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JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Welcome to the new year! If you are like me you are starting off this new year with a lot of good intentions. You are going to do more of “this” and “less” of that. You’re going to cultivate a new interest, or renew your efforts with an old one. You’re going to do it right this time (even though you probably did whatever “it” is fairly well the last time). My point is we tend to begin the new year with a lot of good intentions or “resolutions.”

I’m uncomfortable with the word “resolutions.” It makes us sound like we must be “resolved” to do something that we would rather not. It’s kind of like we’re saying, “I know I should do something that I don’t really want to yet I’m resolved to see it through.” So what are the things you intend to do this year that you don’t really want to do but which you are “resolved” to do?

One of the things people are “resolved” to do is eat better and exercise. These are noble aspirations and I wholeheartedly support you in them. But chances are that we will probably populate our homes with one more piece of clothes drying equipment that looks suspiciously like an exercise machine. So let’s just say we are resolved to assist the exercise machine industry or the health food industry.

As you are considering ways of improving your physical health and stamina in this new year don’t forget your spiritual health. It’s just as – if not more - important, and just as easy to put off. I have a sneaking suspicion that the number of treadmills cleverly disguised as clothes hangers is rivaled by the number of bibles disguised as book-ends, coffee table ornaments, or (OMG!) drink coasters. Just as we have good intentions to exercise when we buy those exercise machines, we also have great intentions for growing spiritually when we purchase or receive those bibles. But exercise machines won’t help us if we don’t use them. Carefully planned diets won’t help if we don’t stick to them. And our Bibles can’t help us grow spiritually if we don’t read them.

I pray that you have decided to make some changes this year. I think “decided” is a much better word than “resolved.” It sounds much better to declare, “I have decided to follow Jesus,” than to say, “I am resolved to follow Jesus.” Well I hope you have *decided* to eat well and that you will stick to it. I hope that you have *decided* to actually use your tread mill as a tread mill. And I pray that you have *decided* to grow spiritually this year and make use of every opportunity afforded you to do so. And that starts with simply removing all that stuff that got piled on your bible since the last time you looked at it and then reading it.

A good way of making sure that we follow through on our *decisions* is to allow others to hold us accountable for those *decisions*. When we join a health club – it’s not only so we can use some great equipment that will never have to be excavated from a pile of towels – it’s so that we may have the support and encouragement of others. Dieting clubs are great because we are with a group of others who are struggling with their weight the way we struggle with ours. We are supported by them and they by us.

To help us follow through on our decisions to grow spiritually we have this church and the study and prayer groups that are a part of it. You are invited to participate in any of them. And there are no membership fees (though offerings on Sunday morning are **greatly appreciated**)! As we meet together, pray together, and wrestle with the scripture and our faith, we encourage each other and hold each other accountable for our growth. If you want to ensure success in your spiritual growth become a part of one of our study groups. At the very least come to worship each Sunday to find help and encouragement in your spiritual growth.

Welcome to the new year! I pray that you will be able to follow through on all your decisions for the coming year. I pray that you stay physically healthy and strong and that December 31, 2019 finds you even more fit than you are now. I also pray that this be a year of spiritual growth for you and that the end of the year finds you even stronger in the faith than you are today. May God bless you all in this new year!

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

THE FORUM

The Forum returns on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the portable. Our Winter into Spring subject is called Faith and Reason. We will be reviewing and discussing a series of conversations that the journalist Bill Moyers had with a variety of writers including Salmon Rushdie, Margaret Atwood and Pema Chodron. Join us and make an interesting conversation even more interesting. For more info contact Bill Paull (wapaul@yaho.com, 410-647-5885).

SARAH'S HOUSE MINISTRY

The September 2018 meal marked the 12th year anniversary of the Sarah's House Ministry at Mt. Carmel. It was in September of 2006, that the Mt. Carmel UMC Disciple Bible Study class was prodded by the Prophets to undertake a homeless shelter ministry. They served dinner on the third Sunday in October of 2006 at Sarah's House, a shelter for homeless families located at Ft. Meade. From that beginning, a team of caring Christians from three churches has served a meal at Sarah's House on the third Sunday of January through October. (Since many volunteer groups serve meals in November & December, we step back for those "holiday-only ministries".) From early in 2007 until early 2014, Mercier's Tree Service and its employees fully funded the ministry.

Sarah's House has a Wish List of constantly needed items, and an item from the List is published in the Mt. Carmel bulletin and newsletter. Almost every month there are donations to fulfill that month's wish. The class of 2008 realized that about half of the guests at Sarah's House are children. So they collected some children's books to read with the children after the meal while their parents do K.P. Each child picks a book or two to be kept by him or her as a gift. To maintain a supply of books (30 to 40 are given away each month) a "Birthday Club" was started at Mt. Carmel. Church members who are listed in the monthly church newsletter birthday list are asked to donate a child's book to the Sarah's House ministry. This doesn't supply enough books, so upon learning of the need, starting in April of 2015 some members (thank you Fahlteichs) of Our Lady of the Chesapeake heard of the ministry and committed to gathering books for this project. As a result, Our Lady is now the major source of books for Sarah's House. Some folks at the United Church of Christ in Annapolis heard of the ministry and there are now two UCCA couples on board. Over the years, the number of Sarah's House guests served has varied dramatically. One Sunday a few years ago there were six adults and four children served. Compare that to Sunday April 15, 2018 when 23 kids, and 27 adults were served! Over our twelve years of service we have served an average of 17 kids and 16 adults per meal which, when you include serving office staff, makes about 4,200 meals!

