



Message From the Pastor



It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21).

As I write this message for the Newsletter it is almost the end of October, and already in the stores Christmas "stuff" is being put out for sale. I was shocked when I recently walked into Lowe's, and they had a forest of artificial Christmas trees on the floor ready for customers to purchase. On my drive home each day I pass The Meadow Event Park (home of the Virginia State Fair) and they are already putting up all the lights for their annual Illuminate Light Show, a drive-thru synchronized light and music show. I am certain as November 1st comes around; the radio stations will start playing Christmas music for the next two months. However, I refuse to listen to any Christmas music until the Day of Thanksgiving! I do love Christmas music that celebrates the birth of Christ, but I also enjoy some of the older (classic) secular Christmas music as well, such as "It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year," by Andy Williams.

One of the verses to this classic goes like this, "It's the most wonderful time of the year. There'll be much mistletoeing, and hearts will be glowing, when loved ones are near. It's the most wonderful time of the year." As much as I like this song, it still does not let us know the real reason that this time of the year is the "most wonderful time of the year." It is the most wonderful time of the year because we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ. It is the most wonderful time of the year because just over 2,000 years ago God showed us how much he loved us by sending to us his son, Jesus, born of Mary. This Son, who would redeem humanity through his death and resurrection. That is what makes it the most wonderful time of the year!

Whereas the world gets in the "Christmas spirit" by hanging lights, riding through synchronized light shows, and going to Christmas parties, the people of faith, the Church, gets into the Christmas spirit by going through the Season of Advent, the four-weeks prior to Christmas in which we prepare our hearts and minds again about the miracle of Christ's birth and what it meant to the world, and what it means to us. It is the season of Advent that prepares us to say, "It is the most wonderful time of the year!"

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Justin

Hillcrest United Methodist Church
2208 Lafayette Blvd.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-898-2180
www.hillcrestumc.com

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

In person or online at

<https://www.facebook.com/hillcrestumc.fredericksburg/>

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

devotional.upperroom.org

 VIRGINIA
CONFERENCE
THE UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
vaumc.org

Our Purpose To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Mission To give Hope, create Community & bring Purpose to a world that is in desperate need of Christ's Salvation.

Our Vision Be recognized as a pivotal point in the community where people want to be.

WHAT HAS THE PASTOR BEEN UP TO?

August 2021 – October 2021

Hospital Visits – 13

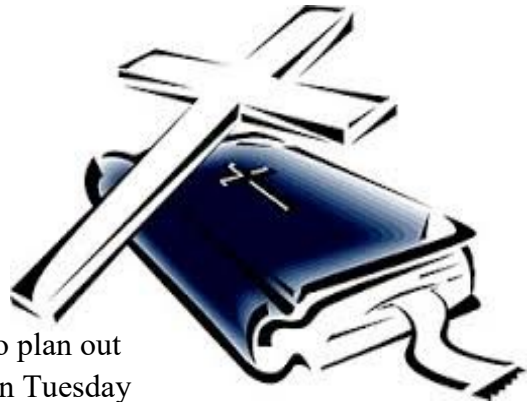
In Home Visits- 8

Nursing Home Visits – 0

Funerals – 4

District Meetings – 2

In addition, Pastor Williams meets with the Worship Team to plan out worship services, meets with a Clergy Group for Breakfast on Tuesday Mornings, attends the monthly meetings of the Finance Committee and Administrative Council, attends the Bi-monthly meetings of the Trustees, attends the quarterly meetings with the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and is the Chair for the District Board of Trustees. Pastor Williams is in his office from 9am-12 pm Monday thru Thursday, and his day off is Friday.



Advent

Sermon Series

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

PULL OVER



November 28th

Mark 1:1-8

Matthew
1:18-2:18

December 5th

As The
World Turns



FAVORITE
PLAYLIST



December 12th

Luke 1:46-56

John 1:1-18

December 19th

The Power of
Light



Our Year in
Review



December 26th

Titus 2:11-13



A Message from John Trowbridge, Finance Committee Chair

As we approach the Advent Season, I wanted to pass along a Happy Stewardship Season as well. I know that in the past Vicki has made wonderful announcements at the end of the pledge season for stewardship, but unfortunately, I was unable to do that this year. So I wanted to take the time through the Crosstalk to update everyone on the status of the budget and how it compares to the pledges that we received this year.

