



From the Pastor

It was on the afternoon of November 7th that Sharon and I and Grace, our two-year-old granddaughter, were driving into the parking lot of the Red Mill Commons shopping center. It had been a busy day and it was

not slowing down. I was busy driving; Sharon was busy getting ready to drop off a rug at the cleaners; and Grace was in her car seat in the back seat of the car.

Suddenly, Grace said rather matter-of-factly, "It's Christmas". Sharon and I glanced at each other as if to ask, "Why did Grace say that?" Then we both turned around to look at her. She was looking out of the back seat window. So we looked out our windows, and that's when we saw it. It was a Christmas wreath hanging from the parking lot lamp post. As we looked around we could see that Christmas decorations were already being put up throughout the parking lot.

Two things struck me from this experience. First, I was impressed that Grace was so observant to see a Christmas wreath and know what it meant. How quickly they learn! Second, I wondered why I had not been so observant to see it myself. Was I just too busy?

It is so easy to get so busy with our own agendas that we fail to see things we should see and do things we should do! Busyness gives us "tunnel vision". We can't see or hear anything else but our own self-centered agendas. And often we miss the joys of life that surround us.

Unfortunately, this happens in our faith as well. We get too busy even for God! And then we wonder why we're so tired and frustrated; and why the world is such a violent mess!

The first Christmas was no different. Jesus was born into a world that was too busy to notice or care. Except for a few shepherds and three really observant wise men, the world took little notice of him. And the world still takes very little notice of him. We're all just too busy!

But the good news is that Christmas is still happening to those who are willing to receive it. Jesus will come and dwell in the heart of anyone who calls on his name.

The Gospel of John does not tell a nativity story, but it does give a beautiful prologue of the coming of Jesus. John writes: "*Jesus came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his very own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed in him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.*" (John 1:10-12, NLT)

Grace taught me a lesson that day: don't get so busy that I miss what God is doing. Christmas celebrates the truth that God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to love me and you, and to give us his joy in life. Don't miss it! Isaac Watts wrote so powerfully, "*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.*"

Take a moment this Christmas season to pause long enough to see what God is doing for those who are willing to look. It may just restore the childlike joy of what Christmas is really all about – Jesus!

*Grace & Peace,
Jack*



The
Tabernacle Friend



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

December 2017 / January 2018

News you can Use. . .



TAKE NOTE: HOLIDAY WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES:

CHRISTMAS EVE DAY, Sunday, December 24th, we will have only one worship

service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY, Sunday, December 31st, we will have only one worship service at 10:00am. There will be no Sunday School.

Our traditional **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** will be held on **Saturday, December 24,** at: **5:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m.; and 11:00 p.m.** At 5:00 p.m. the Adult Choir will sing. At 7:00 p.m. the Children's Choir will sing. And at 11:00 p.m. we will celebrate Holy Communion. Come join us for this holy night of worship to our new born king.

CHRISTMAS SEASON EVENTS:

The annual **CHRISTMAS PLAY** will be performed on **Sunday, December 10,** during the **11:00 a.m. worship service.** It will be followed immediately by the annual **CHRISTMAS LUNCH** in the Fellowship Hall. This is a pot-luck lunch so bring something good to share and eat.

The **Emmaus and Chrysalis Community Gathering** will be hosted here at Tabernacle Church on **Saturday, December 16.** The pot-luck dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The gathering for worship will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

We will go **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** to our shut-ins on **Sunday, December 17.** We will gather in the church parking lot at **2:00 p.m.** and carpool together. They love when we come and sing, and the more the merrier.



Joy to the World!



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCHEON

On Sunday December 10 following the Christmas Play, which will be presented at the 11 o'clock service. The congregation will gather in the Social Hall for Tabernacle's traditional **Christmas Luncheon Potluck.** Please prepare one of your family's traditional holiday recipes and bring enough to share.

