

Circuit Writer



Dear Church Family,

Just thinking about it brings a smile to my face. Christmas that is! All around us we see the signs of the season, we hear the sounds of the season and many times we stand amazed at the craziness of the season.

As believers in Jesus Christ, that awe and amazement is based in one fact – we are not left to fend for ourselves and we are not alone. God has come to be with us. That's what the angel told Joseph when announcing that Joseph should go ahead and marry Mary even though she was expecting a baby that wasn't his, "*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel*"--which means, "*God with us.*" (Matthew 1:23)

God is with us – now that's good news. Good news indeed in the midst of struggling economic news; in the midst of fears related to health care and the H1N1 virus; in the midst of news reports of abused and kidnapped children; in the midst of stories of mass murders and random shootings. In the midst – we celebrate Christmas and the fact that God has come to be in our midst.

So as we head out to the stores, as we run errands on that never-ending "to do list" and attend the various concerts, cantatas and Christmas programs – let's carry the light of God's presence with us. When we get the chance – let's say "Merry CHRISTmas" and remind all that we come in contact with that there's a reason that this is a favorite time of year; because this is when we remember all over again – God is with us!!

With Christmas joy and hope that transforms our lives,

Claudia

Helping Hands for the Holiday: This year BUMC will be filling and donating ten (10) boxes of food for children that may not have enough. We are asking if you would pick an item for this list and bring 10 of that item for the Helping Hands box. WE will need all items no later than Dec. 18th,. The boxes will be picked up at BUMC on Dec. 20th. Cereal, peanut butter, bread, jelly, snack crackers, oatmeal, canned fruit, pudding packs, mac/cheese, tuna or chicken cans or pouches, cup of soup or oodles of noodles. If you would let Claudia, Martha Slayton or Carole Umbel know which item you are claiming, it would be most helpful.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Special reception for Betty Wright on
Dec. 6 at 2::30 pm

Caroling and delivering food baskets
on Dec. 18th starting at 6 PM

Cantata on Dec. 20th at 5 PM– Light-
Love-Life/The Gifts of Christmas

Christmas eve service on Dec. 24th, 7
PM at Rouzie's chapel.

Contacting Rev. Stallings:

