

**St. John's United Methodist Church
5312 Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151
Return Service Requested**

The Chimes

a monthly publication of
St. John's United Methodist Church



Thank you -- each of you -- who wrote such kind words of support and encouragement for the album given to me for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Thank you, too, for the exceedingly generous gift of money. Your kind, gracious and invitationary manner toward Roy, Tesa and Tenchoe have made us feel so welcomed to the St. John's family. It has been and continues to be a wondrous calling to be in ministry with you at St. John's.

Thank you, thank you, for your outpouring of love toward me and my family.

Pastor Paula



Our Pastor's Message

A Prayer Not To Get Lost This Advent

(from Finding God Between the Lines by Jody Seymour)

O God, I can already hear people complaining. They use your name in a strange sort of way:

"O God, I'll be glad when Christmas is over."

We get lost almost every year at this time, God

Lost trying to remember....

Lost trying to buy our way out....

Lost trying to finish the list....

Lost trying to make it the best Christmas ever.

Save us, God, as only you can do. Save us from the wilderness of malls, the wilderness of plastic, and the desert of re-creations of Christmas past.

Pull us aside and remind us that we must tiptoe to the manger if we are to hear the sounds of Christmas.

He will come again, won't he?

Wrestle us away from the depression of not having enough

Time....Love.... Money....

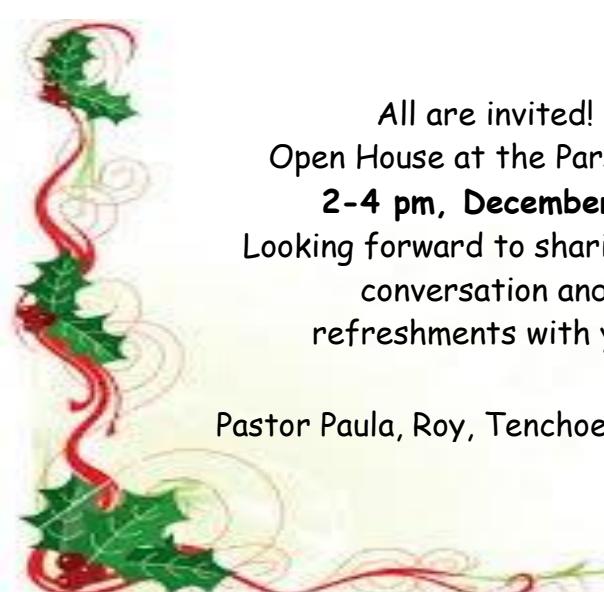
Save us with the soft cry of the child who knows we still need silent nights. You know how to find us when we are lost. Make us remember that what matters is love given, and make us believe that if you help us not to get lost, we must help you find those this Advent who do get lost.

We pray in the name of the child who came for the lost child in all of us.

Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Paula



All are invited!

Open House at the Parsonage

2-4 pm, December 7

Looking forward to sharing time,
conversation and
refreshments with you.

Pastor Paula, Roy, Tenchoe and Tesa



A "Note" about Music Ministry



Music for Advent Sundays

Sunday, November 30 - Flute solo by Robyn Strong

Sunday, December 7 - Trombone solo by Kathy Strong, Harp solo by Kitty Yang

Sunday, December 14 - Alto Saxophone solo by Aaron Listopad

Sunday, December 21 - Christmas Concert "Lessons and Carols"

We will have Christmas Carols Sing-along during the "postlude" time on November 30, December 7, December 14, and December 28.

St. John's Christmas Concert

2014 St. John's Christmas Concert "Lessons and Carols" will be held on **Sunday, December 21** as part of the worship service.

The Lessons will be narrated by Mr. David Chadwick. All St. John's Choirs will perform special music. Guest instrumentalists include flutist Kathryn Finney, violinist Kevin Pham, and harpist David Crookston.



Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Worship Service

St. John's Children's Choir will present a mini-musical "The Night The Angels Sang".

Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m. Worship Service

Bells of Praise, Youth Choir, Youth Instrumentalists, and Sanctuary Choir will present special music.

Choir Schedule in 2015

Singing Saints- Resume singing activity on Sunday, January 4

Sanctuary Choir- Resume anthem singing on Sunday, January 4

Bells of Joy-Rehearsal resumes on Wednesday, January 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Bells of Praise - Rehearsal resumes on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Music Program - Youth Choir Rehearsal and Guitar Choir Lesson resume on Sunday, January 11

Children's Music Program - Resumes on Sunday, January 11 at 4:45 p.m.

