



The Messenger

South Hill United Methodist Church

December 2018 & January 2019



The Pastor's Pen...

"In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me."

Luke 1: 47 - 49

Mary was honored and humbled to be the servant of God, the one chosen to bear Christ himself. The Christmas story reminds us that God chooses to act through the normal people of the world. While one of the most significant, Mary is one of many throughout Biblical history that have been chosen to do God's work. In fact, in the wider view of Biblical history, God has repeatedly chosen those no one else would. Moses was an exiled murderer. Rahab was a prostitute. David was the smallest brother who spent his time singing to the sheep. Mary was an unknown young woman who wasn't even married yet. Paul was a decorated persecutor of the fledgling Christian church. Each one became giants in the world of faith, not because of what they had done before being chosen, but because God saw something they didn't even yet see in themselves and used them for a greater good.

I believe God still works that way. I believe God has something for each of us that is a significant part of God's master plan. Our job is to listen, and to act. That's the hard part. But if God can choose Mary, God can choose you and me. If God can work through a shepherd boy, God can work through us. Don't let doubts or fears or excuses stop God from moving you more fully into God's plan. Your life, my life, and the lives of those around us may depend upon it.

This is the miracle of Christmas: In God's infinite wisdom, the ordinary is made extraordinary, the mundane is made spectacular, and the unknown person becomes God's amazing servant. Maybe you, or me, or us, is next. **Merry Christmas! Glory, in excelsis Deo! Amen.**

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian



SHEEP More than Tutoring

The SHEEP program has already been blessed in several ways this year. We began with Jennifer Bowen, 4-H Extension Agent, who allowed us to participate in a program from a Microsoft grant. Older youth assisted the children. The grant allowed students to design their own video games. The program is called Game Changineer which was developed by a professor at Virginia Tech. Students learned to write their own video program which required them to form complete and proper sentences as commands. This took place over a period of three sessions. The students enjoyed this very much and it certainly helped with their grammar!



We were also very excited to provide each student with a special Bible geared to their age group. Everyday the students learn about someone in the Bible or something that happened which in turn relates to them. This gives them another opportunity to read in a meaningful way.

As always we are greatly blessed by your prayers and donations!

The SHEEP students and volunteers wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New year!



- Nancy Merrel
SHEEP Director



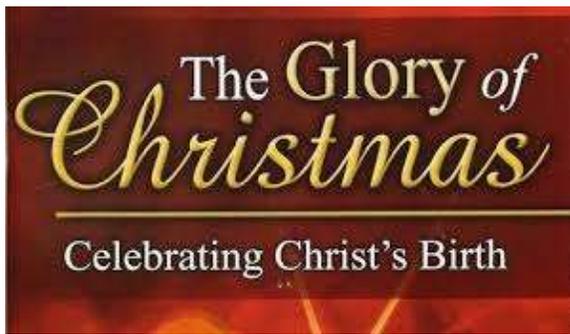
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at South Hill UMC. Glenn Barbour's Sunday School class recently decorated the Chrismon Trees and placed the Christmas wreaths on doors just in time for the first Sunday of Advent.





Bus Fund

Even as we end the year, we are looking forward to new things! As you may already know, we are in the process of purchasing a bus for the church. We are diligently working to come up with a vehicle that multiple groups will be able to use for multiple purposes. Youth, missions, senior trips, and more are real uses that are all very exciting. The bus does cost something, however, and ongoing operation and maintenance also come with a cost. Please consider adding a donation to the bus fund to be able to support this purchase and its ongoing operation in the years to come. If your group could benefit from this bus, consider chipping in.



The Glory of Christmas – Come join us for our joint Christmas Cantata with South Hill UMC adult choir and Clarksville Baptist Church adult choir. Performances will be Sunday, December 16th at 7:00 pm at South Hill UMC and Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm at Clarksville Baptist Church.



November 1st – January 31st, the church office will be closed on Fridays; however, please use normal contact numbers if you need assistance on Fridays. Messages will be returned.

Children's Offering A Giving Opportunity



The Sunday collection of the children's offering is experiencing a shortfall this year. You may have read in the bulletin these offerings go to support schooling for 2 children in the Dominican Republic and 1 child in the Eastern shore Agape Christian Children' Community Center in Horntown, VA. The total cost for these 3 children is \$1440. The children's offering through November is \$844. If you feel lead to donate to 2nd mile giving to help us close this gap in December it would be greatly appreciated. Just designate it on your envelope or mark your check for the "children's offering". Thanks so much!

- Rick Carroll, Church Treasurer



Make plans now to join us on Sunday, December 23rd at 5:00 pm as our youth will present the Christmas play "Never Too Old for Christmas"!

Doors Receive Facelift...

The doors recently received a fresh coat of paint. Landon Hayes can be seen working tirelessly to finish the project just in time for Heritage Sunday.



Birthday Party for Jesus – The Birthday Party for Jesus is a long time tradition of SHUMC when we celebrate the birth of Jesus by purchasing Christmas gifts for needy children referred through Social Services. There are some names still available and located on the bulletin board in the education wing. A program will held on Sunday, December 9th at 9:45 am for all Sunday school classes as we bring our gifts to be blessed.



