



## *From the Pastor*

**Fear!** Fear is the first human emotion expressed by Adam and Eve after they had sinned in the Garden of Eden. According to the story in Genesis 3 – *“Then the man and his wife...hid from the LORD God. But the LORD God called to them, “Where are you?” Adam answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid...”* (Genesis 3:8-10)

We have been afraid ever since. Life apart from God is a fearful life. Our sin has allowed fear to enslave us. Fear can paralyze us from living the full life that God created us to live. Fear can prejudice us from anyone different than us. Fear can provoke us to all kinds of sins that only separate us more from God. Fear can punish us with guilt and failure. Fear can even produce death in us before we know how to live. (James 1:13-15)

But then we hear for the very first time the words: **“Do not be afraid”**. This is what God spoke to Abram in Genesis 15 when he makes the covenant with Abram to give him a son, through whom *“came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.”* (Hebrews 11:12)

God chose to break the curse of sin and fear with the birth of a baby. It began with the birth of Isaac and it would end in the glorious birth of Jesus.

God chose to save us by being born and becoming one of us. It is wonderful to note that when the announcements of the birth of Jesus are made, the first words are, **“Do not be afraid...”**

Gabriel said to Mary, **“Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.”** (Luke 1:30-31).

When the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds he said, **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be to all the people. Today...a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.”** (Luke 2:10-11)

The birth of Jesus breaks the curse of sin and death. It breaks the bondage of our enslavement to fear and gives us the promise of a redeemed and restored life with God. (Romans 8:15-16) That’s a Merry Christmas!

Among the last words that Jesus spoke to his disciples on earth were: **“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”** (John 14:27)

This coming year may be foreboding with ominous threats of fear: in our personal lives; in our families; in our church; in our nation; in our world. But through Jesus Christ we can say with David, **“I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.”** (Psalm 34:4)

Life apart from God is a fearful life. But life with God, through faith in his Son Jesus Christ, is abundant and eternal and without fear. Fill this coming year with faith in Jesus Christ, and **“...do not fear, for I am with you...”** (Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20)

*Grace & Peace,  
Jack*

(Thanks to Dr. John A. Beck in his book, “Along the Road”, for the connection of fear in Genesis 3 to its removal in the birth announcements of Jesus.)



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

December 2018 / January 2019

## News you can Use. . .



A Birthday Party for Jesus will be hosted on **Sunday, December 9**, from **3 p.m. – 5 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your family and friends to come and have fun celebrating

the greatest birthday ever.

The **Emmaus and Chrysalis Community Gathering** will be hosted here at Tabernacle Church on **Saturday, December 15**. 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.

The annual **CHRISTMAS PLAY** will be performed on **Sunday, December 16**, during the **11 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.

We will go **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** to our shut-ins on **Sunday, December 23**. We will gather in the church parking lot at **2 p.m.** and carpool together. They love when we come and sing. The more the merrier.



*Joy to the World!*



Our traditional **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** will be held on **Saturday, December 24**, at: **5 p.m.**; **7 p.m.**; and **11 p.m.**

At 5 p.m. the Adult Choir will sing. At 7 p.m. the Children's Choir will sing. And at 11 p.m. we will celebrate Holy Communion. Come join us for this holy night of worship to our new born king.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON POTLUCK**



On **Sunday, December 16**, following the Christmas Play 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 the holiday season.*

See you there.

**Mark Your Calendars:** The annual **District Training Day** will be held on **Saturday, January 19** at **Community UMC** from **8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.** There will be classes on all the different aspects of the administration and ministry of the church. There will be more information on this later.

The annual **WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS' LUNCH** will be held on **Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the **11 a.m.** worship service

**PiN Lunch preparation– Jan 19 at 10 a.m. – help prepare bag lunches for the homeless.**





**GIFTS for GOOD HAITI CHRISTMAS MART** on **December 9 and 16**, between services and after the 11:00 service in the classroom across from the Fellowship Hall.