2nd Annual United Methodist Choirs Sing for UMCOR

The second annual United Methodist Choirs Sing for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) Concert will be held on Sunday, January 25 at 4:00 p.m. at **Springfield United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152**. This concert is open free to the public. A love offering will be donated to UMCOR.



A Note from Christian Education

The Advent Virus

WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.

An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.

A loss of interest in judging other people.

A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.

A loss of interest in conflict.

A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)

Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.

Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.

Frequent attacks of smiling.

An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.

An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

[From: www.appleseeds.org -- Anonymous e-mail]

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY - SUNDAYS

"When God Comes Down" - An inter-generational Bible Study

Beginning November 30, St. John's will "suspend" Sunday School classes for adults and teens and hold an inter-generational Bible study on **Sundays, 9:15 - 10:15 AM** in Donaldson Hall. "When God Comes Down" is a study about the characters of the Bible and the meaning of Advent in the stories they tell.

- November 30 "Elizabeth and Zechariah" [Pastor Paula Werner]
- December 7 "Joseph" [Bob Winstead]
- December 14 "Mary" [Barbara Turpyn]
- December 21 "The Innkeeper" [Brenda Romenius]

As we learn about these familiar characters and how their stories, we can see how this season can create new purpose within us. No readings in advance are required, just bring your Bible.

A Note from Christian Education

Advent Sunday November 30 – Fellowship, Crafts and Music

On November 30, St. John's will hold an Advent fellowship event after Worship in Donaldson Hall. Children of all ages are invited to stay for cookies and cocoa, Advent crafts, and songs. Make plans to join us for an afternoon of fun for everyone!

Nativity Displays – December 14

The Nativity is one of the best-known and beloved symbols of the Advent and Christmas season. In many homes the Nativity crèche is a gathering place for the family, a center focus for the season. They often hold a special memory and meaning for how they have come to us.

Do you have a special Nativity you would like to share? Perhaps it was a family heirloom - or a gift - or purchased on a trip that had special meaning to you. On December 14, Nativities will be placed in Donaldson Hall for the Social Hour. They will be labeled with the name of the individual/family, with a short paragraph of why your Nativity means so much to you.

If you have a Nativity that you would like to share with your church family, please bring your Nativity to the church during the week of **December 8-12 M-F 9-5 PM, or Saturday, Dec. 13 9 AM – Noon**. Also leave a short note or send an e-mail stating what is special about your Nativity to you. Contact: Brenda Romenius at education@saintjohnsumc.org or 703-256-6655 ext. 101.





News Around the Church



UMM Breakfast and FALL CLEAN-UP

On December 6, at 8:00 a.m. the UMM will host a breakfast in Donaldson Hall followed by church grounds clean up. What a great time for fellowship!  Lawn bags and tarps shall be provided. Please come out with your gloves and rakes to make our church look beautiful for the upcoming holiday season. Contact the church office at 703-256-6655.



Due to the holidays and the planned activities, Zumba dates and times will be emailed from jasdub@cox.net each Tuesday and Thursday morning. Check your emails please.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Focus: Getting into the Christmas Spirit
Question: Are you going to be a true giver this year and help those less fortunate than you experience a better Christmas?

January Chimes Due

2015 will be here before you know it!
Let's get the word out on up-coming activities.
Submit January articles to the church office
by December 19.

May the peace and forgiving love that Jesus brought be reborn in your heart this Christmas.



Merry Christmas
from the Staff of St. John's
Pastor Paula, Brenda Romenius, Debbie
Ashby, Kitty Yang, Judy Dubler,
Kathy Boyd, Linda Meaney, Bryan Strong,
Michael Parker, Rachel Parker.

Thank You Operation Christmas Child!

Thank you volunteers for all the hours you put in and packing the cartons with shoeboxes and all those who helped donate. A big thank you to Jason Lavender and Mr. Rogers who helped us transport all the cartons from here to Calvary Road Baptist Church. Without all of your support and dedication to this Mission, we wouldn't have had all this success for these 18 years.

We collected 740 shoeboxes alone Sunday after church and took our total to 2300 shoeboxes! This is our third year in a row capping the 2000 mark! Thank you again for all of your support and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Michael and Rachel Parker



News Around the Church



UMM Breakfast and FALL CLEAN-UP

On December 6, at 8:00 a.m. the UMM will host a breakfast in Donaldson Hall followed by church grounds clean up. What a great time for fellowship! Lawn bags and tarps shall be provided. Please come out with your gloves and rakes to make our church look beautiful for the upcoming holiday season. Contact the church office at 703-256-6655.

