



From the Pastor

Christmas is not just a “nice” holiday, it is a necessary holiday! Jesus didn’t come to earth just to say, “Hi!” – he came to earth to die! He didn’t come just to correct a few flaws in us – he came to completely change us! He came to save us from eternal death!

All of this was prophesied about him at the moment of his conception. The angel Gabriel told Mary, “*You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus...his kingdom will never end.*” (Luke 1:26-38)

Then God sent an angel to tell Joseph the same thing: “*Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*” (Matthew 1:18-25)

Both Mary and Joseph were told the same thing: to name their son *Jesus*. *Jesus* is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Joshua*, which means “*the LORD saves*”.¹ His name was his own personal mission statement.

On the very night of his birth the angels sang about him: “*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*” (Luke 2:8-20) Notice, they called him “*Savior*” even before they called him “*Christ the Lord*”.

Jesus was born for one reason – to be the Savior of the World. The Apostle John said, “*We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the World.*” (I John 4:14)

Why do we need a savior? Because our sins have rendered us spiritually and eternally dead. (Ephesians 2:1-9) And it is not that we are slowly dying in our sins. We are already completely dead in them. (I Corinthians 15:21-22) We don’t just need resuscitation – we need a complete resurrection!

There is only one way to be made spiritually alive again. That is by being born again. Jesus told Nicodemus, “*Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.*” (John 3:3) Just as Jesus was born to save you. So also, you must be “*born again*” to be saved.

So Christmas really celebrates two births! Jesus was born to save us from our sins. And when we believe that, then we are “*born again*” to live with him forever!

Again, the Apostle John makes this very clear: “*This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*” (I John 5:11-12)

God’s greatest gift to us is his Son Jesus Christ. “*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.*” (II Corinthians 9:15) Your greatest gift to God is yourself – saved by the Savior and “*born again*”.

Celebrate life this Christmas – Jesus’ and yours!

Grace & Peace,
Jack

¹NIV Study Bible footnote for Matthew 1:21

Tabernacle Friend



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

December 2019 / January 2020

News you can Use...

We will go **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** to our shut-ins on **Sunday, December 8.**

We will gather in the church parking lot at **2:00 p.m.** and carpool together. And, we can drive the van this year! They love when we come and sing. The more the merrier.



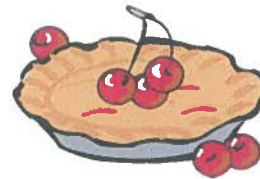
Joy to the World!

The annual **CHRISTMAS PLAY**, "The Best Christmas Gift," will be performed on **Sunday, December 15**, 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 21.** We will gather for worship at **6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. (No pot-luck)

Our traditional **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** will be held on **December 24** at **5:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m.; and 11:00 p.m.** At 5:00 p.m. the Children's Choir will sing. At 7:00 p.m. the Adult 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.

Mark Your Calendars: The annual **District Training Day** will be held on **Saturday, January 18** at **New Creation UMC.** from **8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** There will be classes on all the different aspects of the administration and ministry of the church. The theme for this year's Training Day will be "Equipping YOU (and your church for ministry.)" The workshops will focus on providing the necessary tools and practical next steps for ministry. The Rev. Rachel Billups, senior pastor at Ginghamburg United Methodist in Tipp City, Ohio will be our keynote speaker! There will be more information on this later.



Sharing A Christmas Holiday Sunday, together with your church family, is the most joyous of beginnings for your family to begin the holiday season!

Tabernacle Holiday Potluck Luncheon Sunday, December 15th

following the 11 o'clock service presentation of the Christmas Play

Church family and friends will gather in the Social Hall for Tabernacle's

Traditional Christmas Potluck Luncheon

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

SEE YOU THERE!



