



# The Epistle

December 2009



The Brandermill Church Midlothian, VA



## No Longer Strangers . . .

Ephesians 2:19

*THE ADVENT SEASON, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, can be the busiest, most hectic time of the year. In the breathless rush to make the most of the season, it is easy to forget that this sacred season is less about "holiday cheer" and more about a "holy child." Advent is our opportunity – a gift from God in itself – to re-orient ourselves to receive the gift of Jesus. I am indebted to the Rev. Terry Miller for the following reminders for the season.*

Here, in descending order, are the Top 10 things not to do during Advent.

**10. Do not forget your rituals:** Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different. Rituals in your personal and/or family life, can help you slow down and prayerfully ponder the gift of the Incarnation, the Son of God made flesh. Take time daily to relax, meditate or pray.

**9. Do not add to the frenzy:** If you are a parent, try not to add to the craziness of this season by being frantic yourself about last minute shopping, entertaining or decorating.

**8. Do not forget your Bibles:** What Bible passages point to Advent themes of preparation, promise, hope, expectancy, God's enduring faithfulness, the time when God's kingdom will be fulfilled? Advent is an excellent time of the year to familiarize yourself again with the Bible's stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus.

**7. Do not try to be perfect for the Holidays:** Believe it or not, it's not the end of the world if the Christmas tree has a bare sport on one side, if a bulb in one of the window candles is burnt out, or if you cannot find just the perfect gift for Uncle Bob.

The holiday season can be stressful enough without allowing the drive for perfection to overwhelm you.

**6. Do not over do your schedule:** Learn to say "no" to some of the demands or events that may beg for your presence, however enjoyable or good they may be. Know your limits. As the saying goes, "Too much of a good thing is still too much."

**5. Do not overdo gifts:** A recent study indicates children on average receive 60% more for Christmas than they expect. Very good news for parents right? But it also indicates that while parents need to be very clear with their children about expectations, ever more important is that they themselves need to be consistent with these expectations in their own gift giving. Remember, the focus is Jesus, God's supreme gift to us, not our gifts to others.

**4. Do not go into additional debt:** Perhaps this is easier said than done. However, it is important to remember that the gift-giving of Christmas is supposed to spring from and be a sign of our gratitude to God for his gift-giving of Jesus. Rather than large grandiose, expensive gifts, consider giving smaller, more thoughtful items.

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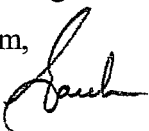
### Sermon Topics for December:

- 6 - *Do You Have a Good Question?*  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Gordon Mapes
- 13 - *God's Makin' Sumthin'*  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Gordon Mapes
- 20 - *A Feast for Fools*  
Luke 1: 39-45  
Gordon Mapes
- 24 -  
5:00 PM - *Michael Mouse*  
7:00 PM - *The Carpenter's Child*
- 9:00 PM - *No Vacancy*  
Luke 2:1-20  
Gordon Mapes
- 27 - *Christmas Sweater Sunday*  
*A Story for Christmas*  
Sandra Bottoms

**3. Do not expect the culture to follow your lead:** A truly Christian approach to the month of December will inevitably be counter-cultural. If you embrace much of this list, have faith in what you are doing. Christmas is not about Martha Stewart-quality centerpiece, the gourmet Christmas feast, or getting the “hot toy of the year.” Our spiritual health depends on our resisting the cultural message that we need to get out and “shop till we drop.” Jesus came into the world to die for a different reason.

**2. Do not forget the less fortunate:** Remember that the real Christmas story is not set in a warm and cozy house, tastefully decorated and filled with more gifts than can fit under the tree, however wonderful that all may be. The real Christmas story is set amidst those who know enduring poverty and danger. What more loving witness could you offer than to seek out some holiday opportunity to identify with the poor and downtrodden as God does?

**1. Do not wait until Christmas Eve to come to Church!** Avoid the holiday rush and join us for worship in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Worship in the church is absolutely beautiful this time of year, with beautiful and powerful Advent hymns. Join us for Advent worship and allow it to bring you back to a sense of expectancy and alertness for the coming of God into our world, into your very life.