The wonderful generosity of the church has yielded a pledged amount of \$163,574.00, and an estimate of \$27,850.00 in non-pledged giving going into 2022. Our current approved budget for 2022 is \$202,228.00. While yes, this shows a disparity of \$10,804.00 in budgeted items vs pledged gifts, I am confident that through added generosity that families and individuals give, along with visitors throughout the year, we will meet our budgeted needs. To give a comparison to previous years, the 2021 pledged amount was \$180,020.00 vs a \$218,452.00 budgeted amount. This originally showed a disparity of \$38,432.00, and we are on pace to close that gap this year to a marginal amount, while not having to sacrifice any mission area that we have within the church. So, the crux of this statement is to assure the Church that we are in a healthy state going forward and will continue doing the great work that our members do for our community and local area. So, the Finance Committee as a whole wants to extend our thanks for everyone's generosity going into a new year.

If you have never looked at our budget for Hillcrest, I urge you to take a few minutes one day and read through where your gifts go each month. The budget is posted on the bulletin board right outside Stephanie and Pastor Justin's office. Our budget very openly breaks down where each dollar goes for our church, so that each member of the church can know and feel good that the gifts they give are going directly back into the church and/or district. While yes, our budget shows where every dollar goes from salaries, utilities, and local missions, I want to focus on apportionments in this article.

Apportioned giving is a term which describes how the money you give to our church each week is divided and distributed throughout the United Methodist Church. Through you and your support of apportioned giving, we can participate in the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church both locally and around the world.

Apportionments are fuel for ministry. They enable us to share the concerns of many people. When we work together as God's children and pool our giving, we are able to see the word 'apportionment' not as a constricting budget item but as a vehicle bringing God's grace into our

Cont..

STEWARDSHIP Cont.

churches, our conference, and beyond. This is important to understand, I want to say this again. We are able to see the word 'apportionment' not as a construction budget item but as a vehicle bringing God's grace into our churches, our conference, and beyond. We as a Methodist faith cannot continue to support local and world organizations or causes without the support from each person within the church. When you give to Hillcrest, or any United Methodist Church, your giving is divided into many pieces, and travels to many different places. It generally goes to support three significant areas: Conference, Clergy Benefits, and General or Jurisdictional areas of support.

If you have any questions on the finances of the Church, and would like to discuss anything further, feel free to reach out to me either by email (TrowbridgeFamily@ymail.com) or by phone at 619-335-0602. I can never thank everyone enough for the support you give to me, each other, and the church. We are truly blessed!



If you would like to enroll in online giving, you can take a photo of this QR code with your phone and it will take you direct you to our Hillcrest online giving site.

“ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians, 9: 7-8, ESV)

CONGRATULATIONS JOHN TROWBRIDGE!



Join us in Congratulating John Trowbridge on his retirement from the United States Navy!

Community Events and Outreach

Hello All,

My name is Chris Czubowicz and I lead our Community Events and Outreach ministry here at Hillcrest. This year we only had 1 event due to COVID which was our Messy Fall Festival. We had a good turn out of approximately 100 adults and children at the event. At this event, we had games, Messy Church activities, a pumpkin patch, and food. This event cross-promoted our Messy Church ministry to help get more interest in that ministry as well. At the Messy Church that took place 2 weeks after the Fall Festival, we had a family attend that had come out for the Fall Festival which is awesome! The main purposes of the Community Events are to let the community know we are here, promote our other ministries and weekly activities, and to invite the community to join us on Sunday mornings. At this past event, we promoted many activities, such as Messy Church, Wednesday Night Girl's ministry, Youth Group, the knitting group, Men's and Women's Groups, GriefShare and many others. I'd like to thank everyone who supported this ministry with their financial giving and the giving of their time by volunteering for the event. Without both of these, we would not be able to hold these events.