Menu

**Cheerful Snacks and Bites
Succulent Holiday Entrees
Festive Fresh Side Dishes
Sugar and Spice Desserts**

Sharing this Christian Holiday Sunday, together with your church family, is the most joyous of beginnings for your family to begin this holiday season.

See you there.



The Greatest Gift

Searching for the perfect gift for family and friends can be a bit daunting. When children are small we know exactly what is on their wish list. But as they grow up

and move out of the house, we are not so in tune with the things they need or wish for. What about our friends or neighbors or business associates? We really want to give a little something because 'tis the season, but we hope they don't feel obligated to give to us in return.

Have you ever noticed the awkwardness of gift giving? Second guessing whether to give or not to give, what to give, how much to give, etc. And then there is the desire to give to everyone, but no budget to do so. The hustle and bustle of Christmas giving sometimes quenches the true Spirit of Christmas.

There is a gift that keeps on giving, has already been paid for, lasts forever and was tailor made with each recipient in mind. God gave His Son, Jesus, as the greatest gift ever given. He invites those of us who have received this gift to share His Son with everyone, everywhere.

This Christmas choose peace over the stress of trying to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Ask the Lord what each person needs more of and I am sure the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, will be top on His list for them. How do you give someone else Jesus?

Pray for opportunities to share and engage in conversations where you can really get to know another's heart. Ask those you care about to tell you about their relationship with God. Listen to their story. Pray for wisdom should you speak, mostly just listen and pray. God may open the door wide for you to share Jesus or he may just crack open the door for others to see Jesus in you.

James, the brother of Jesus, writes in James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." God's gifts last a lifetime and beyond. Rejoice in God's perfect gift this Christmas. May this holiday season and new year present many opportunities for you to share Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Shine on,

Sharon Davis

Evangelism (Reaching New People)

Tabernacle will host its annual **GIFTS for GOOD HAITI CHRISTMAS MART** on December 10 and 17, 2017 between services and after the 11:00 service. Beautiful, **handmade Haitian artwork** including metal art, jewelry, Christmas ornaments and note cards will be available.



Livestock gifts (chickens, ducks, turkeys, goats and beehive kits) which will be given to an impoverished Haitian family can be donated in honor of a loved one. A free metal ornament depicting the animal donated (while supplies last) as well as a beautiful photo card detailing the benefit of this donation are provided with each of these purchases.

To help improve the educational opportunities for Haitian children, consider donating to a fund used to buy **Creole textbooks** or paying for an **annual sponsorship** of a child's education for one school year. All proceeds will benefit the Community Coalition for Haiti (cchaiti.org), a Tabernacle United Methodist mission partner. For more information, contact Mary Hall at mbhall1@gmail.com or Jamy Cassidy at tabernacleoffice@aol.com

Tabernacle Friend



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

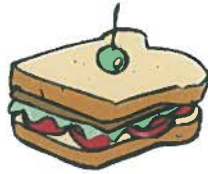
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Mark Your Calendars: The annual **District Training Day** will be held on **Saturday, January 20**. There will be classes on all the different aspects of the administration and ministry of the church.

More information coming soon.

PiN Lunch preparation– Jan 20
Help Tabernacle help others! Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. to assemble lunch bags for the homeless.



The annual **WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS' LUNCH** will be held on **Sunday, January 28th**, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the **11:00 a.m.** worship service. For information, contact Jack & Gladys Pallett at 563-9939



MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE CHURCH CHOIR!

All are welcome as we sing praises to our Lord! Choir rehearsals are on Sundays following the 11:00 service, and on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. Join anytime!

TABERNACLE PRAYER AND PLANNING EVENT JANUARY 7TH - ALL ARE WELCOME!

You are invited to participate in a Prayer and Planning Event at our church on Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. - noon. We will be gathering to seek God's direction for the ministries and mission of Tabernacle in our community and beyond.



To prepare for this meeting, please pray for God to give you His heart for your neighbors. Ask Him to open your eyes to see and ears to hear what needs are in our area that Tabernacle might reach out and help usher in the love of Christ.