Shalom,  


### Companions Along the Way

*I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them... (Isaiah 42:16a)*

When it comes to the Christmas story, I have always been fascinated with the Magi. As a child, playing with the Nativity set under the tree, I always situated the wise men some distance away from the crèche – even then I knew that their appearance on the scene was delayed. As an adult, I have laughed at the joke that posits how the saga might have transpired if the wise men had been wise women. You know that one – the wise women would have asked for directions, arrived on time, brought a casserole, etc. But in reality these visitors from the East traveled a long, long way to see the Christ child. They left the comfort and safety of their homeland to journey to an unknown destination, through rough and dangerous terrain, guided only by a star. And they didn’t have the

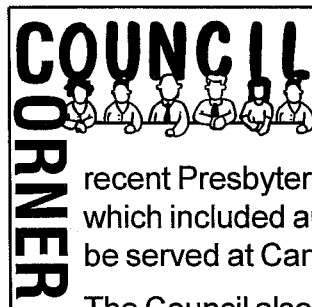
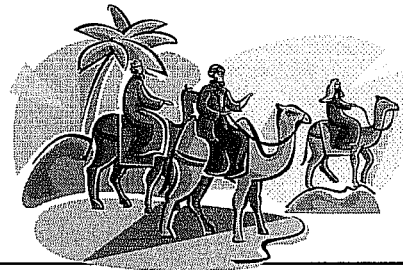
benefit of mapquest or a GPS system to help navigate the way.

I sometimes imagine their journey as parallel to our journeys of faith. We too are called to enter into the mystery of the journey...to step out without being able to see what’s ahead, all the while heeding God’s call to trust...to open ourselves up to the presence of Immanuel – God with us. While our way may seem chartless at times, we are invited to once again enter the deep familiarity of these stories that have been given to us...for they urge us to see how the Christmas narrative continues to unfold in our lives.

And the journey continues...See you along the way!

Grace and peace,





At the November Council meeting, Sheila Mullen highlighted her experience at the most

recent Presbytery of the James meeting which included approval for communion to be served at Camp Hanover.

The Council also:

- √ Rejoiced in the variety of talents offered by our congregation on the Time and Talent surveys.
- √ Passed the recommendation that all loose plate or non-designated offerings received at the Christmas Eve services will be designated to the Outreach Committee to support mission-related efforts.
- √ Appreciated the generosity of the Nurture Committee as they continue to organize cards and meals, including Angel Food boxes for our own members and households in need.

The next council meeting is December 14 at 7:00 PM.



...to everyone who participated in and donated to this year's Crop Walk. We raised \$1169 in support of hunger relief throughout the world.

...our church is pleased to have received an anonymous gift in honor of the gracious generosity of Steve and Ginny Menninger.

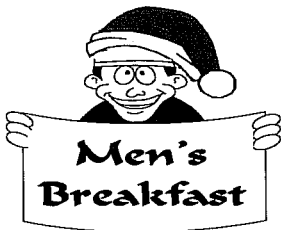
...thru November 18 we have collected 204 pledge cards with a total pledged amount of \$591,171 in financial support for 2010; a special thank you to these pledging households.



## WOMEN'S CIRCLES

**Lena Bartges Circle** meets Thursday, December 18 at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**The Semi-Circle** meets on December 21 at 7:00 PM for our Christmas party. Please join us! Contact Susan Clement (748-5917 or [ssclem@yahoo.com](mailto:ssclem@yahoo.com)) for further information.



## Saturday, December 12 8:00 AM

This is our traditional holiday music and Christmas carol sing-a-long, led by Bill Lyon to the accompaniment of the piano stylings of Maggie Ford. That's right! Maggie will be joining us. Don't miss this opportunity to welcome her back to Men's Breakfast.

Horst, Earl and Mark will prepare a hot breakfast as usual to begin our time of fellowship and song. Men's Breakfast is always an hour well spent. We encourage those of you who have never attended or that do not attend regularly to come on out.

You can sign up on the red attendance pads in the sanctuary, on the sheet outside Marcie's office, or call her at 744-3661, ext. 101.

## Have We Got Music for You!

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		8	9	10	11	12 <small>Holidays begin</small>
13	14		16	17	18	19
20	21 <small>Winter begins</small>	22	23	24 <small>Christmas Eve</small>	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26 <small>Kwanzaa</small>
27	28	29	30	31 <small>New Year's Eve</small>		

The Brandermill Church will be alive with the sound of music throughout the month of December, with several special events *of note*...