For 2022, we have 2 events planned, our Back to School event and a Fall Festival. Our Back to School event is our big event for the year in which we help families with school supplies for the upcoming school year. It is always well attended and all those who attend are always appreciative that we hold this event. Unfortunately for 2021 because of COVID we were unable to hold this event but we look forward to holding it again in 2022. We may look at adding back in Trunk or Treat for 2022 if the interest is there from the congregation to hold this event again.

If you'd like to help us plan these events for 2022, please let me know, we can always use the help!



GriefShare: A message from Chris Czubowicz

Hello Church,

As many of you know, I run our GriefShare ministry here at Hillcrest. For those who don't know what GriefShare is, it is a 13-week, Christ centered, grief support system. Each week (13 weeks) we meet for 2 hours, in which we watch a video, have discussion about the video, and open discussion time about where we are on our grief journey. There are 3 parts to GriefShare, a video component, discussion time and weekly workbook exercises. Each cycle of 13-weeks walks us through our grief journey and helps us deal with the loss of a loved one or friend.

We will be starting our next cycle of 13-weeks on Monday, January 10th at 6pm here at Hillcrest. Our first meeting will be our orientation meeting where we will introduce you to the program, go over what GriefShare is, what to expect and answer any questions you may have. Our first full session will be the following Monday, January 17th. The cost of the program is \$15.00 to cover the cost of the workbook. This ministry is open to all so you do not need to be a member of Hillcrest to participate.



Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me. Registration forms will be available outside the sanctuary for anyone who would like to attend the next cycle.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MONTHLY MISSIONS



For November our monthly mission will go to support families in need of Thanksgiving Meals.



For the December monthly mission we will support the Hillcrest Angel Tree and Kenmore Club Doves. The Hillcrest

Angel Tree will be up by Sunday, November 21st and will be filled with angels to help support families for the Christmas Holiday. The angel tree will be located in the hallway just outside the fellowship hall. On the angel tree there will be angels for: Prison Ministries (children of incarcerated mothers), Homeless children, and Five Families. We also have “Doves” for those who go to the Kenmore Club (adults with severe and persistent mental illness). The “Doves” will have a sign-up sheet. Please put your name on the sheet (on bulletin board outside of the sanctuary) and how many Doves you are helping with. If you have any questions, please see Stephanie Serrett or Pastor Justin Williams.



Youth Group Baked Potato Luncheon Fundraiser

The Youth group will have their annual baked potato luncheon fundraiser on Sunday, November 21st, at 11:00 a.m. This is their annual fundraiser to help support their mission work, youth retreat, and other activities of the youth group. This is a DONATION lunch. In honor of all our Veteran's and Active Military this lunch is free to show our appreciation for your sacrifice.

Advent Bible Study

Come join us for a four-week Advent Bible study as we examine the birth of Christ from the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke. We will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Justin Williams. Schedule:

Wed., Nov. 24th
Wed., Dec. 01 – No Bible Study
Wed. Dec. 08
Wed. Dec. 15
Wed. Dec. 22



Hanging of the Greens!

Our annual tradition for the Hanging of the Greens will be on Saturday, November 27th at 9:00 a.m. Please come out and help decorate the church for the Season of Advent and for Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Felt, Worship Team Leader.

FALL CLEAN UP

FALL CLEAN-UP If you would like to help in a Fall cleaning of the church, please plan to stay after Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, November 27th at 11:00 a.m. We will be cleaning windows, doors, baseboards, and more.





THE HILLCREST CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE IS OPEN!

This is a great way for you to give Christmas Cards to your church family at Hillcrest without having to pay for postage. We will be collecting Christmas Cards Sunday, November 28th and December 5th. Please bring in your Christmas Cards wrapped with a rubber band and in alphabetical order. There

will be a box to put the cards in next to the welcome table. These cards will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 12th and the 19th. If you have any questions, please see Linda Ison.



CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The Youth Group would like to invite the congregation to a Christmas Fellowship Luncheon on Sunday, December 12 immediately following the worship service. The Youth Group will provide the meat and they are asking the congregation to bring a side dish. So that we are not overwhelmed with multiple side dishes, there will be a sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary that you can use to sign-up for and bring one of the dishes listed.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 7:00 p.m. Please come out and join us as we celebrate Christ's birth which changed the world! Weather permitting, we will close the service gathered around the manger scene outside singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.