Presenting Light the Night December 31st



New Year's Eve Extravaganza
Monday, December 31, 2018 8:30 pm -
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 1:00 am

The New Year's Extravaganza is going to be spectacular and you don't want to miss it! New Hope Baptist -SH is graciously hosting the event again this year and they have a got a great evening planned. It will start with dinner at 8:30 and the event will kick off

about 9:00. Dana Tison will bring the message and entertainment that night. Dana is a gold medal winning world class juggler from Charlotte NC. His brilliant blend of amazing jugglery with non-stop rib-splitting shenanigans brings audiences to their feet. Anthony Wall and FootStool will be leading worship. (That's right, Awall will be there). Add in a surprise or two and worship will be "FootStool Style". They will also have their traditional LTN Ball Drop and midnight ice cream buffet.

Make your plans to be there, and ask a friend to come with you. It's always free, all you have to do is show up!



Important Youth Dates:

- 12/02 – South Hill Parade
- 12/31 – Light the Night
- 2/22–24 – Fusion Retreat
- 3/22–24 – DNOW
- 5/05 – Youth Sunday

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

Benefits of Exercise

Did you know that along with smoking, high cholesterol and high blood pressure, the American Heart Association regards physical inactivity as the fourth major risk factor for coronary artery disease? There are many benefits to exercise, a few of which are:



- Gives you more energy.
- Helps in coping with stress.
- Improves your self-image.
- Reduces anxiety and depression.
- Tones your muscles.
- Helps control your appetite.
- Increases muscle strength.
- Contributes to more productivity at work.
- Increases your capacity for physical work.
- Builds stamina for daily routine activities.
- Strengthens heart and lungs giving you greater stamina.
- Burns calories to help reduce body fat when combined with a healthy diet.
- Strengthens your heart and lungs to work more efficiently.

Regular physical activity will reduce the likelihood of a heart attack or, in the event of an attack, may lessen its severity. Many common ailments such as sore joints, stiffness, daily fatigue and poor circulation may gradually disappear with increased physical activity. As a form of recreation, benefits are provided such as relaxation, release of tension, the opportunity to develop interpersonal relationships, and simple fun and enjoyment. In principle, activity is safer than inactivity. IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU LOSE IT!

- Shirley Wetherbee

Opportunities for Growth and Service...

Mentors Needed for All God's Children Camp

All God's Children Camp will be here before you know it and we are in need of mentors next summer. Our 2019 dates are here. Please check them out below and then pray about becoming one of the 90 mentors we will need to make this summer possible. After that, download the mentor application and completely fill it out and send it to the address on the application form. We will need 90 mentors total, 30 for each camp, both male and female. Please consider giving a week of your time and mentor a camper whose mother or father is incarcerated. You will get a chance to just pour out some love on your camper, engage with them during bible, arts and crafts and worship. You can also encourage them through the week as they learn new activities the camp has to offer. For more information, please contact Lori Smith at lttlelori@gmail.com or 571-245-9591.

- June 16-21 @ Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)
- July 28-August 2 @ Occohannock on the Bay (Easter Shore)
- August 11-16 @Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)

UM Day at the General Assembly which will be held Thursday, January 31, 2019. The cost is \$40 until January 11, when registration closes. Contact the Rev. Barbara Lewis, registrar, with questions at BarbaraLewis@vaumc.org.

A Christmas Poem

By Lisa E. Clary© December 2014

For unto you this day, a savior is born;
Only to die for our sins on the cross, tattered and torn.

The bright star leads the way to salvation and peace
As angels sing in unison, heavenly voices released.

The Lord of all Lords, the king of all kings;
He is the master of all hope and goodwill in all he brings.

Trust and believe that he is God almighty for all mankind
Take a moment to pray and seek and ye shall find.

He leads the way from his manger to the cross;
As a babe and a Holy man he walks with us from triumphs to loss.

The man we know as Jesus, counselor and the chosen one
The first and the last from the beginning of time to the end when earth is done.
A shepherd, a leader, a healer, and the great I am,

The Heir of all things as he led three wise men to a holy place
To worship and bow down and ask for God's holy grace.

Take time to thank him for your blessings this holiday season.
For the birth of Christ is the true meaning of the season.

God gave us the greatest gift of all to last an eternity.
Faith, hope and forgiveness in the form of his son born in a nativity.

Praise him each day and believe that he is the Son of God in heaven above.
And know that the best gift is that of his unfailing love.

Merry Christmas!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Monday, Dec. 24th
at 5 pm in the
sanctuary. Please
note that 100% of
the offering
received for this
service will be
given to the
United Methodist
Family Services.

**Special Session of
General Conference
February 23-26, 2019
St. Louis, Missouri**

Advent Devotions - Society of St. Andrew

Sometimes when we walk out of the sanctuary after worship, it's easy to get back into our own world and put our blinders back on. This Advent, take time to focus outside of your normal circle, to focus on the birth of Jesus, God coming to us in human flesh, as a tiny baby in Bethlehem. If you haven't done so yet, pick up your copy of the devotional booklet, "Lifting Up the Lowly" at the church. Use the daily readings, reflections, and prayers to prepare your heart for the coming of the Christ-child, and commit to set aside a small gift each day during Advent that will be used by Society of St. Andrew to provide healthy food for hungry people in this country. The devotionals are available in the narthex, on the table outside the chapel, and on the table between the sanctuary and the education wing or you may stop by the church office during business hours to pick one up.