Church: 804-449-6794

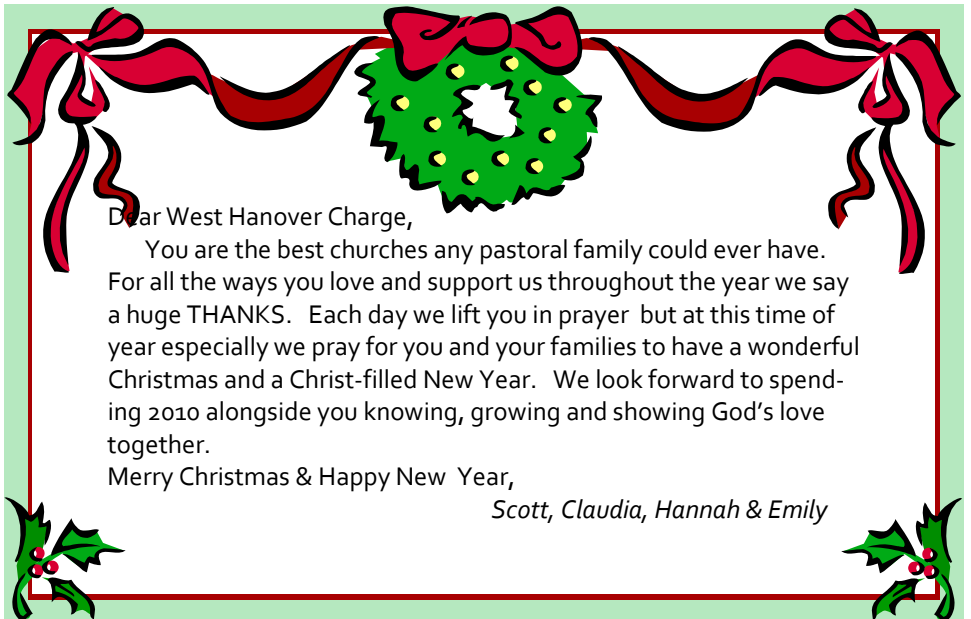
Home: 804-883-5253

Cell: 804-387-2448

Newlife4chs@embarqmail.com

Beaverdamumc@embarqmail.com

11/24/2009



Dear West Hanover Charge,

You are the best churches any pastoral family could ever have. For all the ways you love and support us throughout the year we say a huge THANKS. Each day we lift you in prayer but at this time of year especially we pray for you and your families to have a wonderful Christmas and a Christ-filled New Year. We look forward to spending 2010 alongside you knowing, growing and showing God's love together.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Scott, Claudia, Hannah & Emily

2009 Lay Schedule

Date	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 3
Scriptures	Philippians 1:3-11	Philippians 4:4-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Colossians 3:12-17	Ephesians 1:3-14
Greeters	Janet & Joe Exline	Alan & Autumn Shaffer	Jaxmen McLaren	David & DeAnn Pangburn	Billie Raines & Edie Beheler
Lay Reader	Janet Exline	Paytience Shaffer	Kate Cook	DeAnn Pangburn	Emily Stallings
Children's message	Dutch Dorschel	NA	NA	NA	Dutch Dorschel
Ushers	Nancy Jett & Kate Cook	Emily Stallings & Paytience Shaffer	Kate Cook & Bill Perry	David & DeAnn Pangburn	Billie Raines & Edie Beheler
Financial assistant	Nancy Jett & Carole Umbel	Carole Umbel	Kate Cook	DeAnn Pangburn	Billie Raines
Nursery		Kate Cook	Billie Raines		

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Betty Wright b'day	5 Santa Breakfast—B'day Fire Dept. & Depot Open House
6 Amanda Veno b'day Reception for Betty Wright 2:30 PM		8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Edie Beheler b'day	16	17	18 Caroling 6 PM	19
20 Cantata 5 PM Youth event following cantata	21	22	23	24 Rob Monolo b'day Christmas Eve Service—Rouzie Chapel 7 PM	25 	26 Hannah Stallings b'day
27 Brad Jones b'day	28	29	30	31		

It is finally that time of the year again, you know, the "hap happiest season of all" or the "most wonderful time of the year." It is the season when we will break our budgets, and spend a ridiculous amount of money to attempt to please family and friends with awesome gifts, that they may love or return simply for a gift card. I cannot say that I am much different; I love Christmas and the cold, the possible snow, the decorations, and the family. I have just grown to hate the consumerism of Christmas and now the "happy chrismahanakwanzkia."

As Christians, we are called to remember this season for what it is, this is the season when the Savior was born to come and ransom Israel. This is the season when God stepped down from majesty, from glory, from perfection to the depravity of sin. He came as a son of a poor carpenter and his wife, and lived poor until he was crucified a criminal. We must not let this glorious coming be swept up in new zebra Christmas lights, or having the biggest tree, or buying the most presents. The greatest present ever given was given freely, when God made his dwelling among us, and would live among those he created to save us from ourselves. So, as we celebrate Christmas this year let us remember these words now ring true; Emmanuel has come and worked salvation for us all:

As this is one of my favorite Christmas hymns it should always remind us that we were in lonely exile, away from God before he came down. He has now freed us from anything Satan may throw at us and we can "Rejoice! Rejoice!" because God has come to us. Let us not be found like the words of this song by Casting Crowns:

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Oh little town of Bethlehem
Looks like another silent night
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
A giant star lights up the sky
And while you're lying in the dark
There shines an everlasting light
For the King has left His throne
And is sleeping in a manger tonight**

**Oh Bethlehem, what you have missed while
you were sleeping
For God became a man
And stepped into your world today
Oh Bethlehem, you will go down in history
As a city with no room for its King
While you were sleeping
While you were sleeping**

**Important Dates To Remember:
December 20th-Christmas Cantata
and Youth and Children Christmas
Party to follow Cantata**

**January 16th 2010-Car Bash and Bon
Fire**

**Merry Christmas
Sean**

Merry Christmas, girls and boys!

