrate and exalt the one whose advent is our focus during this season.

The Christmas story bursts our logical categories with News of what God did in coming down from heaven and entering our world. The poet Richard Crashaw captures the wonder in these words:

*Welcome to our wondering sight,
Eternity shut in a span!
Summer in winter! Day in night!
Heaven in earth! And God in man!
Great little one, whose glorious birth
Lifts earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to earth.
Grace and Peace,*

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Member News

Our sympathy goes out to the **Rob Blue** & family on the death of his mother, Melba White and to **Jean Platt** on the death of her nephew John Kelly.

Congratulations to **Sean & Melanie Magill** (and Graham, Ryan and Brooke) on the birth of their daughter, **Molly Jean** on November 5th!

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Jack Briel's** brother Larry, **Rock Campagna**, **Hazel Christian**, **Dwight Clark's** brother-in-law, Frank Henson, **Hattie Davis**, **Virginia Fraysse**, **Beverly Fulwider's** mother Doris Duncanson, **Mildred & Nevin Funk**, **Ray Gammon**, **Alyce Haller**, **Bill & Dot Harding**, **Durward Harding**, **Stan & Virginia Hiner**, **Ida Horne**, **Bryant Lowery**, **Christine Lowery** and her daughter Cindy, **Mildred Miller**, **Wendy Palmer's** aunt Doris, **Kathryn Parks**, **Denise Payne**, **Gerry Peed**, **Odell Scruggs**, **Mary Simpson's** friend, Cherry, **Bootsie Stevens**, **Elizabeth Wagner** and daughter Martha, **Ardy Winkle**, **Greg Woodfin, Sr.**, **Minnie Worley**, Trent Chelette, **Charles Keesee** and all the men and women who serve our nation. Also remember those who have lost jobs in the current economy.

(Please update Pastor Richard or Pastor Dixie as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)

If you would like to be visited by our pastor, please call the church office to make arrangements.

Thank You

FPC Members,
Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for the great tribute to my father, Linwood Blanton Muire.
Al Muire

Our family wishes of thanks to you. Hope all of you have a blessed holiday season.

Bev & Clyde Cannon
(a family that received a thanksgiving basket from us)

Dear Fairfield,
Again you so graciously allowed us to hold our District Banquet at your church. Again it was successful and you did much to make that happen. Your facilities are great and you are so good to share them with the Scouts.

Many Scouters will have fond memories of hours spent at Fairfield Presbyterian.

Sincerely,
Fran Costin

Dear Fairfield Family & Friends,

Thank you for all of the many cards, phone calls, visits and flowers during my recent knee surgery and recovery.

It is a wonderful thing to be a part of such a kind and caring church family.

Thank you again for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. I really appreciate it!

Ida Horne



Lynne and Gerald Rudolph are two of the five new members that Fairfield welcomed into the church last month. Lynne was born and raised in Norfolk. Gerald was born in Paducah Kentucky and moved to Norfolk as a child with his family. Lynne and Gerald were introduced

to each other on a blind date and as Lynne describes it, "it was a perfect date"! That perfect date resulted in a 48 year marriage, two children, a son and daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren! Gerald retired seven years ago from Sherwin Williams. He loves to read and is also a wood worker who keeps busy making furniture in his home workshop. Although Lynne has had several interest and hobbies over the years...cooking is the one enjoyment that has remained a constant. Mechanicsville has been home to them since moving here in 2007. They attend the 11 am Sunday service and find Fairfield to be a welcoming and friendly congregation.

Watch for Fairfield's other new member bios in next month's newsletter!