TRAINING DAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8th

- ♦ WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING 10:30 A.M.
- ♦ COMMUNION STEWARD TRAINING 11:00 A.M.
- ♦ USHER TRAINING 11:20 A.M.
- ♦ GREETER TRAINING 11:35 A.M.
- ♦ OFFERING COUNTERS TRAINING 11:50 A.M.

Please come to all the training sessions that interest you!
If you have any questions please see Pastor Justin Williams.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Revelation seems to many to be a horror story about the end of the world, when in reality the Book of Revelation is a book of hope and encouragement. Join us for this 10-week study on this book of hope. The study will be on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., beginning January 26 th . It is recommended (not required) that you purchase the book, "Revelation for Today," by James M. Efird, to further help in this study. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Justin Williams.



Men's Group

The Hillcrest Men's Group continues to meet the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's on Jefferson Davis Highway. If you are a male member, or attendee of Hillcrest, then you are a member of the Men's Group and your participation is vital to making the group a success. This year, the Men's Group organized our first outing to the Fredericksburg Nationals which was a huge success. A great time was had by all, even if the weather wasn't the best for the game. We will be looking at doing another night out at the ballpark in the spring. This time we will be looking at renting out one of the Sky Decks. The price will be about \$30.00 per ticket but food is included, it's a covered area where we can all fellowship and have seats to sit in and watch the game. Just like last year, members, friends, and family will all be invited to participate in this outing and the Men's Group will cover the price of anyone's ticket who would like to attend but can't afford to go.

The Men's Group is looking at figuring out more events to host, such as a trip to the Marine Corps Museum in Triangle Va. This trip would be open to all members, friends, and family as well. We are trying to organize this for Spring of 2022. The Men's Group is a great way to fellowship with other men from Hillcrest. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting!

Chris Czubowicz, Hillcrest UMM President

Wednesday Night Girls' Ministry

Exciting changes are happening for Youth and Hillcrest! We now have a new Girls Ministry on Wednesday nights. Our group currently meets at 7:30 p.m. upstairs and is working their way through a Bible study on friendship.

The night starts off with a prayer and a short icebreaker game, we then transition to a short catch-up discussion. We then move to our books, where the girls discuss what they read that week or what "Friendship Challenge" they were given. We end the evening with another prayer as well.

We invite any girl age 13-18 to join us no matter where she is in her faith journey. Snacks and drinks are provided at each meeting.

Because we do use a book for our study, there is a book fee associated with this group. However, we will not turn anyone away if they can't afford the fee.

Please contact me, Melissa Czubowicz, directly with any questions at takmom1024@yahoo.com or 570-460-8707.

B.L.A.S.T and Sunday School

Any children in grades 1st through 12th grade are invited to join us on Sundays for one of our Sunday school programs. We have brand new curriculum for Blast and Sunday school. Blast is geared for 7th -12th grade and uses BluePrint which is a curriculum through Cokesbury and comes in a magazine format that the older kids really enjoy.

Sunday School's curriculum is an All-In-One Classroom curriculum that is broken down by the seasons. This curriculum is geared towards younger kids in elementary school and is hands on with each lesson having an arts and crafts project to go along with it.

Both groups will stay in the sanctuary for the first 20 minutes of the service and then will exit and go to their rooms where they will spend the next 40 minutes with their teachers going over their lessons.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Melissa Czubowicz, at tamom1024@yahoo.com or 570- 460-8707.



MESSY CHURCH IS ALIVE AND WELL AT HILLCREST AND GROWING EVERY MONTH!!! We have reached the local community and have grow to almost 50 people able to experience in a unique way, outside of traditional Sunday services. Do you want a night of fun? Do you want time to fellowship with others throughout the community? Do you NOT want to cook dinner? Come out the second Thursday of every month for Hillcrest UMC's Messy Church. This is an all ages event that provides a night of fun games and fellowship, while we create inventive ways to worship together. We want to invite not just the community but the congregation to be a part of this. Come out and participate, come out and volunteer, come out and be a part of a growing mission for our community!