SAFE Single Adult Event December 14



Our SAFE (Single Adult Fellowship Enjoyment) group is planning to return to Edenton NC on Saturday, December 14. We will visit the historic house(s) and other FREE offerings that will be open from 1 - 5 p.m. during their Christmas "Home for the Holidays 2019" celebration. TENTATIVE plans are to leave in the church van from Tabernacle at approximately 9:30 a.m., have lunch around 11:30, tour the sites and leave to return home between 5 & 6 p.m. Our expenses should be for food and shared gas price. A more definitive itinerary will be provided closer to our departure date. Many thanks to Jeffery Calevas who will be driving the van for us.

For information, call Marny Sanders (757)426-1204.

42 Years of Successes – Colonial Dinner



This wonderful Tabernacle Family has performed with music, baking, slicing, mixing, cutting, cooking, sewing, decorating, weighing, laughing, counting, serving, and all the other things necessary to put on a wonderful Colonial Dinner for the 42nd time. Our community looks forward to this dinner every year and we made it another success.

It takes more than 80 people baking and 100 people from grandchildren to grandparents, working together. For fun I totaled up some of the ingredients we use: 220 pounds of turkey, 60 pounds of country ham, 48 pounds of honey ham, 490 eggs, 129 sticks of butter, 13 gallons of milk, 256 sweet potatoes, 192 apples, 263 cups of creamed corn, 840 slices of bread, 53 cups of pumpkin, 24 cups of cornmeal, 200 pounds of green beans, 4 bushels of collards, lots of spices and much love.

Thank you all for everything.

Blessings,
Maureen Mitchell

Emmaus: Now is time to get your applications in!

The deadline for the fall walks will be here before you know it. Asking a friend to participate in the weekend is a wonderful gift. If you are interested in attending, please contact Tommy Moore, Jack Davis or anyone who has attended a weekend. The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day experience intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The spring walks will be April 23-26 for the men and April 30-May 3 for the women.

(www.tidewateremmaus.org).



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

December 2019 / January 2020

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OTHERS?



PiN Ministries is looking for volunteers to help at their new location (1164 Millers Lane Suite A, Virginia Beach). See below days and times when they

provide different types of services for our homeless neighbors. If you can give an hour or two of your time, please call them to schedule. It's a great way to "give back." 757-962-3567

Clothing/Hygiene Closet at 1164 Millers Ln:

Mondays 2:00-5:00 a.m.
Tuesdays 8:00-11:00 a.m.
Thursdays 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Fridays 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00-12:00 a.m.

Recovery Meetings: at 1164 Millers Ln:

Saturdays 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Bible Study/Dinner at 1164 Millers Ln:

Thursdays 5:45 p.m.

SUNDAY Services at Mount Olive Baptist Church,

310 N Birdneck Rd:
10:30 a.m. "hang out"
1:30 p.m. free medical services
2:00 p.m. dinner
3:30 p.m. Church Service

Tabernacle prepares bag lunches for the homeless through PiN Ministries. Join us...

Upcoming PIN Lunches Preparation Dates:

January 18th, 10 a.m.
March 21st, 10 a.m.
May 16th, 10 a.m.
July 4th, 9 a.m. (note date and time change)
September 19th, 10 a.m.
November 7th, 10 a.m. (note date change)

Foundations in Faith

Simplify

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to lead the Youth Bible Study. The lesson was about simplifying our lives. The opening question was "If you were given \$1 million today, what would you do with it?" The study said that the youth would respond by saying something along the lines of a new sports car, a really expensive pair of shoes, or high dollar clothing. To the credit of our youth, no one wanted to buy any of these things. They were interested in paying for their college, investing the money, and even helping the poor. Hearing these answers made me realize what a special group of youth Tabernacle has, and what a good job the parents and our congregation are doing in raising our future adults.

Chances are, you don't need everything you want, or even some things you have. It may be that one of the best ways to notice God in your life, and in the world, is to simplify things.

Through Jesus' life we're invited to live another way. A way that's not complicated by the fear and worries of this world, but is guided by this simple truth: we can put our trust in God, who knows our needs and provides for us.

Blessings,
Craig Zeigler





Reaching New People...Becoming a New Person...



Christmas time preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all to hear. Who has ears to hear? Who is sharing with those who are listening?