Pam Gigliotti



Ellis Baily	December 1
Bryon Eubanks	December 1
Patrick Sutton	December 1
Jake Mills	December 2
Riley Young	December 3
Terri Blubaugh	December 5
Noah Clark	December 7
Dana Franklin	December 7
Sheri Wodwaski	December 8
Matthew Leigh	December 9
Vivian Parks	December 9
Charlotte Bombere	December 11
Christine Lowery	December 11
Miyuki O'Kennon	December 11
Heather Brady	December 12
Kim Milburn	December 14
Susan Shipes	December 14
Donna Hohman	December 16
Clarence Hughes	December 16
Raquel Trexler	December 16
Larry Rigsby	December 17
Ayron Young	December 17
Patrick Young	December 17
Darlene Curtis	December 18
Matthew Trexler	December 18
Greg Woodfin	December 18
Kevin Beasley	December 19
Sara Gaston	December 19
Evelyn Moore	December 20
Amanda Ciejek	December 22
Reggie Crump, Jr.	December 22
Lucas Settle	December 22
Gina Sykes	December 22
Marie Blatt	December 23
Angela Schwartz	December 24
Su Ling Trexler	December 24
Lisa O'Kennon	December 25
Melaina Pope	December 25
Laverne Longest	December 26
Dana Mason	December 26
Chris O'Kennon	December 27
Vesna Pope	December 27
Karen Couch	December 29
Jack Mitchell	December 29
Chris Sorenson	December 29
Mary Mismas	December 31



Dot & Ray Gammon	December 1
Justin & Jenny Hale	December 2
Glenn & Marion Pratt	December 3
Pete & Judy Epps	December 4
Jim & Jerri McDuffee	December 5
Billy & Billie Elmore	December 14
Charles & Evelyn Moore	December 15
Garry & Donna Horn	December 17
Tracy & Vesna Pope	December 17
Sam & Bonnie Penny	December 28

Coming Weeks in Worship

Dec. 6	"Sign of the Virgin Birth"
Dec. 13	"Sign of Shepherds & Angels"
Dec. 20	"Sign of the Manger"
Dec. 24	Family Service at 5:30pm "Sign of the Star", 7:00pm service
Dec. 27	"Sign of Peace"
Jan. 3	"Sign of the Magi"

We welcome the following new members who joined the first Sunday in November after completing our Exploring Membership Class!

Terri Blubaugh

7200 History Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
789-9389

Jean Kirwan

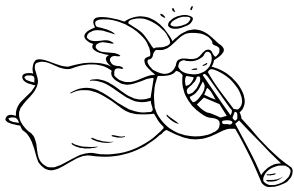
7112 Fishing Creek, # 301
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
789-9156

Dana Mason (daughter: Abigail)

8204 Tiffany Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
205-8221

Gerry & Lynn Rudolph

8027 Lake Haven Drive
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
730-2518



Advent & Christmas Events

November 29th

- ◆ **First Sunday in Advent**
- ◆ **Sermon Title:** "Sign of Bethlehem"

December 4th

- ◆ **Adult Choir** sings at Historic Pole Green Church, 7:00pm

December 6th

- ◆ **Second Sunday in Advent**
- ◆ **Family Advent Workshop**, 10:00am
- ◆ **Sermon Title:** "Sign of the Virgin Birth"

December 8th

- ◆ **Fellowship & Sunshine Circles'** luncheon
- ◆ **Joyful Readers' Circle** Christmas dinner at the Pasta House, 6:30pm

December 10th

- ◆ **Blue Christmas Service**, 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. For those who have lost a loved one, the holiday season can be a painful reminder of the loss. **The Blue Christmas Service** allows time to reflect on how the holidays can be a time of peace and reflection, a time to cherish the gift your loved one has been and continues to be in your life. For some, the loss of a job or of a significant relationship or loss of physical health may also diminish the sense of joy in this season. This reflective, prayerful worship gathers us all in hope of the Savior's coming. Come, light candles in the dark.



December 13

- ◆ **Third Sunday in Advent**
- ◆ **Sermon Title:** "Sign of Shepherds & Angels"
- ◆ **Union Class Christmas Luncheon**, 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **Joy Choir Concert**, 4:30pm in the sanctuary
- ◆ **All-Church Dinner**, 5:00pm in the Family Center
- ◆ **Angel Tree packages due today!** Thank you to all who took part!



December 17th

- ◆ **Fairfield Ringers** play at the Masonic Home, 6:30pm



December 19th

- ◆ **Youth Group Christmas Party**, 6:30pm

December 20

- ◆ **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
- ◆ **Sermon Title:** "Sign of the Manger"
- ◆ **Adult Choir Christmas Concert**, 4:30pm in the sanctuary
- ◆ **Light Supper** following concert, 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **Christmas Caroling**, 6:00pm: Please join us for another fun time of Christmas Caroling. We will meet at the church at 6:00pm and then divide into groups to go out to the various homes. After caroling we will return to the church for hot drinks.