**Christmas Cantata** - performed by our sanctuary choir  
- December 6 at 7:00 PM

**Chesterfield Community Band Christmas Concert** -  
December 7 at 7:00 PM

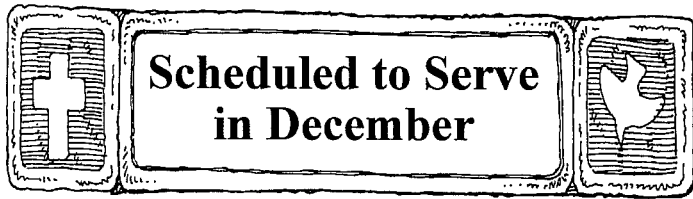
**Virginia Folk Music Association "Christmas Jam"**  
- December 15 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

All of these events are free of charge  
and open to the public.

Mark them on your calendar today!



Mark you calendars for our lay-lead Watch Night Service on Thursday, December 31. As always, we look forward to your participation. If you are interested or have any questions, please email or call Karen Harp - email [karenharp7154@gmail.com](mailto:karenharp7154@gmail.com) or call 615-2439



**12/6**  
**Acolytes:** Samantha Scifres and Emily Martin  
**Communion Server** - 8:30: S. Begg, J. Newsome, K. Harp  
**Communion Server** - 9:45: D. Beatty, B. Beatty, C. Richards, N. Richards, K. Catlett, H. Catlett  
**Communion Server** - 11:00: B. Pritchett, R. Evans, B. Clapp, L. Weatherford, J. Aden, L. LaRiviere  
**Greeter** - 8:30: Ginny and Steve Menninger  
**Grounds:** David Kohan  
**Lay Leader** - 8:30: Tim Koon  
**Lay Leader** - 11:00: Kathy Dixon  
**Ushers** - 8:30: Cathy and Wayne Shotwell  
**Ushers** - 9:45: Ed and Gayle Pittman & Ben and Wanda Carter  
**Ushers** - 11:00: Reg Waggoner, Greg Gardner, Gayla Gardner

**12/13**  
**Acolytes:** Sara Nelson and Eddie Acevedo  
**Greeter** - 8:30: Nichole and Chad Vanderslice  
**Grounds:** Bill Lyon  
**Lay Leader** - 8:30: Karen Harp  
**Lay Leader** - 11:00: Ray Holmes  
**Ushers** - 9:45: Bob Weatherford & Brad and Ann Coble  
**Ushers** - 11:00: Robert Redmon, Gary Shepherd, Mark Lyons, Billy Pritchett, Mary Ann McCole

**12/20**  
**Acolytes:** Kiki Inman and Emily Martin  
**Greeter** - 8:30: Susan and Chuck Clement  
**Grounds:** Bill Harp  
**Lay Leader** - 8:30: Nancy Rider  
**Lay Leader** - 11:00: Irene Carlisle  
**Ushers** - 8:30: Don Vorhis and Fred Carter  
**Ushers** - 9:45: Bruce Mason, Jim Allen, Ben D'Arrigo  
**Ushers** - 11:00: Maggie Buchanan, Ben Anderson, Maggie Maust

**12/24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Acolytes:** Ellie Maust and Natalie Mullen  
**Communion Server** - 9:00: K. Riggs, J. Aden, G. Walters, A. Walters, R. Evans

**12/27 - ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM!!**

**Acolytes:** Kiki Inman and Emily Martin  
**Greeter** - Tamara and Joe McGinn  
**Grounds:** Bill Harp  
**Lay Leader:** Marty Kump  
**Ushers:** Woody Lawman, Chris Remme, Warren Ragsdale, Elizabeth Eisenhower, Edward Eisenhower, Rachel Bradner

**Altar Guild for December:**  
 Rebecca Neas

**Building Stewards for December:**  
 Don Spivey and Jack Aden

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**  
**thru October 2009\*\***

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b><u>REVENUES:</u></b>		
Giving	\$668,899	\$664,783
Other Income	\$17,583	\$22,968
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>		
Budgeted	\$759,127	\$734,012

**1ST Mortgage Balance: \$1,273,762.63**

**Thank you for your continuous giving!!**  
 It is very important to continue meeting our commitments.

\*\*detailed financial reports are available on request

**Editor's Corner**

*The Epistle* is published monthly by The Brandermill Church. We welcome submissions for *The Epistle* that pertain to the life and ministries of The Brandermill Church. The deadline for publication is the 15th of the month. All articles or notices must be approved by staff, and will be included on a space-available basis. They may be edited for length and content.

We kindly request that articles be submitted via email to [marcie@brandermillchurch.org](mailto:marcie@brandermillchurch.org) or on computer disk.