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](http://cchaiti.org)), a Tabernacle United Methodist mission partner. For more information, contact Mary Hall at [mbhall1@gmail.com](mailto:mbhall1@gmail.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 Jack or anyone who has attended the weekend for more information. ([www.tidewateremmaus.org](http://www.tidewateremmaus.org)).

## Colonial Dinner - 41 Successes and Counting!!

Thank you all for helping to make our 41st Colonial Dinner another success. Without all of the helping hands this great

*Thank you*

community event would not be possible. From the planning, baking, cutting of meat, shopping, preparing food, serving food and drink, setting up, cleaning up, donating for the bazaar, working the bazaar, making calls, dressing the part with your Colonial garb, great music the night of the dinner, and everything else you all do I thank you.

It was great to see so many Church family and friends enjoying the dinner. It truly is a community event that many look forward to each year.

God Bless you all and may you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Blessings,

Maureen Mitchell, Event Chairman



## *Dinner for Eight is BACK with Four Delicious Choices!*

Back by popular demand, we will be meeting and eating together as we get to know others in the church who we would like to



get to know better. Sign up will be November 18 - December 16 and the groups will meet 4 times for dinner between January - June 2019. Groups will be revealed December 23 after both services. Anyone not able to be there for the reveal on December 23 will be emailed their group assignment.

You have four choices as to what group you are interested in joining.

1. Meet for Dinner for Eight in each other's homes
2. Meet for Dinner for Eight at a restaurant of the group's choice
3. Meet for Dinner for Eight plus a date which involves 6 people from church and 2 invited friends from outside the church (which is a great way to introduce your friends to cool people from church!)
4. Meet for Dinner for Eight plus children in each other's home.

Please sign up by December 16. You can sign up in the Narthex or at sign up genius, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AF2DA7FC1-dinner>.

This is a delicious way to get better acquainted with new friends in the church. Hope you will consider signing up! Any questions....please contact Sharon Davis at [sharondavis@cox.net](mailto:sharondavis@cox.net) or 426-7115. Bon Appetit!





## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

I love that Christmas and New Year's usher in the winter season with much celebration and anticipation. Christmas is a time for celebrating the birth of the

Christ child as well as sharing love and gifts and greetings with friends and family near and far. New Year's is a time for celebrating all that will be, anticipating with hope all that God has in store for us in the coming year. It is because of Christmas that we can truly expect the best in the New Year. Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives.

I pray that as you joyfully anticipate Christmas and the New Year, you will be in prayer for someone who may not have hope for the future. Maybe they do not know the good news of the gospel. Maybe they have been sidetracked by life's circumstances. Maybe they have suffered loss or disappointment or despair. You might be the answer to their prayer.

Give them Jesus wrapped in God's love anointed with Holy Spirit comfort and joy. As a believer, you have all you need to share with others God's greatest gift. Don't hold back. Often I buy gifts throughout the year intending to give to loved ones when an opportunity arrives. However, sometimes I misplace the gift or the opportunity passes me by and the gift giving moment is lost. Good intentions. Well wishes. All good and well, but only when given from the heart as the Lord leads at just the right moment in time. God is weaving a beautiful tapestry and we are all handcrafted with his loving hand for such a time as this.

Don't let it pass you by. Build a relationship. Plant seeds of friendship. Deposit into another's life bank. And PRAY.... Pray night and day....whenever God puts someone on your heart. Maybe you do not know how or what to pray, then just pray in the Spirit. Ask God to minister His Holy Spirit to that person in full measure, to instruct, guide, comfort, inspire and fill them to overflowing. Trust God with your loved one. Give them Jesus if they have not trusted Him for their lives.

Christmas and New Year's are very special times of the year. Be in each moment. Live Alive so that others might live eternal. Praise Him and pray for them. You know who they are...the ones God puts on your heart. Expect His answers. Pray believing. Have faith to receive.