What began with a few Mt. Carmel UMC Bible students currently includes participants from three churches; gathering books, buying food, and/or serving food. Current ministry team members are: Cathy Buckwalter, Helen & Rick Fahlteich, Rose Ann Feldman, Betsy Gregory, Carol Hallam, Alice Hastings, Sarah Jenkins, Barbara Johnson, Carlos & Sarah Lazo, Gail Miller, Pat Mulkey, Bill & Gloria Paull and Kim Scott & Lisa Murray. In addition to these folks, a special thanks to all those that have supported this ministry with prayer, jumped in as an emergency cook/server, made Wish List donations, given financial support, and donated books.

SARAH'S HOUSE WISH LIST - January: Heavy Duty Trash Bags

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Last month we mentioned we were working on a project that involved a Christmas Tree and pizza. On November 30th, the children, youth and some adults came together to make a Christmas video. It was a crazy night of construction paper, singing, and deciding who was going to talk on the video.

As most things go, after all the chaos was over and the camera started rolling, we turned out a nice Christmas video to be seen at the Children's service on Christmas Eve. We hope everyone has had a chance to see it. There are many people to thank that made this production a success. Irv Groat made the lovely wooden tree that sat in the Narthex during the month of December. Debbie Groat came up with the idea and put all the thoughts into a script. Sam Groat was the cameraman. Nancy Trimper taught the children how to sign "O Christmas Tree" and Nancy Smith helped us sing and try to stay on key. Terry Fath was there to help as well as the parents, grandparents, and Sunday School teachers. Thanks for everyone who showed up that night to help.

During the month of December the younger children learned about angels. We learned that angels played a very important role in the birth of both Jesus and John the Baptist. We would like you to take a moment to think about the angels at work in your life.

Deb McMurtrey, Sunday School

OUTREACH NEWS

What a great Season of Giving we had! We collected canned goods and gave out 63 Thanksgiving Bags to the clients of the Soup Kitchen, helped 6 families and 5 Seniors from the county's Holiday Sharing Program and we were up to our knees in toys! You gave us used toys and new toys, just like we asked. The new toys went to the homeless camps and the used toys went to the Soup Kitchen we support.

And cookies! The evening of our cookie bake you donated 142 dozen cookies that were distributed to the homeless on Saturday, December 22. We packaged the cookies in bags that were decorated by the children in our Child Development Center. The bags were a festive addition to the gifts of cookies. And a special thanks to the two Child Care classes that made 12 dozen cut out sugar cookies for us. What a surprise! Between all the bags of cookies and all the cases of water and clothing that were donated that evening, Steve needed to make two trips to pick up all the goodies. It is always fun to be surrounded by 1,704 cookies for the evening. Great Job!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our seasonal programs. We hope you got as much joy from giving as we did. Everyone we met who received something from our church was very appreciative and grateful. We will be looking for other ways to support local and global outreach programs in the coming year. Let us know if you have a new way we can share with others.

Deb McMurtrey
Outreach Committee

NEWS FROM MT. CARMEL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday! Thank you all very much for coming to our first annual Christmas/Vendor event which was held on Saturday, December 1st. We charged \$10.00 per table, and sold cupcakes and ornaments which were made by our school-agers. We made \$150.00 from this event, and will use this money towards updating the playground in the spring.

Our Pre-k class enjoyed their monthly field trip to the Mountain Road Library on December 6, 2018. Each child checked out a book with their library cards and returned their books from their last visit. It was great to see so many of them excited about checking out their books to take home.

We enjoyed a special visitor from "Be a Tree" program on December 11th, and the 14th. This program taught us dog safety rules, this was very interesting for all of us.

We had a great time celebrating our Christmas parties on Friday December 21st with our families. We shared special songs from our classes and enjoyed delicious Birthday Cake for Jesus. We also had a special visitor from the North Pole, everyone was so excited! Santa was very tired from his long trip here but Rudolph helped him lead the way! Thank you Santa and Rudolph!

January we will have two fundraisers, the first one is "Chuck E Cheese" in Glen Burnie which will be on January 17th, and 18th from 1:00-9:00pm. The second fundraiser is "The Escape Room" in Pasadena which will be held the month of January. If you would like any further information please let me know.

What a wonderful time of the year it is to be with our families and share this special Birthday of our Lord Jesus. He has provided us with so many wonderful things, especially our School, Teachers, and Students. I would like to send out a special thank you to Pastor Mike for meeting us each week in Chapel for teaching all of our students the wonderful words of God. Thank you also for attending all of our events throughout the year with a wonderful prayer. We are very thankful for you and all that you do for our school! Our center was closed from December 24, 2018- January 1st, 2019. We re-opened on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019. Thank you all again for all of your support throughout the year!