We'll assemble the Christmas Eve bulletins on Tuesday, December 22 at 1:00PM and can use some extra hands to help with this considerable task. If you're available to help, please call Marcie at 744-3661, ext. 101. *Be sure to let her know you plan to be there!*

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*A reminder from your friendly finance person ...*

Another calendar year is quickly coming to a close at The Brandermill Church. Thank you for your generous support of the church and its ministries in 2009.

Because all gifts to the church are subject to I.R.S. deadlines, please remember the following when you give at year-end:

*\$ All gifts must be received by the church before midnight on December 31, or must be postmarked before the end of December, to be deducted in the present tax year.*

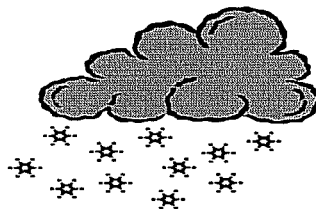
*\$ Any gifts received after December 31 and not postmarked in December will be included in the next tax year. The date written on a check will not determine in which tax year a gift is included. Only the actual date of receipt by the church or the postmark will establish the correct tax year for the I.R.S.*

*\$ Be aware that stock transactions take some time to process. Please allow adequate time to make sure we receive the funds in the preferred tax year from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.*

Thank you for allowing me to continue my ministry here at The Brandermill Church. I feel very blessed.

May you too be blessed in the coming year,

Robin Johnson, CPA  
Financial Administrator



**IF IT SNOWS...  
IF IT SNOWS...  
IF IT SNOWS...**

The church office will follow the Chesterfield County school closing or delayed opening schedule on the first day of any inclement weather. In the event of a major winter storm, we'll follow the county government office closing/delay schedule on subsequent days.

Changes to the Sunday worship schedule can be determined by tuning to TV channels 6, 8 or 12 or by calling the church (744-3661). Our voice mail greeting will indicate any changes to the schedule. In the event of a winter storm, it is our hope that we will have at least one worship service (at 11:00). Changes to evening events will also be announced on the voice mail greeting.

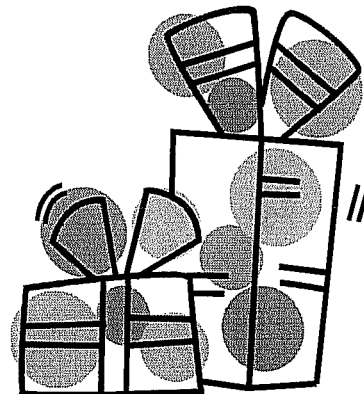
We have a snow removal contract for the parking lot and the sidewalks if we receive 2 or more inches of snow. The BCA has committed to clearing the loop road before any other roads in Brandermill to allow safe access to our parking lot.



**AlterNatives & Zuni Peanuts  
Gifts for Sale**

Join us on December 6 in the Fellowship Hall for great hand-crafted items and tasty treats. From 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

You can finish your Christmas shopping and support a good cause all in one!





### **We Need Help!!**

Several of our Behind-the-Scenes teams need new members: Greeter coordinators, Altar Guild and Building Stewards. These jobs do not require a big time commitment, but are essential ministries. Contact Marcie at

744-3661, ext. 101 for further information.

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### **Single Parents / Single Again**

Are you a single parent who would like to join with other single parents for support and fellowship? Are you finding yourself single again and desiring of fellowship and support with others who are going through, or have gone through the same experience?

There is a ‘bubbling up’ of a desire and need for a single parent / single again ministry within our congregation. Both Val and her husband Jim have walked in these shoes individually and then met each other at church in just such a group. If you are interested in being part of such a group please contact Val via e-mail at: [val@brandermillchurch.org](mailto:val@brandermillchurch.org), or by phone at: 744-3661, ext. 103. With your input and the blessing of God we will create a new ministry together!

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## **JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY!!**

**DECEMBER 27,  
ONE SERVICE AT  
10:00 AM.**

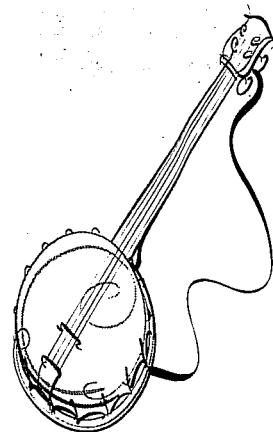
**WEAR YOUR NEW  
OR FAVORITE  
HOLIDAY  
SWEATER!**