What are you going to give Jesus for his birthday? I bet that got your attention. It got mine when Ms. Penny and I first heard it this week.

In Psalm 72: 10 "The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts."

As Jesus lay in the manger, or the stall, or the cave, with proud parents looking over him, the Magi brought gifts. Now actually the Magi did not arrive until about January 6, but it was close enough for us to include that part of the birth of Jesus this month.

So instead of incense, try giving Jesus a prayer praising his name and thanking him for his gifts; instead of myrrh, shed a tear for the sins we have committed against him and our loved ones; instead of gold, give him and our brothers and sisters our hearts, not literally but in the form of our love.

A very blessed Christmas to all, with my love. **J U G**



Rouzie's Chapel

December Birthdays & Anniversaries	
Marie Bickley	5
Paul and Martha Flint Anniversary	24
Jesus Christ	25
Hannah Stallings	26

MISSIONS

Candy drive for children in Iraq. Please limit your contributions to individually wrapped hard candies (such as lollipops, tootsie rolls, twizzlers, etc.) and because of the heat, chocolates should be avoided. Barbara Bauserman will collect these goodies and see that they are delivered.

W.H.E.A.T.

needs our help both with financial donations and with the following food pantry items; Breakfast foods, Soup, Brunswick Stew, Ravioli and similar "meals", Dried beans and Rice, Bread and Jelly.

Compassion International:

Don't forget to support Jennifer and Axel, our Sunday School's adopted children by depositing your spare change in the blue Compassion International Can in the church's entrance.

Blessing Box:

Rouzie's has a Blessing Box to collect used men's clothing in good condition and assorted toiletries that can be given to the men at New Life for Youth Ranch. PLEASE ONLY MEN'S CLOTHING & TOILETRIES.

THANKS

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Thanks are due a lot of people for the work they have done for the Church in the past few months. We couldn't function without everyone pitching in. Thanks to Martha and Paul Flint and Jay and Carolyn Marsh and their support staff for a very successful Brunswick Stew event. Thanks to Doris Davis for a delicious breakfast. We have a few quarts of stew left to give to needy people this fall.

A special day arrived in November when we could dedicate our beautiful new Narthex. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dick Lear for his tireless work in supervising the construction, and for his beautiful design of the cross and flame stained glass window. Thanks to Nancy Lear for her landscaping talent put to good use around the new area. A celebration is planned in the Spring.

Bev Duke

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Right here at this time in Beavertown, Virginia and all towns and cities around the world that celebrate Christmas, we get so involved in decorating our houses, planning meals, baking, buying gifts, planning parties to celebrate the Christmas season with friends and family; wanting everything to be just perfect, we often lose sight of what Christmas is all about.

Luke 2:1-7 tells us "And there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed....."

Not many people were mentioned by name in this scripture but we know that there were a lot of people in Bethlehem at this time because Caesar said "everyone should go to his own city to register, to pay their taxes." So Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, the City of David, because he was of the house and lineage of David.

Did you ever wonder if any of the travelers saw the Star? And if they did see it, did they wonder why it was so big and bright; so different from all the other stars in the heavens. The inn keeper, who turned Mary and Joseph away, might have said later "If I had only known who they were I would not have turned them away. I would have found room." Or the town locals who may have said "I would have found a place for them if I had only known". Or "I could have seen Him if I had only known". A traveler might have said "I stayed only a few doors down from that stable"; they all could have knelt along side of the shepherds but missed the opportunity.