What if we give everyone we meet the gift of God given to us in Jesus Christ that first Christmas? What would that look like? How would we wrap such a gift? How would we unwrap such a gift? Here are suggestions including a few from Lee Strobel's book Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary.

- Know what you believe about Jesus Christ. Who is Jesus Christ to you and how has he impacted your life for the better?
- Ask sincere questions to get to know the person with whom you want to share Christ. How did they grow up celebrating Christmas? What is their reason for the season? Are they familiar with the fascinating facts of the very first Christmas? Assume nothing. Just ask!
- Ask God to give you His heart for others....yes, everyone you meet! As you see others through God's eyes and with His heart, you will also see opportunities to connect and share God's gift of love with them.
- What if you get into a conversation and some of these questions come up.

1. What about people who've never heard of Jesus? (*Psalm 19:1-4*) Are they going to hell? (*Romans 1:20*)
2. Why do Christians believe Jesus is the only way to heaven? (*John 14:6-7*) Isn't it bigoted to say that only Christians know the truth? (*Hebrews 10:1-10*) Aren't all faiths equally valid? (*Acts 17:22-31*).
3. Why does God allow innocent people to suffer? (*Matthew 5:10*) Why does He tolerate so much evil in the world? (*2 Peter 3:9*)
4. If God is all-loving, why does He send people to hell? (*John 3:16, Romans 6:23*)
5. I'm basically a good person. Isn't that enough? (*Romans 3:10-12, 23-25*)

6. How do you know you can trust the Bible? (*Psalm 19:7-11*) Isn't it full of error and myths? (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).
7. Aren't miracles impossible? Isn't it unscientific to believe that Jesus could perform miraculous feats? (*Luke 1:37*)
8. Doesn't science contradict the biblical account of Creation? (*Consider the verdict of Robin Collins, an American scientist with three degrees and two doctorates in mathematics, physics, and philosophy: "The extraordinary fine-tuning of the laws and constants of nature, their beauty, their discoverability, their intelligibility – all of this combines to make the God hypothesis the most reasonable choice we have. All other theories fall short."*)

If you do enough biblical research to be comfortable in providing reasonable responses to these issues, the end result will be that your confidence will increase. And if you are confronted with a question that you do not have an answer to, just acknowledge their question and invite them to come to Church, Bible Study, or Sunday School where you can look for the answers together.

The more you share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others, the more amazing you will become initiating eternal conversations with people. God created people for relationship with Him. We are created in His Image. He loves each and every one of us with an everlasting love that gave up heaven and went to hell on our behalf so that we might spend eternity saved and secure at the right hand of God the Father.

People need the Lord. You and I need to tell them about Jesus. Give the gift of eternal life to everyone on your Christmas list this year. And all things will become new, including you!

Shine on,
Sharon Davis.



How to Help the Needy



Carolyn and I live in Glen Allen, VA, and we often find ourselves on Broad Street to go shopping or to eat at a restaurant. Often, we see men and women standing at intersections with a sign that might say "Need Help" or "Need Money for Food." I always feel bad when I don't stop and give them something even though I know it's better to give money to Food Kitchens, Food Banks and other organized agencies. Once in Colonial Heights, I had a man walk into my church office and say he needed money to buy diesel fuel. He was driving a tractor-trailer for the circus and got separated, and he and the elephant he was hauling were in trouble. I got up and followed the man outside. He indeed was driving a large truck with an elephant on the back of it. He unloaded the elephant and said she was thirsty. I hooked up a hose and got a bucket. He said he didn't have any hay to feed the elephant so I went to one of my farmers and asked for a trunk full of hay and came back. We fed the elephant, watered her and I gave the man money to buy a tank of diesel fuel. He went on his way trying to catch up with the circus. A year later, the man stopped back by my office and said his elephant wanted to see me. He paid me for the diesel fuel and we got the elephant off the truck and gave her water. She remembered me and was happy to get off the truck. God commands us to "warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak." (1 Thessalonians 5:14) To do this, we must know the people who ask for help. If you help a lazy or idle person, you may encourage their laziness. If you don't help someone who is truly in need, you may make them even more discouraged than they were before. **The secret here seems to be to get to know those around us.**