## **CHRISTMAS “JAM” Tuesday, December 16 – 7-10pm**

*The Virginia Folk Music Association  
and  
The Brandermill Church  
are partners in the  
Second Annual  
BRANDERMILL  
FOOD DRIVE*

*All food and monetary donations  
will go to the  
Central Virginia Food Bank*

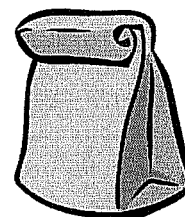


*Bring a canned or packaged food donation  
to The Brandermill Church  
and enjoy an evening  
of Bluegrass/Christmas Music.*

*Light Refreshments provided!*

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### **You Go Girl Book Group**



The “You Go Girl” group will meet on January 10 immediately following the 11:00 service.

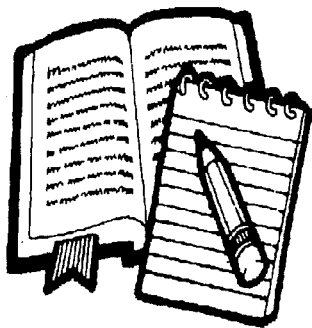
We’ll discuss *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom.. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the lively discussion and supportive fellowship.



### **The Second Annual Ladies’ Tea January 24 at 2:00 PM**

Signup sheets will be available in the church entryway beginning January 3. The cost is \$5.00.

If you have any questions call Claudia Lushch (897-5911) or Angie Branyon (320-3616).



## From the Educator's Cubby,

As I write this we are not yet to Thanksgiving. It is so hard for me to think of Christmas, until after we have all had the opportunity to 'feast and fellowship' with God and family on the day set aside in

this country to give thanks for all our blessings.

Christmas decorations have been up in many stores since Halloween, yet my heart only turns to Christmas *after* Thanksgiving.

Our adult Sunday school class has spent the month of November looking at Advent – early I must confess, in order to not conflict with the various special worship opportunities we have during the month of December during the traditional Sunday school time. They have been discussing a study by James W. Moore entitled, "What Do *You* Want for Christmas?" It's a good question and one that I venture to say each and every one of us will hear more than once through the Advent season, be it from spouses, friends, children or grandchildren. In our humanness and the culture we live in, our thoughts have a tendency to turn both inward to our wants and outward to the physical trappings of Christmas. Those gathered for study have engaged in a lively discussion surrounding the question "Can you share the meaning of Christmas within the world we live without all the 'trappings' of the season?"

Overwhelmingly the response from the majority of those gathered has been a resounding "Yes!" That brings us then to the question of "How?"

My personal thought on the 'answer' to "How?" comes in reframing the original question – "What do (I) want for Christmas?" What *I* truly want for Christmas is for the *true* spirit of Christmas – living a Christ-like life - to become an *actual reality* the other 364 days of the year. Not just among 'Christians' (although that's a great place to start!) but among all peoples of all races and places across the world. It is what we call 'world peace' and it has yet to happen these 2009 years later. Why? And what can we do about it anyway you may ask, "I'm just one little person."

That's very true. But we need to remember the saying "Each one teach one." What if we let the harried mother holding a sick coughing child, in front of you in the

pharmacy line? What if we didn't walk by the beggar on the street each time we saw him/her and instead stopped to speak, perhaps help? What if we consciously remembered to show the love of Christ to *every person* we encountered *all day, every day*?

There is nothing wrong with the wonderful trappings of Christmas – the lights, the trees, the decorations, as long as they don't overtake the real meaning of the season – *the coming of God's very self to earth. Jesus is more than the 'reason for the season', Jesus is our reason for living!* May a Christ-like life be *what we all want* for Christmas this year!

*Blessings to you  
and yours this Advent,  
Val*



Can you believe it is already December?! Where did 2009 go?! It's hard to believe that 2010 is only 31 days around the corner!

Children's Ministries has had a busy fall! We will be saying goodbye to our current chairperson, Sheri Stoots, at the end of December, and eagerly awaiting a new chair. Sheri has done an amazing job of keeping Children's Ministries going during the past 3 years which have seen a lot of 'flux'. When you see her please give her a warm 'thank you' for all she's done.

Children's Ministries will begin a brand new Sunday school curriculum on January 10. We'll kick it off with a brief 'winter rally day' of music and treats and then proceed to the classrooms. Our new curriculum is called '*FaithWeavers*'. It is based on the lectionary pattern of scriptures that our pastors preach from. Each grade will be working on the same scripture passage and theme, in an age appropriate setting. ***Our younger middle school youth will be using FaithWeavers and there will be an ongoing FaithWeavers adult class as well. The intent of FaithWeavers is to help families talk about their faith together.*** Its goal is to allow parents, teens and children to all experience the same basic Bible lesson so all family members have a common connection for faith discussion and building, each week.