You're not going to want to miss this each month as they continue to be fun filled nights of activities and worship. Are you interested in volunteering and sharing your spiritual gifts, please reach out to Theresa Trowbridge (trowbridgefamily@ymail.com) at 619-436-7714. We look forward to seeing everyone here in the coming months for this insanely fun event.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO



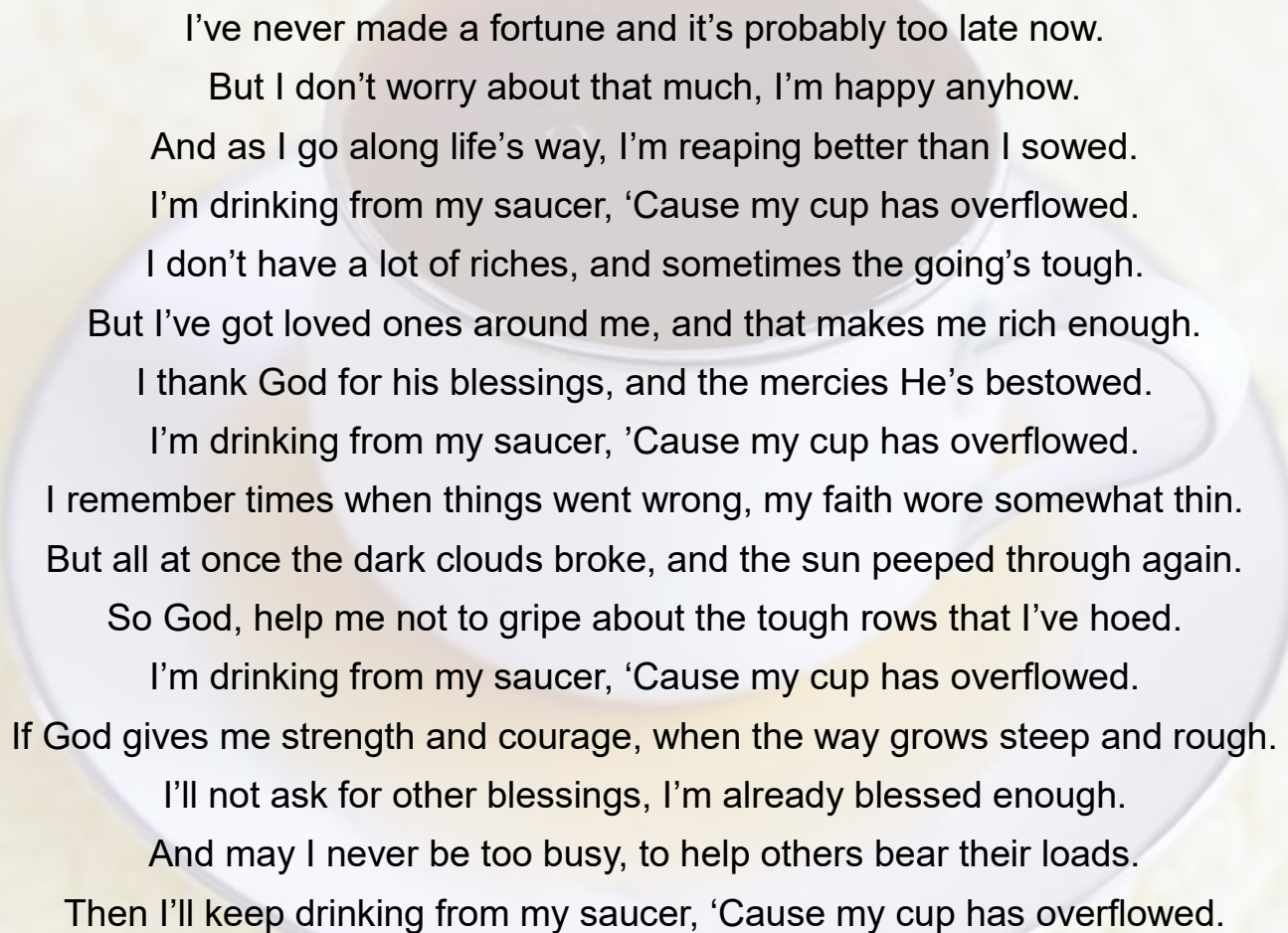
- * Join the Hillcrest Choir—Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
- * Be an Usher or Greeter for Sunday Worship
- * Join Us for PraiseMoves—Mondays at 6:00 p.m.
- * Join the Women's Group—2nd Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
- * Join the Women's Bible Study—Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- * Join the Men's Group—2nd Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's
- * Teen Girl Bible Study—Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
- * B.L.A.S.T. Youth Study—Sundays at 10:20 a.m.
- * E.D.G.E. Youth Group—2nd & 4th-Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
- * Advent Study—Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Nov. 24th—Dec. 22nd
- * Grief Share—Mondays at 6:00 p.m. Jan. 10th—April 14th
- * Knitting Group—Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
- * IF you don't see something you are interested in and would like to suggest and/or lead a group, please contact Stephanie Serrett, Small Groups Coordinator at 540-898-2180 or hillcrestunitedmethodist@gmail.com

DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER by John Paul Moore

Drinking coffee from a saucer was certainly done as a way to quickly cool down the hot beverage inside the cup. Because coffee was boiled, it was served extremely hot. Saucers, some of which were more like shallow bowls, allowed the liquid to cool faster by spreading it over more surface area. It was more efficient, and more polite, to drink coffee from a saucer rather than slurping it while it was hot.

It's not clear where drinking coffee or tea from the saucer started as a practice. There are references to the practice being common in Russia and Scandinavia. In Sweden, they purposely overfilled their cup so they could drink from the saucer; they would hold a lump of sugar in their front teeth and sip the hot beverage through it in a tradition called "dricka på bit" or "drink with a lump."

Do you remember older generations drinking from their saucer? Grandpa Peterson always did and I thought it was because his egg coffee was too hot. Then today I came across this poem that made me feel there was symbolism to the coffee ritual.



I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

HOMEBOUND



Cards and letters always welcome to help those at home remember they are still a part of our Hillcrest Family and that we miss them!

Phyllis Weaver (BM)
Albert Traylor(A)
Eileen Delewski (M)
Thelma Rankins (A)
Anita Alsop (B)
Pattie Chandler (A)
Henry Nash (A)
Ivy Hedge (A)
Ralph & Marie Adams (A)
Sandra Melick (A)

(A) At Home (C) Commonwealth Senior Living (HF) HeartFields (BM)
Brookdale Midlothian (M) Morningside Richmond (B) Bickford
If you need anyone's address, please contact the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Send to hillcrestunitedmethdist@gmail.com

CHURCH USE

To reserve the church or pavilion contact the church office at 540-898-2180 or email
hillcrestunitedmethdoist@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

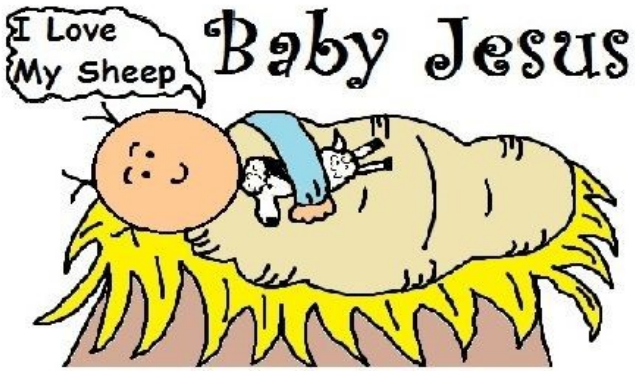
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES

Meets the 4th Tuesday every 2 months at 7:00 p.m.

SPPR

Meets on the 4th Tuesday quarterly at 6:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ



1. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the _____. (Matt 1:18)
2. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name _____ for he shall save his people from their sins.
3. Now when Jesus was born in _____ of Judea in the days of Herod of King, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. (Matt 2:1)
4. When they saw the _____, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. (Matt 2:10)
5. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him, _____, and _____, and _____. (Matt 2:11)
6. And when they were departed behold the _____ of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt and be thou there until I bring thee word for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. (Matt 2:13)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