Bi-District Training Day

Don't be left behind on January 10!

Registrations are starting to pick up and workshop space is limited; \$30 registration deadline is Dec. 8! You will find all workshop descriptions and a mail-in registration form, at www.novaumc.org/btdt.html. Online registration is also available via that link.

UPDATE ON SOCIAL HOUR

Thank you to the St. John's Choirs for their support of the Social Hour in November. Help is needed to serve refreshments and to clean up at the end of Social Hour in December. Two people are needed to serve and two people are needed to help with cleanup. Please contact Judy Paseur at 703-425-1247 or e-mail jmpaseur@yahoo.com if you are interested to helping. Thank you for your support.

Message from the St. John's Board of Trustees

St. John's church members who have discovered they are required to make an additional 2014 Qualified Tax Donation by December 31st, please consider sending that donation to the St. John's Building Improvement Fund. Thank You.

Trio of Trees for Mission

During the month of December, St. John's will be decorating Christmas trees with gifts for three mission organizations: Wesley Housing, ECHO and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). So while you are doing your Christmas shopping, pick up some of these items, bring them to church and attach them to the tree. You will be making a big difference in someone's life.

Wesley Housing: Gift cards for teens (Target is preferred)

ECHO: New winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for adults and children

UMCOR: New items for relief-supply kits - health, school and sewing.

Health Kit

Hand towel for personal use

Washcloth

Comb - 8" long

Metal nail file or nail clippers

Full-size bath soap

Adult toothbrush (in original package)

Adhesive bandages

School Kit

Blunt scissors - rounded tip

Pads of paper - spiral- or top-bound pads or 150 sheets or less of loose-leaf paper

Hand-held pencil sharpener

30-centimeter ruler

Unsharpened pencils

Eraser - 2-inch or larger-size

24-count box of crayons

Sewing Kit

Fabric - 3 continuous yards -cotton or cotton blend only

Scissors - fabric scissors only

Hand sewing needles(in original packaging)

Thread - medium to large spool

5-8 buttons - 5/8-inch size or larger



United Methodist Women



UMW Christmas Program

The Christmas Program will be held Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in Donaldson Hall. The evening will include a light supper, candle burning, the installation of 2015 officers, and the presentation of the Special Mission Recognition Pins and recognition of the babies born/baptized at St. John's this past year whose mothers/grandmothers/great-grandmothers are members of St. John's. Per the usual, each UMW Circle will be asked to provide three dishes to share: (2) non-sweet & (1) sweet. Circle duties for this event are: Set up -Joy; Serve - Friends; Clean up -Women in Action. For any contributions for Bethany House, please bring to this meeting. Include a list of the items & value. Thank you! If you need childcare or a ride, please contact Marty Bickford at martyb@martfour.com, or the church office.

The Hermitage - The Strawberry Patch needs everything! Everything as in donations of in-season men's & women's clothing, accessories, shoes and jewelry. Questions? Contact Eve H.

December 9, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM [Alexandria-Arlington Districts Christmas Open House](#), Bi-District Offices. Before the season gets too busy, please stop by and join us for refreshments and holiday greetings! This is a drop-in reception; pastors, laity, and church staff members are invited.

5001 Echols Ave., Alexandria, VA 22311, 703-820-7200

January 10, 2015, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM- Bi-District Training Day (BDTD) Join us for our annual training and enrichment event at Floris UMC www.florisumc.org/ **Registration** is open from November 1-December 18, 2014 , With your VISA/MC

<https://s01.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1531828182300&P=15318281911428598300> **Registration** is \$30 by **December 18** or onsite at the venue for \$60 (workshop choices will be limited then). Check back often – this site will be updated as more information becomes available. Here's the pdf of the program brochure: [BDTD 2015 Program](#)

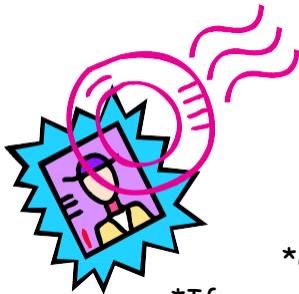
****ONCE YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE BOOKLET AND HAVE YOUR WORKSHOP CHOICES,** to register with your VISA/MC.