Budget for 2018:	\$231,797
GF Offering received thru Nov 25, 2018:	\$173,581
YTD Percent Budget Received 2018:	75%
YTD Percent Budget Received 2017:	79%
YTD Avg Attendance Combined Worship 2018:	104
YTD Avg Sunday school Attendance 2018:	54



*From the fullness of His grace
we have received one blessing after another.
John 1: 16*



Happy Birthday

December 3	Joshua Merrel
December 3	Charles Warren
December 5	Nick Faulconer
December 5	Christy Stewart
December 6	Nancy Conner
December 7	Mike Berryman
December 7	Brady Burke
December 9	Mason Mills
December 9	Jessica Pearce
December 10	Hayden Blair
December 10	Mindy Shafer
December 11	Jon Hardin
December 11	Jo Beth Hardin
December 12	Libbie Calhoun
December 12	Anne Cole
December 13	Killian Snead
December 15	Glen Cox
December 16	Brian Crutchfield
December 17	Hilary Tackett
December 18	Matthew Hunt
December 18	Sue Justis
December 18	Mary Tatum
December 20	Chuck Liles
December 20	Jane Wells
December 21	Josh McGarvey
December 21	Earl Rowley
December 22	Holly Gillispie
December 22	Lisa Rowley
December 23	Samantha Pearce
December 24	Holly Siegle
December 26	Marc Balance
December 26	Ann Nichols
December 29	Jan Fussell
December 31	Sam Carroll



January 1	Lee Siegle
January 2	Michael Tucker
January 2	Madison Whittemore
January 5	Elizabeth Black
January 7	Peter Hunt
January 9	Scott Jackson
January 12	Buck Calhoun
January 12	Brian Gittman
January 12	Carrie Wilson
January 13	Doug Carroll
January 13	Claibourne Rudd
January 14	Herbert Lee Farrar
January 14	Clara Spence
January 14	Ruby Spence
January 16	Skyler Wells
January 17	Charles Moseley
January 17	Ben Taylor
January 19	Kathy Sims
January 20	Philip Ware
January 22	Doug Child
January 25	Kyle Tanner
January 26	Kristen Hudson
January 27	Amanda Shook
January 28	Amy Lynch
January 29	Cynthia Carter
January 29	Steven Furr
January 29	Henry Ponton
January 29	Charles Spears

If your birthday is missing, please notify the church office so we may update our records.

The Messenger

South Hill United Methodist Church
105 Franklin Street
South Hill, Virginia 23970
434-447-4761
office@southhillumc.org
www.southhillumc.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Services: Sundays 8:45 a.m. (in the chapel) and 11:00 a.m. (in the sanctuary)
Sunday school: 9:45 a.m.
Upcoming Events

Sunday, 12/2	South Hill Christmas Parade 2 pm
Tuesday, 12/4	VCU Caroling in Main Hospital 1:30 pm
Tuesday, 12/11	UMW Lunch 11:30 am at Wilson's BBQ VCU Carolina in Main Hospital 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 12/12	Pineview Chapel Service 10 am
Sunday, 12/16	UM Men's Breakfast 8 am Church Committee Meetings 12 Noon Christmas Cantata 7 pm at South Hill UMC
Wednesday, 12/19	Christmas Cantata 7 pm at Clarksville Baptist
Sunday, 12/23	Youth Christmas Program 5 pm
Monday, 12/24	Christmas Eve Service 5 pm
Tuesday, 12/25	Christmas Day
Mon 12/24- Mon 12/31	Christmas Break – Office Closed
Monday, 12/31	Light the Night Year Year's Eve at New Hope Baptist 8:30 pm – 1:00 am New Year's Day – Office Closed
January 1 st	Epiphany
January 6 th	Pineview Communion Service 3 pm
January 17 th	February Newsletter Articles Due
January 20 th	UM Men's Breakfast 8 am Church Council Meeting 12 Noon

Recurring Weekly Events:

Sundays: Regular Worship Services
Middle School Youth 5 - 6 pm
High School Youth 6 - 7 pm

Tuesdays: 10:00 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Seekers in Prayer
7:30 pm Synago

Wednesdays:
6:30 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm Narcotics Anon.
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm AA

Thursdays
11:00 am Hundley Service

Fridays: 7:00 pm Sobriety Group

Saturdays: 8-3 Community Service
Sale at Upper Room
(1st, 2nd, & 3rd Saturday)

2nd and 4th Tuesdays: 6:30 pm Prayer
Shawl Meeting

SHEEP: Monday – Thursday
3:30 – 6:00 pm



Church Staff

Pastor
Rev. Brian Siegle
Music Director/Organist
Jimmie Crowder, Jr.
Administrative Assistant
Patsy T. Watkins