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OUT OF MY MIND

Though the calendar says that Christmas is over for another year, let me encourage you to hold on to some of God's Christmas gifts for a little while longer.

The first gift to hold on to from Christmas is that God keeps his promises. One of the most amazing things about Jesus is that from his birth to his death and resurrection, he fulfilled over 300 predictions made by God's spokesmen centuries before. These prophecies are useful not only in identifying that Christ is indeed the Messiah of God, but also assures us that if God kept his promises then he will also keep them in the future. Because of Christmas, no matter what you face in 2018, you can be confident that God will keep his promises to you.

Another gift to hold on to from Christmas is that God works through ordinary people. What really stands out in the Christmas story is how ordinary it all was. God chose to work through the birth of a son to a young couple (Mary and Joseph), as well an announcement to a group of working class people (the Shepherds), senior adults (Simeon and Anna), and some scholarly professor types (the Magi). Sometime in the ordinary routine of daily life this year we will see the hand of God at work. For that's the way God works, through the ordinary things of life, like the birth of a baby and with ordinary people like you and me. God wants to partner with you in accomplishing his good in this world.

Another gift to hold on to from Christmas is that God loves us. Remember the Bible tells us: "For God so loved that world that he gave his one and only son..." **(John 3:16)** That's an important gift to hold on to because some time this coming year you are going to be tempted to question God's love for you. When that happens, remember that because God loves you Christ came that first Christmas. And because he still loves you he has promised to be Emmanuel, the God who is with you always. Nothing will happen to you in 2018 that God will not be there to share it with you and help you through it.

Even though the calendar says that it's no longer Christmas, I urge you to hold on to these amazing Christmas gifts God has given us throughout 2018.

Your Pastor,
 Mike



Thank you for all the cards, food, gifts and other expressions of appreciation you gave us during the Christmas season. With the Apostle Paul we say "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..." In Christian love, Mike & Lucy Wilkins

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEALS

January 3rd
 Youth Group
 (Lasagna, salad, butter bread & dessert)

January 10th
 Brian Kave
 (Pulled pork BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans & dessert)

January 17th
 Effie Wallace
 (Fried chicken, peas, coleslaw, bread & dessert)

January 24th
 Patsy Paxton & Friends
 (Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls & dessert)

January 31st
 Youth Group
 (Pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice & coffee)

CAKE & CASSEROLE MINISTRY

The cake & casserole ministry will meet on **Saturday, January 6th at 9 am.** Please join us!

BUSINESS MEETING

We will have our quarterly Business Meeting on **Wednesday, January 17th at 6:15 pm.**

HALL WATCH

January 7th - David Moore
 January 14th - John Wranek
 January 21st - Jimmy Crowder
 January 28th - Mike Bozeman

BIBLE STUDY FLOATERS

January 7th - Loretta Ballard
 January 14th - Barbara Heckman
 January 21st - Carole Berger
 January 28th - Loretta Ballard

BIBLE STUDY NURSERY

January 7th - Carol Bozeman & Robyn Sherman
 January 14th - Cathy Wranek & Bobbie Canfield
 January 21st - Beverly Shotwell & Debbie Fox
 January 28th - Barbara Cash & Robyn Sherman

WORSHIP SERVICE NURSERY

January 7th - Cathy Wranek & Deborah Caylor
 January 14th - Patsy Williamson & Maggie Moore
 January 21st - Sharon Martin & Carole Berger
 January 28th - Carole Judy & Kaden Sherman



1st Lannie & Loretta Ballard

Celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Share it with us!



8th Roberta Grist
 11th Tom Charland
 12th Patsy Williamson
 14th Laura Huffman
 16th Kelly Lemmer
 17th Margaret Tait
 22nd Wayne Oyler
 24th Reba Miller
 26th Beverly Shotwell



In December we donated items on a Western State patient's Christmas Wish List. Thanks to Barbara Cash for delivering them to Eagle's Nest in Buena Vista where they will be picked up for delivery to Western State.

A few of us enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Community Table and delivered a check as part of the proceeds from the festival meal.

In January our project will be serving at the Community Table on the **Monday, January 8th**. We need 8 to 10 people to sign up for various jobs. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Heckman (463-4705 or barbara@manlybaptist.com).

If you have not contributed to the Lottie Moon offering for International Missions, we will receive donations through **Sunday, January 14th**.

Our next quarterly meeting will be on **Monday, February 12th** in the choir room at **5:15 pm**. Please join us as we will be making plans for Women's Day. Executive committee will meet prior to the 12th, date to be determined.



We invite you to pray for all our church volunteers in 2018! Different groups of volunteers will be highlighted each month, and will be listed in the bulletin and newsletter.

We'll begin in January by praying for our Deacons: Lannie Ballard, Carole Berger, Larry Bond, Mike Bozeman, Barbara Cash, Curtis Caylor, Brenda Grose, Linda Hooks, Brian Kave, Clyde Keen, Jan Meador, Sherry Miller, Alysyan Raymond, Dale Raymond & Roger Williamson.

Prayer is an important component in the life of the church! Prayer makes a difference! Prayer is powerful! It's a way to worship God, to have a dialogue with God, and to listen to God. Let's focus on the many people who give their time and talents as volunteers here that allow our church to spread God's message.