[https://s01.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?](https://s01.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1531828182300&P=15318281911428598300)

[PG=1531828182300&P=15318281911428598300](https://s01.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1531828182300&P=15318281911428598300) Please note: hard copies of the program will be mailed to each church, and to those who attended in 2014. If you do not receive a hard copy, please contact Sharon Sheldon at programsecretar@novaumc.org, BDTD registrar (phone is 703-820-7200).

Circle Duties for December:

Kitchen –Joy Greeters/Cards– Faith



From the "Stamp Lady": Debbie Lewis has assumed the collection of cancelled - and un-cancelled stamps from Jean Smith, who did it for over 30 years (the VA Conference UMWs have been involved since 1982). All proceeds go to UMCOR.

*Leave at least a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. border around stamp when you take it off the envelope.

*Cut or tear off the stamp. Do not try to unpeel it off the envelope.

*If a row of stamps are attached, leave the row intact and leave a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch border.

*For postcards, send in the whole card intact.

*You do not need to count or weight the stamps.

*Whenever you or someone comes to Blackstone for a UMW event, bring the stamps and leave at the registration area. Cancelled or unused stamps are being collected

CALENDAR

November 30th - Advent Crafts after the worship service.

December 2 - The UMW Christmas Program will be held **Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.** in Donaldson Hall. Light supper & program (see above). Bring a friend!

December 7th - **St. John's Parsonage Open House.** Contact Marty B. if you can help out or bake cookies.

December 21st First Day of Winter (Really? Says who? My coats & gloves say differently.)

December 25th Christmas Day God Bless you this Christmas! St. John's Christmas Eve Services: Family Service 5:30 pm, Traditional Service 8 pm.



In the event you have not heard, the UMW Yard & Bake Sale + Holiday Boutique was very successful. Thank you to those who donated merchandize, provided baked goods, and worked throughout the week pricing and organizing displays for the sale on Saturday morning. Thanks also to everyone who helped during the yard sale. It was well worth the time and effort. Proceeds totaling more than \$1,400 was collected, which will benefit certain UMW missions and projects. Blessings, Marty Bickford, St. John's UMW President





Youth News



Thank you to all the youth who helped with OCC this year as you all provided us with the man power to load the cartons and be ready for those 740 shoeboxes we collected that Sunday.

As we go into the Advent season, Youth Sunday School will be on a hiatus for the inter-generational Advent Study that will meet in Donaldson Hall.

We also have the Processing Center Trip Dec. 6th, which we will meet at 1pm in the back parking lot and head out soon after to be there for our 3pm shift.

Bible Study will be Dec. 7th from 4:45-6pm and dinner will be provided.

We will go ice skating after church on Dec 14th at the Fairfax Ice Arena.

Dec. 21st during worship will be our Christmas Concert with the bells and choirs.

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Michael and Rachel Parker



Birthdays, Anniversaries, Friends



December Birthdays

- 1 Louise Proctor, Shirley Wagner
- 2 Tricia Armentrout,
- 3 Candy Brassard, Matthew Halterman
- 4 Patrick Pacak
- 5 Walter Edwards, Alice Galloway,
Stephanie Reynolds
- 6 Robert DeBusk
- 7 Danny Whittle
- 8 Megan Fleming
- 9 Tanner Green
- 10 Jada Burgess
- 11 Jim Gray
- 13 Donna Perlish
- 14 Kathy Paultk
- 15 Justin Gray
- 16 Brenda Romenius
- 17 Pete Pederson
- 18 Anne Akridge, Eunice Blau
- 20 Raymond Cribbs, Robin Huebner
- 22 John Novack
- 24 Kitty Yang
- 25 Roger Rivera,
- 26 Christopher Chicarella, Stacy Stratton
- 27 Jennifer Gilchrist
- 28 Ellie Holcombe
- 29 Cameron Meyer
- 30 Wade Akridge



December Anniversaries

- 4 Pete & Tina LaMon
- 11 Gerald & Mary Maxwell,
Harlin & Fran Matkins,
Ralph & Maxine Marshall
- 16 Jerry & Debbie Ashby
- 21 Dave & Pam Gallagher
- 23 Leonard & Audra Poling

In Prayer



Luke Catania IV, Vicki Collins,
Tiny Hartzell, Ed Jones,
Margaret Marsh,
Hazel Marshall, Harlin Matkins,
Patti Parker, Joann Raison, Betty Rampy,
Margo Robinson, Jim Robinson, Barbara Teats,
Macel Thompson, and Connie Ward.