God Bless,
Dawn M. Rey, Director

NOVEMBER 2018 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

November Attendance: The average weekly Sunday attendance was 74.

November Monthly Giving: General Budget: \$11,411 / Restricted Giving: \$5,373.

*The reporting of attendance and giving figures is behind, due to information for the most recent month not being complete at the time of publication.

CRAFT SALES

Craft sales from September and October earned \$57 for the general fund. Thanks for your continued support.
Pam Mertz

THE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Your birthday can be a cause for celebration not only for you and yours, but for many whom you don't even know by including a novel idea in your birthday plans. If your name is on this month's Birthdays list, go buy a children's book (infant through teen) and put it in the Sarah's House box located just outside the church office. The book will be used in the Sarah's House reading ministry and will give a lasting memory to a homeless child. Even if you are not on the Birthdays list, children's books (either new or gently used) are always needed.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Brad Lines	4
Richard Mertz	4
James Steedman	4
Sharon Greenway	5
Richard Reed	5
Marilyn Crandall	6
Graham Nielsen	6
Penny Pellegrini	6
Kerry Calabrese	7
Audrey Cope	7
Shaun Ebaugh	8
Katelynn Schmidt	8
Zachary Ebaugh	9
Leslie Fauconnet	10

D Keith Greenway	11
Janice Holt	11
Ian Macfie	11
Joyce Steedman	12
Morgan Colaric	13
Phil Rilee	13
Sean Harris	14
Richard Gordon	15
Zachary Gregg	15
Avid Gresham	16
Gail Miller	17
Chris Cook	19
Travis Garnett	19
Ruth Rilee	21
Nancy Smith	22

Laura Adams	23
Nancy Barnett	23
Michael Ann Jones	23
Jennifer Scanlon	24
Theresa Clulow	25
Kathryn Sanner	25
Lisa Blakeney	27
Kelli Byle	27
Raymond Scanlon	27
Robert Reed	28
Danny Barnes	29
Dennis Beuerle	29
Brian Schmidt	29
Jennifer Harris	30
Zachary Shelton	30
Gavin Loughrey	31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

James and Joyce Steedman	1/1
John and Joan Wibbe	1/10
Theodore and Laura Sanner	1/13
Curtis and Sharon Greenway	1/20
Aaron and Daune O'Brien	1/30
Phillip and Dolores Personett	1/31
Nick and Penny Pellegrini	1/31

JANUARY EVENTS

1/01 – Happy New Year
 1/02 – 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group - Sanctuary
 1/03 – 11:45 a.m. – Faith Hope Circle
 1/03 – – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
 1/03 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
1/06 – 10 a.m. – Worship Service
 1/07 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
 1/07 – 6:30 p.m. Trustees
 1/08 – 10 a.m. - Forum
 1/08 - 6:30 – 8 p.m. - ASAP
 1/08 – 7 p.m. – Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall
 1/09 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary
 1/10 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
 1/10 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
1/13 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
 1/14 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
 1/14 – 7 p.m. – Finance Committee – Trinity Center
 1/15 – 10 a.m. - Forum
 1/15 – 6:30 – 8 p.m. - ASAP
 1/15 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall
 1/16 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary
 1/17 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
 1/17 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
1/20 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
 1/21 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
 1/21 – 7 p.m. – Admin Council
 1/22 – 10 a.m. – Forum
 1/22 – 6 p.m. – Child Care Board
 1/22 – 6:30 p.m. – ASAP (Last meeting until Jan. 8th)
 1/22 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412 – Church Hall
 1/23 – 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary
 1/24 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
 1/24 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
1/27 - 10 a.m. – Praise Worship – Sanctuary
 1/28 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
 1/29 – 10 a.m. - Forum
 1/29 – 6:30 – 8 p.m. - ASAP
 1/29 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall
 1/30 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary
 1/31 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
 1/31 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

A complete calendar of events can be found at <http://mymcumc.org/events/>

LITURGISTS SCHEDULE

Carol Mosmiller	12/02/18
Phyllis Basil	12/09/18
Warren Magruder	12/16/18
Nancy Trimper	12/23/18
Nancy Trimper	12/30/18

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday:

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Nursery	10:00 a.m.

Monday:

Tiger Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m.
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Tuesday:

Forum	10:00 a.m.
ASAP	6:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Prayer Group	9:30 a.m.
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Thursday:

Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:15 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW??

- The deadline for the February newsletter is January 10th
- There are still some openings on the Altar Flower Chart. Please sign up to honor or remember a special event or person. Silk flowers can requested! Just put your donation in a marked envelope with your information - and place it in the offering. Please note that Silk arrangements belong to the church and should not be removed after the service.
- You can still add your name to our Email List. Please email mtcarmeL21122@gmail.com to receive your Newsletter by email!
- If you wish not to receive the Newsletter by email, simply call Betsy at 410-255-8887.
- You may add to this column by emailing the office at mtcarmeL21122@gmail.com.