December 11th

- ◆ **Youth Choir** sings at Covenant Woods, 7:00pm.

December 22

Living Nativity, 7:00-8:30pm in the Pavilion. The church will be holding a live nativity from 7:00-8:00. Children will dress in costume and play a role in shifts to be a part of the scene of our Savior's birth. There will be goats, sheep, and even a mule and cow! All we need are your children to complete the scene. Costumes are provided! Let us know the ages of your children who will play a role, and whether you will be able to donate a box of hot chocolate. Please e-mail Allison Letourneau at gcc2k@yahoo.com .



Living Nativity



During the Christmas season, Fairfield is participating in the ANGEL TREE PROGRAM sponsored

by Prison Fellowship. We are adopting Children who have a parent in prison. Each child is to receive two wrapped gifts. You can either deliver your wrapped gifts to the children directly or return them to the church by Sunday, December 13th and they will be delivered for you. The Angel Tree is located in the narthex.

December 24

- ◆ Church Office closes at 12:00 noon.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Worship** We offer two services . This is a wonderful time for you to invite your family and friends to Fairfield!
 - ◆ 5:30 p.m. **Family Worship** - All ages are welcome to worship in this family-friendly service.
 - ◆ 7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Worship** - In the hush of the evening, all gather in the light of Christ's birth. Sermon title: "Sign of the Star"

December 25

- ◆ **Christmas Day!**
- ◆ Church Office closed.



December 27

- ◆ **Worship** at 9am & 11am.
- ◆ Sermon Title "Sign of Peace"

December 28

- ◆ Church Office closed.

December 31

- ◆ Youth Group New Year's Eve Lock-In

January 3

- ◆ Worship at 9am & 11am
- ◆ Sermon Title "Sign of the Magi"

Advent Candle Lighting Volunteers

- November 29
 - 9am: Norman & Mary Sulser
 - 11am: John & Liz Crowe
- December 6
 - 9am: Marcia Cramer
 - 11am: Guertler Family
- December 13
 - 9am: Gaston Family
 - 11am: Alison & Richard Dunn
- December 20
 - 9am: Brown Family
 - 11am: Atkinson Family
- December 24
 - 5:30pm: Dobson Family
 - 7:00pm: Clark Family

Committee Reports

Adult Discipleship

Advent Invitational Scrolls

The season of Advent is a time of preparation when we are to "Prepare the way of the Lord," preparing our hearts to celebrate anew the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. To help us in this, Adult Discipleship invites you to pick up some very special scrolls, prepared by our members (special thanks to Kellie Rupard-Schorr). In these scrolls, a daily devotional will highlight each week's theme of Advent: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. The scrolls are in baskets located in the Narthex and at the side doors of the sanctuary. Please pick up a scroll and use it to reflect and meditate on this season of preparation.

Consider taking an Advent scroll to someone: a shut-in, or to a person who doesn't currently attend church. Spend some time with that person, showing them that God loves them. Letting someone know that you care can make a difference in their life and may lead them to know God in a deeper and more personal way.

We also extend the fall bible study's emphasis of "living a meaningful life of service" into Advent. As we approach each Sunday's Advent candle lighting, we will highlight people who have made a difference in our world by showing their traits of hope, peace, love and joy.

Winter Seminar for January, 2009

Discover Who God Made You to Be, Why You're Here, and What You Do Best

On Tuesday evenings (January 19 - February 23), we will offer a series to explore your personality type and your gifts with the Myers Briggs Inventory. This seminar will help members identify truths about themselves to add meaning and direction to their lives. We want the church to be a place where people can discover their potential and by God's grace develop it in significant ways. Should be fun and engaging for all. We'll give the inventory questionnaire at an introductory meeting (either evening Jan. 5 or 13). Mark your calendars!

Attention Fairfield's Super Singles!

In December, our fellowship time will be a little different! Please plan to meet at Vicky Brady's home, 7049 Claybird Lane, on Sunday, December 27, at 6:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Bring a favorite board or card game. Children and other family members are welcome to attend! Please call Vicky at 559-5889. We hope you can come by for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship!