Extended Family: Bridgett Barbarto,
Cindy Bronder, Tippy Cameron, Steve Cooper,
Lynn Foster, Carol Full, Robert Giannini, Nancy
Gonzales, Doug Johnson, Kirk Marshall, Dolores
Martin, Virginia Rainey, Bill and Betty Smith,
Philip Smith, Linda Stocks, Danny VanGorder, Ray
Wardlow, William Weist, Bert Wood Jr.

Law Enforcement and those Serving in the Armed Forces

Bryan Teats, serving in Kuwait
Jared Davis, serving in the Army Intelligence
Branch at Ft. Meade, MD.
Des Walton, serving with the Army in Bangkok,
Thailand.
Jeremy Honaker, nephew of Debbie & Jerry
Ashby, Warner Robins, GA.
Matt Stratton, serving in the Army, Ft. Collins,
CO.
If you have a family member serving on active
duty we would like to include their name on this
prayer list. Let the office know.

St. John's United Methodist Church

December 2014

S	T	W	T	F	S	
11	2	3	4	5	6	rur:11mbm (I, &
\$ 9	10	11	12	13		Janua;r, 2C.15
14	15	16	17	18		S T A' T
21	22	23	24	25		1 2 3
26	27	28	29	30		10 11 12 13
27	28	29	30	31		14 15 16
						17 18 19
						20 21 22 23 24
						1 21 II 31 32
						12 13

S.....nd; i**	t,ln::ly	T W9;t	2	1,1=tinA-II'1-	s,im we , ,	sosm vt,l,l
7-Jm S U&J(I)H	93CsmE v,apcl	10.1:im Sing'lg \$snit (Ot.:ir Rrr)	23 29 \$0 1 lhu:daz	i:ri:t;t	S&ljf.:Jt/	
C:E)ltn utl.W Ch1fflmt.1 P,u9,:ln	S: 8Eol\$ef Jc,, eatvneo 1;cf	1ao:n, Bil buly Llitr	6 00Fm l1mi m \Pi,ino Rd)	e.,;ilf.i.;i		
	Pr ise	13011m Sing'lg Saf<& ;Atlcn:ile	6:Spn Zirlbs	eo;im Ctuiei Clen Up		
			11:1(DH	20!ffl AE-SIV Hulg		
9.1EMS! hda•; Sctool N, om V0,s, S 1Vi:ic 120:rn BP C* 11w,m Sod./	30tpm\ll gt Hru:ing zJplllS.00.13 111 f0.H1	1t:lebm Jcl!leti Cl/Cle HO!utrig !*3(lm::tdf Oinne- E ..mScool& ...,\n\OH	10.1:im Bibo :titutly t.ltr.'Ui 10,-e:im Sing'ng	310 OCC		
114Sarn You'll 203pcn Oll:lll 15pm Cfltl11n(l		3:30,1t\l!,!Gel Ho'.nmg, S:J03m 13<1\$ ct JO' m Beth of Pt3ii	H:ia IS 10pf1 ZumbE Cl:iu10H: 730(1t'lS9"Cr ry Choir Ch	Prc:oo\$\$11g (Sul)lD }		
,4Spm YOJth 15ain S..ld:ty IIIII Ol 1lt.JCam Worst:p "4" o 112c..11m So:i 1t 4).lm You'h Cupin YoAnh; 1,Jti(7Slprr Scout; tll:KI (O.H	\$(:amCGCE c11einmae Pn>9,,m 30pfl'6c 10 1)1 Jo, e31.lm Betsof	10.30:tm EN 'W.ly Ll>tsrf(1s;11m S9 Sahl\$ e.159:nZ11mbs	41mmL,n,f(y 1-H.1:ing		
4 Yl(lm:nd1'A1'r.		13mAdm	\$(),111611u0	10&m Pt1}clr 1 Hulif.f)*		
0)ani Cl.1im x\$ O,i1m1t Scc Tino	7-JCpm Sou:: 9 0\OH>	5 m Fa-n\$, sr....100 eo;im Yiddeflal St1Vic:	Clio tChOlR J			
			Chri&tmaCa"	Ofioe Cla-cc		
130,n•Noiishi:i- S!Nkle Bfl\$C111 Tin)&	7:30pln SOO/3 01JH!	10	S1			
28	2'					