If God has burdened your heart to help someone – now is when the work begins. Don't assume you know what a person needs. Ask them to tell their story. Get to know the person. Take them to a restaurant and buy them a meal and talk to them. When we truly aim "to do what is good for each other" we will be more patient with everyone and help them if they stumble. (vs.14-15)
1 Thessalonians 5:14 – **"Encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone."**

**Author: Tommy Herndon,
Virginia United Methodist Foundation**



JOL 

Jesus Offers Love Today

I want to thank everyone in our Tabernacle family for the love you have given the youth and children of our church. Your continued interactions and support have provided terrific opportunities for young people to learn more about Christ. Thanks for blessing them and be blessed by their youthful embrace of their Christian faith.

Christmas Play: We will be presenting the Christmas play, "The Best Christmas Gift", on **December 15th** at the 11 a.m. service. Please join us as we celebrate the season with our children and youth. The practice schedule will be provided by email.



Christmas Cookie Decorations: Thanks to Rhonda Rechkemmer for providing the opportunity for the youth to decorate Christmas cookies and share them with our shut-ins.

CHRYSALIS: Now is time to get your applications in!! Chrysalis "Flights" (for 9th through 12th graders and college students) are Tidewater Emmaus 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 18-20, 2020 at Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake. Please contact Cathy Strong or Pastor Jack if you are interested in attending this event.

Youth Bible Study: Join us on Wednesday nights when middle and high school students worship and fellowship together each week. It is always a fun-filled time with food, games and study. Bring a friend and have some fun. We will start again after the New Year.

Wintergreen: We are looking at a return to Wintergreen in January. Skiing and Tubing will be available. It is a long day, and we will need chaperones. Please let Tommy know if you are interested.



DNOW 20 Discipleship Now (DNOW) planning has begun. This local retreat weekend, where youth get to share in fellowship, mission and fun with other youth groups, will be held March 20-22. Several local churches are coming together to put on the weekend that will include praise and worship rallies, small group sessions, and local mission opportunities. We are looking for volunteers. College-aged students can be small group leaders. Chaperones, host homes and drivers are needed. If you are interested in helping, please let Tommy know.

2020 Calendars are on sale for \$7 apiece or 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 that our youth could help with? Maybe a member of our church needs some cleaning or repair done. The youth are looking for opportunities to support our church family. Mission projects play an important role in our DNOW and 30 Hour Famine weekends as well.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December

Byers, David	12/1
Pilger (Karsen), Christine	12/1
Dowdy, Phyllis	12/3
Calevas, Jeffery	12/3
Flade, Jody	12/5
Beck, Dana	12/7
Mitchell, Maureen	12/9
Cayo, John	12/9
Buyserie, Janice	12/10
Oyler, Dean	12/11
Thurston, Stan	12/11
Owen, Betty	12/12
Russell, Paul	12/14
Almberg, Kyle	12/14
Cunningham, Melissa	12/16
Bouley, Eric	12/17
Pool, Joan	12/20
Kash, Robert	12/20
Powers, Josh	12/20
Beck, Steve	12/20
Norton, Jill	12/21
Shelton, Sarah	12/21
Fisher, Ian	12/22
Schweers, Shannon	12/23
Durkee, Linda	12/24
Shook-Roland, Candace	12/24
Lannom, Lochlan	12/24
Raehl, James	12/27
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
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
Zeigler, Austin	1/29
Kwiatkowski, Emily	1/30



Volunteers

Ushers

December

- 1 Bob Hall & Mark Cayo
- 8 Brent Loftis & Mike Garcia
- 15 Roy Rechkemmer & Jim Shuffler
- 22 Brandon Woodward & Scott Hardwick
- Dec 24 - 5pm: Shelby Nelson & William Park
- Dec 24 - 7pm: Mike Kwiatkowski & Brian Kwiatkowski
- 29 Rick Norton & Shane Lussier