This new curriculum is but the first in new changes coming

(continued next page)

in children's Christian education. Its success depends on YOU the parent! Please make regular Sunday school attendance, and active adult participation - for **both your children and yourself a priority for 2010**. Success will be only as strong as we all are, as the body of Christ.

### **Preparation for Worship Class -**

Here at The Brandermill Church, we offer a 'Preparation for Worship' class for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade children. This year's class will begin on January 10 and run through February 28 and includes attendance at the Ash Wednesday service on February 17. This class covers the basics of the principles of worship and ends with a Bible presentation for each child in our 9:45 worship service.

This class requires a serious time commitment on the part of both the child and parent. Each child is expected to be present each Sunday with no more than 2 absences during the 8 weeks. Each child will receive a worship notebook and will be expected to complete the various assignments that will come home each week. If you would like your child to participate please talk it over with them to be sure both you and they are willing to make the commitment required – and then sign your child up by notifying Val via e-mail at: [val@brandermillchurch.org](mailto:val@brandermillchurch.org), or in person by signing up on the sign-up sheet outside Val's office door. Deadline for final sign-ups is December 27.

Don't miss the children's Christmas Pageant on December 13 during the 9:45 service! Our children's choirs under the direction of Dawn Rancka and our Sunday school department will be presenting a wonderful Christmas offering, "Christmas Letters." Be sure to come!

Lastly, our **Children's Ministry committee has openings** for a place to share your time and talent in a variety of ways – from teaching, to coordinating in the nursery, to data entry – and much more. We are as strong as our gifts given and used, so please pray about being able to make a real difference in the lives of our children, and come join us in 2010! See Val for more details.

May the Lord bless and keep each and every one of us this joyous holiday season as we come together to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

Merry Christmas!

Val & Children's Ministries Committee

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Two adult Sunday school classes begin on January 10 and run through February 14.

The first class, *In Defense of Creation*, is a 6-week series. The course content is based on the hopes and actions called for by the UMC world council of Bishops in their historic statement adopted November 3, 2009 and the interconnectivity of our faith to the issues of our times: pandemic poverty and disease; environmental degradation and climate change; and a world awash with weapons and violence.

The bishops' announced, "We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it," as significant call to all United Methodists and inter-religious partners. "As bishops, we know that critical issues of the day have left people feeling fearful, cynical, hopeless and overwhelmed." "*God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action* contains our pledges to work in hopeful and robust ways for transforming change as God's stewards of creation."

Bishop Charleen Kammerer (VA United Methodist Conference) has been invited to start the series and relate some of the reasons she was involved in writing the position paper – we hope she can come.

The C4C Committee has selected some of the paper's content for further study. Additional Speakers will include Rev. Pat Watkins on Jan 24; Roy Hoagland, VP for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, will speak Feb 7; and Professor Brian Moores, Randolph Macon College, will lead on Feb 14.

This class promises to provide a lively discussion on topics critical to the preservation of God's creation. Tom Pakurar will facilitate this class.

Our second class uses the *FaithWeaver* curriculum. What if family members had something that would spark meaningful conversations on the way home from church and during the week? *FaithWeaver* equips families to talk about and apply their faith together every day. This curriculum will be used in the Children's Ministry program, for middle school youth, and in the Adult Ministries program beginning this January. All ages study and experience the same Scripture in creative ways in separate age-appropriate classes, thus enabling families to both share experiences together as well as to begin a discussion of faith in the family.

# Christmas

## ✦ BLESSINGS ✦

Hello again to my church family. We have had some rainy days of late, but still plenty of sunshine to enjoy – I hope all of you enjoyed the fall season. This time of year can be hectic for many of us, and with the economy still a challenge, and the already busy life most of us lead, it is easy to become overwhelmed and forget what is really important to us. This is a great time of year to slow down, count your blessings, and take time cherish the people and things that we are most grateful for. I asked a few of our church family members what they were grateful for this time of year:

*We are grateful for the wonderful church family here at Brandermill. During the last year we have struggled, along with so many others, with employment issues. God has worked all of that out for His glory, thankfully, but it is the kind and caring community here at the church that has pulled us through. From the verse that God gave me during Vacation Bible School, to the prayers and voiced concerns of our friends, we felt truly blessed. Thank you all for being the hands and voice of Jesus.*