Let us not forget in all our busyness the reason that we are celebrating this time or like the people in Bethlehem we could miss out on a part of God's story. Let's all stop long enough to look for God's plan for us and to make Jesus our center of focus during this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Have a (Christ Filled) Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Barbara Bauserman

News from the Pews

Rouzie's Chapel Construction is Complete

The steeple and narthex addition to Rouzie's Chapel completed its final inspection with Hanover County on October 28, 2009. There were several items on the punch list that remained to be completed but they were corrected to the satisfaction of the building committee and the keys were turned over to the church on October 30th. One of the last items installed was the stained glass rose window over the front door, donated by Dick and Nancy Lear. The rose window orientation is correct when viewed from outside. The backlight for the rose window is left on so it can be seen at night.

The Ashland District Builders Club presented a check to Rouzie's Chapel for \$8,066.00 at Charge Conference on November 1st. The Builders Club check put the Rouzie's Chapel steeple and narthex construction project over the top making it debt free.

The congregation is thrilled with the results of the project. In its 218 year history this is the first time Rouzie's Chapel has had a steeple. The addition also achieved the goal of keeping the "Chapel in the Woods" look and feel. A new sign is in the design and development phase and the parking lot may be re-graded to improve drainage and apply a new layer of gravel. A homecoming gala event is being planned for the Spring of 2010.



← Before
After →



From "The Friendship Book"

Here's something for us to think about today. What would happen if we treated our Bibles in the same way as we treat our mobile phones? What if we wore the Bible on a belt, or carried it in our handbag or a pocket? What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we used it to receive messages from the text? What if we treated it as if we couldn't live without it? Unlike a mobile phone, we don't ever have to worry about the Bible losing its connection, or having to be recharged. I hope this message prompts you to open your Bible today – and tomorrow, and the day after . . .

Francis Gay

West Hanover Wood Ministry (WHWM)

The WHWM is becoming very active now that the weather has turned colder, but the real COLD is still to come. The Wednesday WHWM group is comprised of about 6 retired men who get together for fellowship on Wednesdays to cut and split wood and then have lunch together. The Wednesday group split all of the remaining wood in the wood yard, and an additional three truck loads from a tree donated by Paul and Martha Flint. Seven deliveries were made during the week of November 16th bringing our total to 27 truck loads for the season, that's 13 ½ tons of wood.

The Saturday WHWM group comprised of 67 members from eleven churches is starting to get more active as well. They dropped four trees and cut them into rounds on Saturday November 21st and will return to split and deliver at a later date.

If you are available Wednesday or Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00 and would like to help with the wood ministry contact Fredy Calderon, H 804 448-0275, C 804-357-5504, or Dick Lear H 540 894-9919, C 703 855-9831 to be added to the list and receive scheduling information.

Beaverdam and Rouzie's
United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 67
Beaverdam, VA 23015

The family of Betty Wright wishes to extend an invitation to her church family and friends to join us in celebrating her 80th birthday. We will be marking this moment with a reception between 2:30 and 4:30 on **Sunday**, December 6th in BUMC's social hall. Please stop by anytime during this time to celebrate with us.

One of Mom's gifts is remembering others on special occasions. To commemorate this, we ask that, in lieu of gifts, you bring a birthday card or note to be compiled in a scrapbook. With the photos taken at the event, it will be a special memory for her of this special time.

If you have any questions, you **may** contact Barbara Lynn (Cassett) at [338-2661](tel:338-2661). We hope to see you there!

TWO ALL YEAR LONG ANGELS:

In this season of angels we want to thank two very special ones.

If you have enjoyed receiving the Circuit Writer every month of 2009 – **find a way to thank Carole Umbel and Shirley Jones.** Shirley provides the articles for Rouzie's Chapel and Carole Umbel sends out reminders, receives all the varied articles and input and does the layout. For the on-line version she uploads it to the website and sends out the link by email. For the printed version, Carole prints the pages, folds, tapes and labels and then mails them.

Thank you to our All Year Long Circuit Writer Angels !!



- Articles in this issue:
- Youth message
 - JuG's corner
 - Pastor's message
 - Lay Schedule
 - Calendar
 - News from the Pews
 - Dates to Remember
 - And much more.....