Library News

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

As we enter into this holiday season of giving let us never forget that God gave us the gift of salvation and eternal life.

In the midst of our busy holiday activities take time to relax and enjoy some inspirational Christmas reading. New in our library this year you will find *The Christmas Promise*, *The Christmas Hope* and *The Christmas List*. New to the children's corner you will find *The Candy Maker's Gift*, *The Littlest Angel* and *The Christmas Mouse*.

In this Christmas season as we begin to exchange gifts with our friends and family remember that God gave us each and everyone the greatest gift ever given. Christmas peace and joy to you and to those you love.

Merry Christmas. Elizabeth Covington

Member Care

Christmas Caroling

Member Assimilation

Thank you to all who brought sandwiches, veggies, or desserts for the November 22 MCEF Luncheon. Thanks, too, to Kellie Rupard-Schorr for setting up the computer for Lynn Saunders to use in her presentation, and to Lynn and all the MCEF folks who do so much for our neighbors in need.

As usual December will offer many opportunities to share time with friends and family at Fairfield. The All Church Dinner that is usually on the first Wednesday of the month has been moved to Sunday, December 13, to be held in conjunction with the Children's Christmas Program. Dinner will start after the program, about 5:00, and will be roast beef and all the fixin's. Please fill out a reservation form so we can plan accordingly.

(Rumor is that we will have a visit from someone in red!)

On December 20, please plan to attend the Choir's Christmas Program at 4:30. After the concert you are invited to enjoy soup and bread in the Fellowship Hall. Following this light meal we will divide into groups and go caroling at the homes of several shut-ins. Then plan to return to the church for fellowship, hot chocolate, and cookies. This should be a fun and meaningful event for all ages. If you are willing to bring a pot of soup or a plate of cookies to share, please sign up on the form in the Narthex.

As the Member Assimilation Committee is busy planning for next year's events we want to take time to thank all of you who have helped with this past year's events. Your offers of food and time have helped to make Fairfield Presbyterian Church a welcoming and supportive church. Merry Christmas to you all!

Beth Young



On Sunday, December 20, 2009, Membercare & the Choir would like to invite you to go Christmas Caroling to some of our shut-ins homes. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00p.m. after a light Family Night Supper that starts at 5:30p.m. (This supper follows the Christmas choir program.) We will return back to Fairfield for desserts, coffee & hot chocolate. There will be sign-up sheets in all Sunday School classrooms so we can have a head count. Sign up sheets will be in Sunday School and on sheets provided in the Narthex or on the bulletin board by the Union Classroom. Plan to join us!

Here are this month's featured Shepherd Groups. Please continue to pray for those in your group and reach out if you hear they are on the prayer list. We are still looking for a few more Shepherds. Please contact either Sandra Brewster or Cathy Guertler if you would be willing to serve as a Shepherd or if you need a new list of your group. Thank you very much.

Shepherd- Chris & Anne Sorensen

Anne Baird
Margaret Barlow
Elizabeth Davis
Cathy Eubanks
Myrtle Muire
Bootsie Stevens

Shepherd-Bob & Gen Stevens

Mike & Donna Hohman
Mildred Miller
Louise Setchel
Ryan & Gail Warren

Shepherd- Dennis & Tracy Sulser

Dale Berry
Charles & Laura Gauntt
Brett & Katy Underdown

Shepherd-Norman & Mary Sulser

Claude & France Carmack
John & Liz Crowe
Ivy & Nancy Gallihugh
Ida Horne
Chuck & Susan Lorch
Greg & Dale Woodfin

Men of the Church

Fairfield Men of the Church continued their monthly fellowship on Friday, November 13th at Cold Harbor Restaurant. We were honored to have Newton Todd join our fellowship and start our morning with a beautifully delivered prayer of thanksgiving and blessings. We finalized all details for the Thanksgiving baskets delivery and the Fairfield Thanksgiving breakfast.

On November 24th we delivered food baskets to 7 families in need. Because of your love and generosity, Fairfield congregation donations provided these families with an overflowing horn of plenty for the Thanksgiving Day festivities.