Let's encourage and support our Deacons through our prayers and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" *Ephesians 6:18*

Alysyan Raymond, Family Life Coordinator



I would like to thank all those who made the music ministry of 2017 possible. The support of the music committee has been invaluable. Carol Kirby has been my right arm – copying music, cleaning out folders, providing water for the cantata (and some spare holiday scarves!) among many other things. Alysyan Raymond's faithful service as rehearsal pianist and church organist has made our music possible. Alysyan goes out of her way to arrange her family schedule around her Sunday duties. Lee Higgins serves as part of the music committee, but also directs the children's choir and handbell choir. They have added so much to our worship. Lee also serves as a substitute choir director, allowing me to get some much needed time off. Then, there is the choir members themselves who come faithfully each Wednesday night to practice and Sunday mornings to lead in worship. They sacrifice their time to give of their talent to the Lord.

In addition, the sound team has put in so many hours to make us sound our very best. Don Heckman and Robbie Moore put in new speakers in the choir loft to enable the choir to hear each other better, new speakers so the congregation can hear, worked with the praise band, set up mikes for soloists and singing groups, gotten a headset so the pianist can hear the choir in real time – cutting out an almost 1 second delay and balanced the sound (which is an art) throughout the sanctuary. They also made sure we had sound down in the fellowship hall during the renovation of the sanctuary which called for a lot of creative thinking! Thanks to them we have one of the best sound systems in Lexington.

Thomas Smals has done a remarkable job as visual coordinator. His slides have been a tasteful addition to our worship – particularly the ones he chose for the cantata.

I personally enjoy the quiet slides of nature during the offertory. It is a moment in the service when I have time to worship. He has trained Curtis Caylor and Kaden Sherman to do the work as well, but it is Thomas that types up the hymns for each Sunday. They meet with me every week to be sure the slides go with the music.

So many people give of their time and talent to make our music ministry a success. I am awed by their dedication and willingness to serve. My thanks to each of you for your support and for the love you demonstrate for our church. Here's to a new year of working together in His Name!

Happy New Year, Lucy Wilkins



The Meador-Steele Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, **February 7th at 4:45 pm**. Contact Lee Higgins (464-1531) for more information.



The Children's Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, **February 4th at 5:00 pm**. If you know of some children who are not involved but would like to sing, please let Lee Higgins (464-1531) know.

CONCERT OF SONG

Students of Christine Schadeberg will present a belated (and reciprocal) Christmas present to the MMBC congregation on **Sunday, January 14th at 4:00 pm**. Belated, because December was just too busy! And reciprocal, because you are giving us the gift of being there to listen.

The program will present songs by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), and will include folksong-inspired pieces as well as excerpts from larger works (Five Mystical Songs, Songs of Travel and The Pilgrim's Progress.)



On December 2nd we enjoyed the Thomas Road Christmas Spectacular with a meal following at Cracker Barrel. It was a great time of fellowship! On December 4th, the W&L Holiday Pop Concert was well attended, what a blessed evening! Our next luncheon will be **Thursday, January 18th, 11:30 am** at the Pink Cadillac Restaurant. Please join us for lunch and fellowship as we begin planning activities for 2018! Happy New Year! Roger & Patsy Williamson

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Sunday, January 21st, right after church we will head to Staunton for lunch at CiCi's and bowling at Staunton Lanes! Please let Ms. Beverly (460-0409) know if you plan on going.

01.15.2018
SECOND ANNUAL
**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
COMMUNITY PARADE**
CARE / COMMUNITY ANTI-RACISM EFFORT
10AM



RANDOLPH ST. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
118 S. RANDOLPH ST. LEXINGTON VA
TO VOLUNTEER OR JOIN PARADE VISIT
CAREROCKBRIDGE.ORG



SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:45 AM

January 7th "Playing With Fire" with Laura Jones
"Your words can be a weapon!"

Have you ever watched a fire spread? If you have, then you know just how quickly it can get out of control. The same is true when it comes to our words. In fact, James tells us that our words can be just as powerful as fire—a weapon that we must learn to control.

January 14th "Playing With Fire" with Molly Kay
"Don't keep your nice thoughts to yourself!"

If you had something great—something that had the power to change the course of someone's life—you'd share it with them, wouldn't you? Well, believe it or not, you do. As we look at the way Solomon views our words, we'll realize the potential we have to change lives when we refuse to keep our nice thoughts to ourselves.

January 21st "Know God" with John Wranek
"Creation points to the Creator!"

Sometimes the thought of doing something that will help us know God better leaves us less than excited. But if you change the way you approach getting to know God, you might be surprised at what you discover! We will see that one way we can know God better is by looking at the world He created.

January 28th "Know God" with Thomas Smals
"Prayer helps us know God better!"

Have you ever prayed for something and felt like you got absolutely nothing from God? If you have, you're not alone! But what if prayer isn't just about getting what we want? We will discover that maybe the best way we can view prayer is to see it as a way of growing closer to God.



Wednesday, January 3rd
4:00 pm - Youth Prepare Fellowship Meal
6:30 pm - Youth Group Meeting

Sunday, January 7th
12:00 pm - Lunch & Ice Skating (Roanoke, VA) **Cost is \$10**

Wednesday, January 10th
No Youth Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 17th
5:30 pm - Youth Group Meeting (Dinner provided)

Wednesday, January 24th
5:30 pm - Youth Group Meeting (Dinner provided)

Wednesday, January 31st
4:00 pm - Youth Prepare Fellowship Meal
6:30 pm - Youth Group Meeting