January

- 5 Wes Senti & Jack Sorrells
- 12 Craig Zeigler & Tommy Moore
- 19 Mark Lovelace & Shelby Nelson
- 26 Bob Hall & Roy Rechkemmer

Note: starting Dec 1, Ushers will light candles, no Acolytes

Children's Church Helpers

Families worship together first Sundays

December

- 8 Logen Hallford
- 15 Nick Windsor
- 22 Martha Hester
- 29 Carmen Everett

January

- 12 Austin Zeigler
- 19 Megan Reese
- 26 Luke Moore

Helping Hands (Nursery)

December

- 1 Sydney Lussier
- 8 Lily Moore
- 15 Charlotte Shuffler
- 22 Eliza Willett
- 29 Jeffrey Windsor

January

- 5 Rebecca Hester
- 12 Desiree Zeigler
- 19 Sydney Lussier
- 26 Lily Moore

Counters

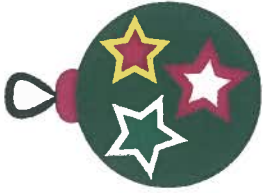
December

- 1 Ronda Loftis & Roy Rechkemmer
- 8 Brandon Woodward & Sue Senti
- 15 Ann Henley & Jordan Dorsey
- 22 Paul Russell & Craig Zeigler
- 29 Marlane Brickhouse & Ann Lovelace

January

TBA

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



Tabernacle United Methodist Church December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45 Fellowship Class Dinner 5:00	2	3 Choir 6:30 Council on Ministries 7:00	4 Prayer 5 a.m. Bible Study 6:30pm	5	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Tabernacle
8 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45 Caroling to shut-ins 2:00	9	10 Finance 6:00 Choir 6:30 Admin Board 7:00	11 Prayer 5 a.m. Bible Study 6:30pm	12	13	14 SAFE trip to Edenton NC 9:30
15 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45 11:00 Christmas Play and Luncheon	16	17 Choir 6:30	18 Prayer 5 a.m. Bible Study 6:30pm	19	20	21 Emmaus gathering 6:30 p.m.
22 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00; 7:00; and 11:00 p.m.	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28
29 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	30	31				



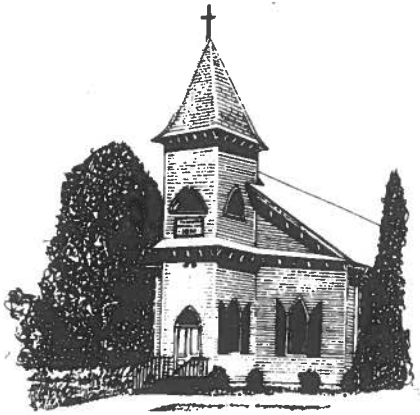
Tabernacle United Methodist Church January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Tabernacle
5 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	6	7 Choir 6:30 Council on Ministries 7:00	8 Prayer 5 a.m. Bible Study 6:30pm	9	10	11
12 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	13	14 Finance 6:00 Choir 6:30 Admin. Board 7:00	15 Prayer 5 a.m. Bible Study 6:30pm	16	17	18 PIN Lunch Bag Prep 10:00 Youth Chrysalis
19 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	20	21 Choir 6:30	22 Prayer 5 a.m. Bible Study 6:30pm	23	24	25
26 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	27	28 Choir 6:30	29 Prayer 5 a.m. Bible Study 6:30pm	30	31	

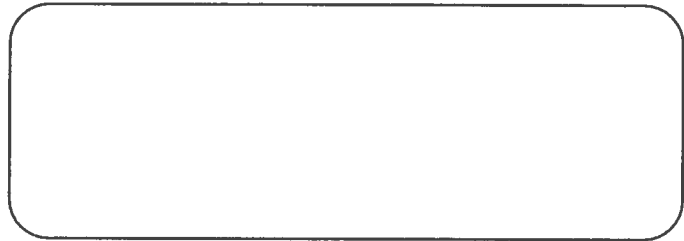
The
Tabernacle Friend

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