We look forward to meeting again on December 11 fellowship and breakfast from 6-8am. We will discuss more opportunities to serve during the Christmas season. Everyone's input is valuable and all men are welcome and encouraged to attend this wonderful men's fellowship at The Cold Harbor Restaurant.

Please call Bill Dobson to reserve a spot at the breakfast table. A Thursday night breakfast reminder will also be an option for anyone who needs it. We look forward to seeing you.

Service in Christ,
Bill Dobson & Billy Putze

Missions

CARITAS

(Congregations In Richmond Involved
To Assure Shelter)

CARITAS is a community-based organization which enables member congregations to provide shelter and hospitality to persons who are homeless in the Richmond metropolitan area. CARITAS is the largest emergency shelter program in the Richmond area. CARITAS is a massive volunteer effort organized by the faith community. An estimated 5,000-10,000 volunteers participate in CARITAS every year. Fairfield will be hosting CARITAS this year from **December 12 through December 19**. As in previous years, we will be housing approximately 40 adult men and providing meals each day during the week. There are plenty of opportunities for individuals, small groups, and Sunday school classes to help during the week. The primary areas include overnight support (2 people per night), lunch preparation (can be done off-site and delivered to

the church), dinner preparation, and laundry. Please plan now to volunteer some time during that week for this ministry. A sign up board is located in the narthex.

Richmond Friends of the Homeless

Our next time to serve lunch is **Friday, December 11th**. This month we need volunteers to meet at the church at 11am and travel downtown together to provide this wonderful service. Please sign up to serve in the Narthex. Please take this opportunity to serve with us!

MCEF NEWS

Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions
www.mcefva.org

The holiday season is here! MCEF is grateful for the food donations that helped families enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. Several community organizations are helping with food drives for the Food Pantry through the end of the year. Thank you to American Family Fitness, EVB Bank at Kings Charter and Atlee Chiropractic. Several Girl Scout troops have chosen MCEF for service projects. Awareness of what MCEF does in the community is getting "out there" and that brings help to many families.

MCEF now has two accounts for accepting tax deductible contributions; MCEF and MCEF Food Pantry. If you would like your monetary donations to go to the Food Pantry please indicate that on the memo line of your check. Otherwise, your contributions will be used for emergency funds that help people who are facing evictions, utility cut-offs and needed emergency medical prescriptions. All of your donations are greatly appreciated.

The next collection of food and personal items for the Food Pantry is **Sunday, December 6, 2009**.

With thankful hearts,
Nancy and Ivy Gallihugh



Music News



Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend the **Christmas Concert** presented by the **Youth and Adult Choirs on Sunday, Dec. 20**. The concert begins at

4:30pm. As we celebrate the gift we received from God with the birth of His Son through music, we also want to share His gift through service. We would like everyone to bring a non-perishable food item that would make a festive Christmas dinner for someone who is hungry. All food will be given to MCEF. Following the 4:30 concert, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall where we will share a light soup supper; about 5:30pm. After we have eaten, we will share the Bread of the Life, the Good news of Jesus' birth with our shut-ins, by going to their homes and singing Christmas carols. The Member Assimilation Committee and Member Care Committee are organizing this part of the evening. Our concert, meal, and caroling is for everyone. Please consider coming and bringing your family and friends!

Celeste Underdown

Stewardship Committee

As of Sunday, November 29th, 102 families pledged almost \$298,447. Thank you, thank you to those who've shown your commitment to the ministry of Fairfield Church in the coming year. We still have to hear from other families, but the good news is, "There's still time to pledge!". We encourage you to send in your pledge as soon as possible as our church leaders will soon be preparing the final church budget for 2010. It is always our hope that projected income will at least match projected expenses guaranteeing support for the Session's vision for ministry next year. The participation of each church member and friend can help us achieve that goal!

Sunday School

ADVENT WORKSHOP

On Sunday, December 6th, an Advent Workshop will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 10 o'clock for parents and their children in God's Treehouse Adventures (Preschool and K-5). Grandparents welcome, too! Come to the Fellowship Hall where the Joy Choir will start us off in song as we make a special craft to prepare for Christmas together.