Steven Begg Family

*What I am most grateful for this time of year is the gift of time and health. Even though the holiday season approaches rapidly, I make it a point to take some time to thank God for all my blessings that he has given me all my life. I enjoy seeing all the lights around this time of year, because God is the Light of the World. This seems to really make Christmas a very special time. Working as a nurse, I know that all too often, we take being healthy for granted. I try to be conscious of my lifestyle and keep everything in moderation. I am very grateful for the church and all their outreach ministries.*

Jolie Blankenship

*I am always grateful for my family and the fact that we all still get together for the holidays whenever possible. With the hectic pace of life today, it is nice to know that we all still care enough to make time to be together. I am also grateful for my church family who have all been there as part of my life for the past 20 years!*

Elizabeth Upadhyaya

*I am grateful for the love of family during this time of year. From my wife, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren and in-laws and my church family. All are a vital part of my life.*

Bill Lyon

*During this time of year, we are most thankful for family and friends. We try and appreciate our blessings every day and instill that feeling in the girls. We are grateful for so many things and try and acknowledge them as we can – the warmth of the sun, a home cooked meal, a cozy bed, smiles, laughter and yes, even tears because they mean we care!*

Myles & Denise Noble

*I am most grateful for God's Grace and Mercy in my life. I am so grateful for my amazing wife and beautiful daughter. I am incredibly blessed to be Anne's husband and Ellyson's dad.*

Rich Catlett

No surprise, it all comes back to the people we love, spending time with them, and focusing on how much they mean to us. I hope each of you gets to spend time with whoever is important to you, not only this time of year, but all year long. While we are all grateful for our many blessings, lets please remember those who may still be facing difficulties, especially at this time of year. I wish each of you health, and the most happiness today and every day. Blessings.

Caroline Moses

# December Schedule    **The Brandermill Church Youth Page**

**Saturday, December 5th**

*-Switchfoot Concert @ The National Downtown*

**Sunday, December 6th**

*-No Youth Group Meeting*

**Sunday, December 13th**

*-Christmas Carolling and Party!*  
This will also be the date that deposits for mission trips are due!

**Friday, December 18th**

*-Last day of school*

**Sunday, December 20th**

*-No Youth Group Meeting*

**Thursday, December 24th**

*-Christmas Eve Services*

**Friday, December 25th**

*-Merry Christmas!*

**Sunday, December 27th**

*-No Youth Group Meeting*

\*Sunday School for Middle School youth will meet in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings (Dec.6th, 13th and 20th) at 9:45AM. Linda Reid will be teaching!

Hey everyone! The Holiday Season is upon us! That means that we are all busy, tired, stressed, excited, anxious and all sorts of other emotions as well. There is shopping to do, tests to take, projects to complete, and family gatherings to attend. December can be so overwhelming that we can begin to hate this time of year. But I would remind you that this was not the intent of Christ's coming. Jesus was the Prince of Peace, yet we rarely think of peace at this point on the calendar. Sometimes you have to create your own peace when the world will not give you any. So take a few moments of your own. Turn your cell phones off, find a quiet place in your home and spend several minutes thanking God for the real meaning of the season. Ask God for His Peace in your life and feel the power of time alone in silence. When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His eventual death, he said these words in the 14th chapter of John, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." When you are feeling troubled this holiday season, try inviting the Prince of Peace into your life for moments of quiet worship and reflection. And give praise for the coming of Christ Jesus our Lord!!! Grace and Peace, your friend, - Rich

## Mission Trips

We have dates for our Middle School and High School Mission trips for 2010. The Middle School students will be attending the Jeremiah Project the week of July 25th through 31st or participate in the local ACTS program August 3rd through 6th. The High School students will be attending YouthWorks on the coast of North Carolina the week of August 1st through 7th. For more information and registration forms see Rich.

## Family Time

*We are taking a step back this month from some of our usual activities to encourage time with family and loved ones. I know that I am incredibly blessed to be celebrating Christmas with Anne and Ellyson this year and with our loving church family. May the Peace of Christ surround you this Holiday season.*

## **SKI TRIP @ Wintergreen**

The weekend of January 23rd, 2010  
You can Ski or go Tubing  
For both Middle School and High School

Sign-up on Youth Bulletin Board

## **Christmas Caroling Youth Party!**

Sunday, December 13th  
Caroling at Brandermill Woods  
Christmas Party in the Youth Room

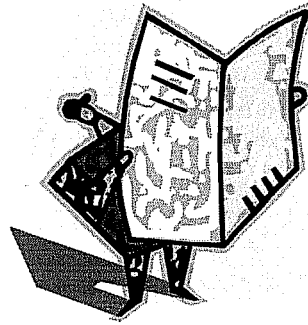
Food and Games!!!