Expect God's best and trust Him with the rest. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Shine on,

Sharon Davis



## **FOCUS ON THE PURPOSE**

### ***Character as a Foundation***



*The article below was written four years ago, but is still as relevant today as it was then. With that, I think it is worthy of re-reading...*

***When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost. - Billy Graham***

Every day, someone watches what you do. They look to see how you react to adversity. They notice how you treat other people – those that you have to treat well, and those that you don't. They take note of:

1. Your honesty in dealing with your employer and your employees.
2. Your willingness to take responsibility for your mistakes rather than pointing blame at others.
3. Your persistence on a course that is right – rather than what is convenient at the time.
4. The words you say when you are frustrated.
5. How you react to the successes of others.
6. How many times you say "Me" and "I" whenever something goes well.
7. How many times you say "They" and "You" whenever something doesn't go well.

Make no mistake...When you step out of the front door and into your life each day, your character is continuously evaluated by those that you encounter. You **do** have an influence on someone – probably several people. Is that influence positive or negative?

Always be aware of how your actions are perceived by those around you. Your character takes years to build, but can be easily damaged. Carrying around a damaged character makes it very difficult for you to be the light of Christ in the world – because your character issues serve as a distraction. Protect your character carefully so that Jesus can be seen in you. You have a daily opportunity to minister to others, just by the way you handle the affairs of life/work.

*Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." –1 Corinthians 15:33*

***Be a Blessing,***

***Brent Loftis, Lay Leader***



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 8<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar for a fun evening of fellowship and celebrating the season. We will be conducting a progressive Christmas party at three homes. It will be a new fun experience for everyone involved.

**Snow Tubing at Wintergreen:** We are going to go snow tubing on Saturday, **January 12th**. We will leave at 6:30 a.m. and head up for a few hours of snow tubing. Cost is only \$30 a person for an afternoon of fun. As always we will need drivers/chaperones. Let Tommy know if you are interested.



**Summer Camp Opportunity:** We have a chance to join other Virginia Beach churches at Watermarks Christian camp in Scottsville, VA. The dates are August 4-9, 2019. This is purely a Christian camp experience. Lots of fun, activities, worship, great food. No mission work. It is a great opportunity to start our younger youth on spending time away from home, to get them to interact with other students they may even know. Youth in **GRADES 4-12!!!** are welcome to participate, along with 2-3 drivers/chaperones. Please let Kendall Shuffler or Tommy Moore know if you are interested.

**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 19-21 at Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake. Please contact Tommy Moore or Pastor Jack if you are interested in attending this event.

**DNOW 19:** We have begun plans for next spring's DNOW (Discipleship Now) retreat. It will be held on the weekend of March 29-31, 2019 at Discovery Church. Several local churches are coming together to put on the weekend which includes praise and worship rallies, small group sessions and local mission opportunities. 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!

**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.





The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

December 2018 / January 2019

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### December



Pilger, 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
Durkee, Linda	12/24
Shook-Roland, Candace	12/24
Hill, Jimmy	12/24
Lannom, Lochlan	12/24
Raehl, James	12/27
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
Lannom, Todd	1/25
Park, William	1/27
Johnson, Don	1/29
Sostak, Christine	1/29
Zeigler, Austin	1/29
Kwiatkowski, Emily	1/30





## Volunteers

### Ushers

#### December

- 2 Brent Loftis & Wes Senti  
 9 Ron Wasson & Fred Campbell  
 16 Bobby Neal & Shelby Nelson  
 23 Vince Heivilin & Bob Hall  
 24 5pm Shelby Nelson & William Park  
 7pm Brandon Woodward & Bryan Raehl  
 30 Jim Shuffler & Rick Norton

#### January

- 6 Craig Zeigler & Shane Lussier  
 13 Roy Rechkemmer & Scott Willett  
 20 Mike Garcia & Tommy Moore  
 27 Mark Cayo & Scott Hardwick

### Acolytes

#### December

- 2 Logen Hallford  
 9 Nick Windsor  
 16 Elisha Hester  
 23 Martha Hester  
 30 Charlotte Shuffler

#### January

- 6 Logen Hallford  
 13 Nick Windsor  
 20 Elisha Hester  
 27 Martha Hester

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

### Children's Church Helpers

(Leader: Jill Norton)

Families worship together first Sundays

#### December

- 9 Megan Reese  
 16 Rachael Strong  
 23 Carmen Everett  
 30 Charlotte Shuffler