Nursery Schedules

9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule

Dec. 6	Courtney Fisher & Diane Brown
Dec. 13	Nancy Gallilugh & Becky Settle
Dec. 20	Mitzi Marker & Karen Couch
Dec. 27	Gen Stevens & Linda Daugherty

9:00am Preschool

Dec. 6	Jamie Fisher & Alan Brown
Dec. 13	Stuart Settle & Brooke Bessette
Dec. 20	Anne Sorensen & Danny Couch
Dec. 27	Bob Stevens & Beverly Burts

9:00 Kid's Worship

Dec. 6	Crystal Bessette & Julie Gee
Dec. 13	Ginny Patterson & Tom Lake
Dec. 20	Jenny Lake & Sharon Gaston
Dec. 27	Mary Sulser & Keith Franklin

10:00am Sunday School

Dec. 6	Gen Stevens & Beverly Ward
Dec. 13	Barbara Wash & Beverly Ward
Dec. 20	Linda Gruenhagen & Debbie Lynn
Dec. 27	Eva Ladd & Nancy Walls

11:00am Infant/Preschool Schedule

Dec. 6	Larry Hansbrough & Angela Schwartz
Dec. 13	Elizabeth Covington & Cindy Cattoi
Dec. 20	Alison Dunn & David Schwartz
Dec. 27	Cindy Holloman & Noah Clark

11:00am Kid's Worship

- Dec. 6 Allison Letourneau
- Dec. 13 Dixie Brachlow
- Dec. 20 Donna Hohman
- Dec. 27 Anne Young

Preschool Sunday School

- Dec. 6 All Sunday School Gathering (Advent)
"Christmas Around the World"
- Dec. 13 George Herring & Melanie Rubeck
- Dec. 20 Alison Dunn & Mitzi Marker
- Dec. 27 Compass Sunday: Donna Horn & Robin Patterson

Mom's Club of Mechanicsville South

Are you looking for a way to connect with other moms in the Mechanicsville area? Great news! The MOM's Club of Mechanicsville is welcoming new members! Moms will attend monthly meetings with speakers on topics relevant to your life. There are MOM's nights out, seasonal and holiday parties, book/craft/cooking clubs, babysitting co-ops and a chance to interact and make new friends. Your children get picnics and playdates in the park, trips to zoos or museums, holiday parties and games, storytime and crafts, tours of special places like the fire station or a restaurant and lots of indoor and outdoor activities!

Contact Roni Turner for more information at 779-3486 or roniturner2@hotmail.com. Best of all, the group meets right at Fairfield!

History of the Christmas Joy Offering

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to an Advent offering. The Christmas Joy Offering dates back to the 1930's when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families. It was first officially called the Joy Gift in 1949.

In the former United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA), a Christmas offering was first taken in 1960. Called the White Gift, its funds were used for general mission and world relief. In 1964 the name was changed to the Christmas Offering, and receipts provided support for health and welfare concerns related to children. The emphasis on global work with children continued until 1973, when the offering was used to assist former servants of the church who were living on inadequate pensions. In 1974 racial ethnic education was added, and in 1979 nursing home care assistance was also included. Funds were distributed evenly between the Board of Pensions and racial ethnic education.

In 1988 the PCUS and the UPCUSA offering were joined into one offering, the Christmas Offering Joy Gift. It was agreed that neither the Board of Pensions nor the racial ethnic schools would suffer in the merger of the Joy Gift and the Christmas Offering. In 1989 the offering was renamed the Christmas Joy Offering, and in 1991 the 203 rd General Assembly changed the distribution of funds to 50 percent to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

A bulletin insert in will provide additional information about the Christmas Joy Offering. We will collect our offering on Christmas Eve at both services. There will be an offering envelope in the bulletin.



Directory Changes

Greg & Dale Woodfin
11142 Richmond Tappahannock Highway
St. Stephens Church, VA 23148

Rock & Donna Campagna
2861 Fairway Homes Way
Glen Allen, VA 23059
912-1423

Dana & Keith Franklin have a new e-mail address. It is: franklin6706@verizon.net

Pilates Class

The last class for 2009 will begin December 1st and run through December 29th (no classes the week of 12/21). This class takes place in the Family Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:15-7:15pm. The cost for 7 classes is \$30. Contact Joanne Snook for more information at 512-9194.



Fairfield Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1088
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Organization
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