Bring a friend



- Dec. 1 – Drew Baker, Gerry Crosby,  
Mary Marquette, Ginny Menninger,
- Dec. 2 – Diana Beatty, Andy Dodgen
- Dec. 3 – Lisa Kohan, Grace Riggs, Dave Thompson,  
Don Trawick
- Dec. 4 – Susan Coffey, Kelly Dodgen, Debbie Ellison
- Dec. 5 – Carol Allen, Jeffrey Deem, Stacy Ellis
- Dec. 6 – Lynn Wagner
- Dec. 7 – Tony Dorazio
- Dec. 8 – Mary Ann Futrell, Amy Rackley,  
Ellie Williams
- Dec. 9 – Jean Bloebaum, Bank Greene,  
Bruce Mason
- Dec. 10 – Doug Huggins, Manish Sharma,  
Polly Williams
- Dec. 12 – Will Anderson, Carson Eddy,  
Sean MacLean, Carole Phelps
- Dec. 14 – Jim Carpenter, Jim Maust
- Dec. 15 – Camryn Deem, Kathy Lane, Sam Rodgers
- Dec. 16 – Ben Carter, Carli Cheatham, Rob Inman,  
Shane Mann, Deb Taminger
- Dec. 17 – Carolsue Lacy, Melanie Sutherland,  
Dan Woods
- Dec. 19 – Evan Farmer, Rick Franklin, Luke Godfrey,  
Connor Marsh, Liza Miller
- Dec. 20 – Joe Edson, Sharyn Jensen, Doris Trott,  
Patsy Vaughan, Laura White
- Dec. 21 – Jim Babb, Joyce Dolby, Tracy Roche,  
Betty Waller
- Dec. 22 – Jordan Altimus, Dylan Masri
- Dec. 23 – Bob Anderson
- Dec. 24 – Doris Choate, Scott Garner, Carol Heinz,  
Carole Keiter, Steve Lancashire
- Dec. 25 – Linda Cosby
- Dec. 26 – Jackson Bayuk
- Dec. 27 – Dan Baker, Tonya Brogan,  
Stacey Howerton, Danny Thomason
- Dec. 28 – Landen Harman
- Dec. 29 – Jessica Harman, Mark Lyons,  
Ramona Most

- Dec. 30 – Lois Koon, Carol Richards, Mary Snidow
- Dec. 31 – Zack Bannister, Andrew Franklin,  
Ben Godfrey, Craig Hammitt,  
Shirley Reynolds



## Church Family News

### New Members:

Carrie and Derek Chamberlain  
Gavin and Lola  
14018 Brandygrove Court  
Chesterfield 23832  
595-1553

### Baptisms:

Linus Joseph and Elliott Francis Hannon, children of  
Heather and Craig Hannon.

Caitlin Michelle Eddy, daughter of Michelle and Jameson  
Eddy.

Lola Grace Chamberlain, daughter of Carrie and Derek  
Chamberlain.

### Condolences to:

Roy Hoagland on the death of his father, Donald  
Hoagland.

Marcia Cantrell on the death of her mother, Rachel  
McMullin.

Sharon and Dave Wilson, on the death of each of their  
mothers.

### New Address:

Jane and Warner Marshall  
8671 Heron Glen Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28269  
704-274-5876  
hmarshall10@carolina.rr.com

Will Meijer  
CTC Camp Phoenix  
Zimmerman  
APO AE 09320

**Christmas Pageant  
December 13 - 9:45AM**



**Contact Us**

The Brandermill Church  
4500 Millridge Parkway  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
(804) 744-3661  
(804) 744-9105 fax

**Thursday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services**

5:00PM Family Service

7:00PM Family Service

**9:00 PM Communion Service**

**(note new time!)**



***ON BOTH NOVEMBER 29 AND DECEMBER 27 WE LL HAVE JUST  
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM***

May God bless:

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Prepaid  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
Permit # 2147

The Brandermill Church  
4500 Millridge Parkway  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
Change Service Requested