For more information, contact Jamy Cassidy at the church office, 757-426-2396 or tabernacleoffice@aol.com.

Emmaus: The Walk to Emmaus is a three day experience intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." Tabernacle has been blessed to have over 50 adults participate in these weekends. The spring walks will be held in April for the men and early May for the women. **NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER!!!** Ask Pastor Jack or anyone who has attended the weekend for more information. (www.tidewateremmaus.org).

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FOCUS ON THE PURPOSE

Go The Extra Mile



This article was first published in January 2014. The message is still as relevant today as it was then. I hope you enjoy revisiting this one as we head into the holiday season.

There are no traffic jams along the extra mile. –Roger Staubach

At a time when many people are being told in their jobs to do more with less, it can become a temptation to focus inward and to lose site of the needs of those around us and of the opportunities that we have to be a blessing to those that spend their days working with us.

The corporate atmosphere of budgetary and personnel cut-backs, but increased job requirements and deadlines can lead to a very negative and cynical outlook at work. Work, though, is where many of us spend the majority of our waking hours.

As Christians, we strive to be a light of hope in the world around us. There is no greater potential for a light to be noticed, appreciated, and comforting to people than when their surroundings are characterized by darkness and negativity. If you are dealing with a negative and stressful work place, you may have a unique opportunity to have a particularly positive effect on your co-workers...as long as you don't also become negative and cynical at work.

We spend way too many hours at work to be miserable. If maintaining a positive outlook at work is something that you have struggled with – maybe the start of a new year is the perfect opportunity to look at today's corporate climate with a different perspective. Maybe you have been given the greatest leverage you've ever had to reflect the light of hope to those who need it more than ever.

Also, remember to shed the stress of the day on your way home – so that you don't bring the stress of work

into your home. After a day of too many demands on your time, it takes a real effort to leave that built up tension behind at the end of the day. Remember, we work to live – we don't live to work.

If you don't have to deal with a stressful workplace, count yourself blessed. Either way, we all have an effect on those with whom we spend the day. Are we a positive and encouraging presence, or just one more negative and cynical presence? Let's remember to go the extra mile – and as Roger Staubach said, there will likely be very little additional traffic along that extra mile.

You are my source of strength, so I have been an example to others. - Psalms 71,7.

Be a Blessing,

Brent Loftis, Lay Leader

The Tabernacle Friend



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JOL 

Jesus Offers Love Today

Thank you, Tabernacle, for the love you bestow on our children and youth. Please continue to bless them with your interactions and welcoming nature. Whether you chaperone an event or just take a moment to have a conversation, you will be blessed by their youthful embrace of the Christian walk.



Youth Christmas Party:

Put December 15th on your calendar, at the Bouley's home (905 Valiente Ct.). We will have a fun evening of

fellowship and celebrate the season.

CHRYSALIS: Chrysalis "Flights" (for 9th through 12th graders and college students) are three-day events. This three-day spiritual renewal time provides an opportunity for you to learn more about faith, to experience Christian love and support, and to make new faith commitments. The next flight is January 13-15 at Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake. Please contact Shannon AlMBERG or Pastor Jack if you are interested in attending this event.

DNOW 18: DNOW (Discipleship Now) is a local retreat opportunity for our youth. Several local churches come together to put on a weekend that includes praise and worship rallies, small group sessions and local mission opportunities. Planning for next year's event begins in December. We are looking for volunteers! College aged students and youth adults can be small group leaders. Chaperones/drivers are

needed. If you are willing to host a small group of students in your home for a couple of nights, that would be great! Let Tommy know if you are interested in helping in any way. The date of the event will be determined later this month.

Youth Bible Study: We will be holding Christmas Play practices on Wednesdays in December, so Bible Study will return in January. It has been a wonderful blessing to see so many youth come together in fellowship this fall!

Fund Raisers: Calendars are on sale for \$7 apiece (3 for \$20). Pocket calendars are available for \$5 each. Pick them up in the back of the sanctuary!