#### January

- 13 Austin Zeigler  
 20 Luke Moore  
 27 Lily Moore

### Helping Hands (Nursery)

#### December

- 2 Emery Moore  
 9 Eliza Willett  
 16 Sydney Lussier  
 23 Rebecca Hester  
 30 Desiree Zeigler

#### January

- 6 Jeffrey Windsor  
 13 Emery Moore  
 20 Eliza Willett  
 27 Sydney Lussier

### Counters

#### December

- 2 Ronda Loftis & Roy Rechkemmer  
 9 Brandon Woodward & Sue Senti  
 16 Ann Henley & Jordan Dorsey  
 23 Ann Henley & Craig Zeigler  
 30 Marlane Brickhouse & Ann Lovelace

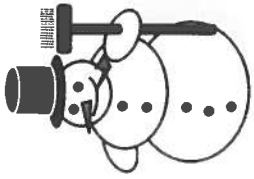
#### January

- 6 Ronda Loftis & Craig Zeigler  
 13 Brandon Woodward & Sue Senti  
 20 Ann Henley & Roy Rechkemmer  
 27 Paul Russell & Jordan Dorsey



# Tabernacle United Methodist Church December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 Men's Breakfast Golden Corral
2 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45	3	4 6:30 Choir	5 5 a.m. Prayer Bible Study 6:30	6	7	8 Youth Christmas Party
9 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45 Haiti Market	10 7:00 Council on Ministries	11 6:00 Finance 6:30 Choir 7:00 Admin. Board	12 5 a.m. Prayer Bible Study 6:30	13	14	15
16 Worship 8:30 Sun. School 9:45 11 Christmas Play Pot Luck Lunch	17	18 6:30 Choir	19 5 a.m. Prayer Bible Study 6:30	20	21	22
23 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45 2:00 Caroling	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00, 7:00, 11:00 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas!	26 5 a.m. Prayer	27	28	29
30 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45	31					



# Tabernacle United Methodist Church

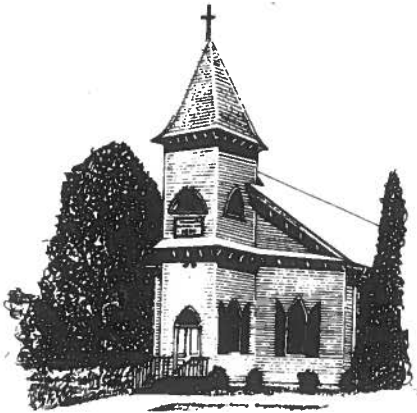
## January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Choir	2 5 a.m. Prayer	3	4	5 8:00 Men's Breakfast Golden Corral
6 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45	7	8 6:00 Finance 6:30 Choir 7:00 Admin. Board	9 5 a.m. Prayer Bible Study 6:30	10	11	12 Youth at Wintergreen
13 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45	14	15 6:30 Choir	16 5 a.m. Prayer Bible Study 6:30	17	18	19 PiN Lunch Prep 10:00 a.m. District Training 8:30-3:00
20 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45	21	22 6:30 Choir	23 5 a.m. Prayer Bible Study 6:30	24	25	26
27 Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sun. School 9:45	28	29 6:30 Choir	30 5 a.m. Prayer Bible Study 6:30	31		

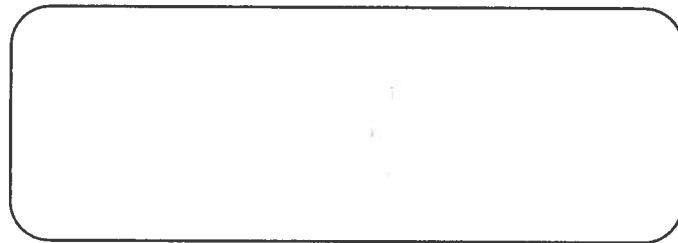
The  
**Tabernacle Friend**

Tabernacle United Methodist Church  
1265 Sandbridge Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

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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](http://www.tabernaclevb.org)