Local Missions: Do you know of a local mission (short duration) that the youth could participate in? Maybe a member of our church needs yard work or some painting done. The youth are looking for opportunities to support those with whom they live. Mission projects are also an important part of the DNOW weekend. Please let a youth know of any ideas.

Movie Nights: Will return in the New Year! Dinner can be purchased (cheap) and there is always plenty of popcorn. The bulletin will detail the specific movies as they approach.





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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December



Byers, David	12/1
Pilger (Karsen), Christine	12/1
Dowdy, Phyllis	12/3
Calevas, Jeffery	12/3
Flade, Jody	12/5
Jennings, Mark	12/7
Beck, Dana	12/7
Kreinbrook, Jennifer	12/8
Mitchell, Maureen	12/9
Cayo, John	12/9
Buyserie, Janice	12/10
Snyder, Susan	12/10
Oyler, Dean	12/11
Thurston, Stan	12/11
Owen, Betty	12/12
Sykes, Justin	12/12
DeSmet, Toni	12/13
Russell, Paul	12/14
Almberg, Kyle	12/14
Moore, Lucille	12/15
Cunningham, Melissa	12/16
Bouley, Eric	12/17
Pool, Joan	12/20
Kash, Robert	12/20
Powers, Josh	12/20
Beck, Steve	12/20
Johnson, Grace	12/21
Norton, Jill	12/21
Fisher, Ian	12/22
Schweers, Shannon	12/23
Shook-Roland, Candace	12/24
Hill, Jimmy	12/24
Eaton, Garland	12/29
Powers, Lisa	12/30

Inderlied, Steph	12/30
Miller, Kevin	12/30

January

Strong, Nathan	1/1
Loftis, Ronda	1/2
Calvin, Dianne	1/2
Hayashi (Ackiss), Sarah	1/4
Colley, Marlon	1/4
Foy, Rebecca	1/6
Douglas, Isaac	1/6
Fentress, Bobbye	1/7
Cox, Dawson	1/8
Graves, Taylor	1/8
Palmisano, David	1/8
Russell, Donna	1/10
Schweers, Caitlin	1/10
Davis, Sharon	1/12
Rechkemmer, Roy	1/14
Backman, Emma	1/15
Heughins, Casey	1/19
Pearson, Ron	1/21
Senti, Wes	1/21
Fisher, Paul	1/22
Nedera, Angelique	1/22
Willett, Kim	1/22
Windsor, Ann	1/22
Everett, Alan	1/22
Habit, Luca	1/23
Bowling, Teresa	1/24
Melvin, Bess	1/25
Strong, Rachael	1/25
Park, William	1/27
Johnson, Don	1/29
Sostak, Christine	1/29
Zeigler, Austin	1/29
Kwiatkowski, Emily	1/30

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Volunteers

Ushers

December

- 3 Shane Lussier, Jim Shuffler
- 10 Reid Greenmun, Bob Hall
- 17 Craig Zeigler, Mike Garcia
- 24 Scott Willett, Shelby Nelson,
Brandon Woodward, Scott Hardwick
- 31 Brent Loftis, Zach Lovelace

January

- 7 Wes Senti, Rick Norton
- 14 Vince Heivilin, Mark Cayo
- 21 Tommy Moore, Jack Sorrells
- 28 Roy Rechkemmer, Kyle Russell

Acolytes

December

- 3 Elisha Hester
- 10 Christmas Program
- 17 Logen Hallford
- 24 Nic Windsor
- 31 Austin Zeigler

January

- 7 Rachael Strong
- 14 Charlotte Shuffler
- 21 Martha Hester
- 28 Rebecca Hester

Children's Church Helpers

(Leader: Jill Norton)

Families worship together first Sundays

December

- 10 Rachael Strong
- 17 Carmen Everett
- 24 Luke Moore
- 31 Lily Moore

Children's Church Helpers...

January

- 14 Desiree Zeigler
- 21 Jeffrey Windsor
- 28 Ryder Sanders

Helping Hands (Nursery)

December

- 3 Nathan Strong
- 10 Emery Moore
- 17 Eliza Willett
- 24 Sydney Lussier
- 31 *****

January

- 7 Nathan Strong
- 14 Emery Moore
- 21 Eliza Willett
- 28 Sydney Lussier

Counters

December

- 3 Ann Henley, Paul Russell
- 10 Marlane Brickhouse, Ann Lovelace
- 17 Ronda Loftis, Roy Rechkemmer
- 24 Scott Willett, Jordan Dorsey
- 31 Sue Senti, Brandon Woodward

Please notify Jamy Cassidy two weeks in advance if you cannot help on your scheduled date.



Tabernacle United Methodist Church

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:00 Men's Break-fast Golden Corral 9:00 Family Christmas Kickoff
3 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45 5:00 Fellowship Class Dinner	4 7:00 Council on Ministries	5 6:30 Choir 7:00 Trustees	6 5 a.m. prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study/Pioneer Club	7	8	9
10 11:00 Christmas Play; 12:00 Christmas Lunch	11	12 6:30 Choir	13 5 a.m. prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study/Pioneer Club	14	15 Youth Christmas Party	16 Emmanuel Christmas Gathering 5:00
17 International Marketplace 2:00 Caroling	18	19 6:30 Choir	20 5 a.m. prayer	21	22	23
24 10 a.m. worship (No Sunday School) Christmas Eve 5:00, 7:00, 11:00 p.m.	25	26 6:30 Choir	27 5 a.m. prayer	28	29	30
31 10 a.m. worship only (No Sunday School)						



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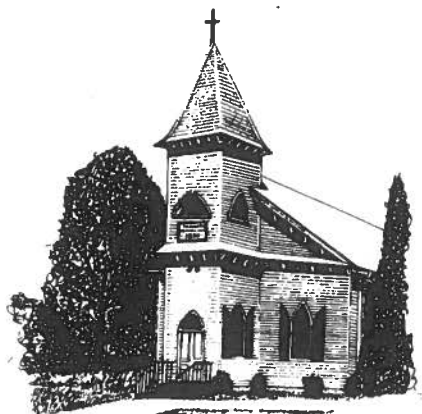
January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		2 6:30 Choir	3 5 a.m. prayer 6:30 Bible Study/ Pioneer Club	4	5	6 8:00 Men's Break- fast Golden Corral 9-12 Prayer & Planning Event
7 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 9:45 Sun. School	8	9 6:00 Finance 6:30 Choir 7:00 Admin. Board	10 5 a.m. prayer 6:30 Bible Study/ Pioneer Club	11	12	13
14 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 9:45 Sun. School	15	16 6:30 Choir	17 5 a.m. prayer 6:30 Bible Study/ Pioneer Club	18	19	20
21 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 9:45 Sun. School	22	23 6:30 Choir	24 5 a.m. prayer 6:30 Bible Study/ Pioneer Club	25	26	27
28 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 9:45 Sun. School Widow/Widower Luncheon 12:15	29	30 6:30 Choir	31 5 a.m. prayer 6:30 Bible Study/ Pioneer Club			

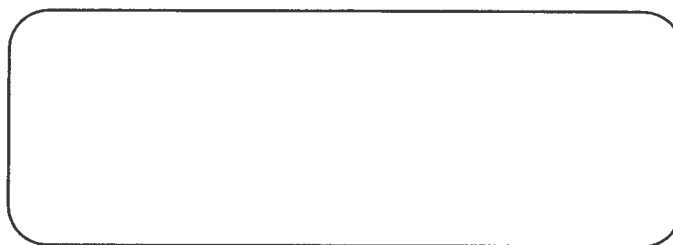
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This Newsletter Prepared Especially For



***Tabernacle
United Methodist Church***

*Where faith can be found
and
friends become family!*

Worship Hours

8:30am Contemporary Service
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Service



Phone 757 . 426 . 2396

www.tabernaclevb.org