



Dublin Beacon

From the Desk of the Pastor

Seasons greetings. Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah! It is the time of the year when we begin to look at the mysteries surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. We also need to recognize that it is not only the Christian Holiday that takes place during this time of year. As Christians, we believe that the birth of Jesus signified a new covenant that God created between humankind and God, and that from that point forward we should forget all other beliefs. There are many others that don't have the same belief that we do, and we sometimes forget that important point.

We are Christians, and we are proud of that fact. We feel that the celebration of Christmas should be the only thing we do during this period. The greeting "Merry Christmas" cuts to the very core of our beliefs, and we feel that to reduce that to any other greeting during this season is sacrilege. Why should we change our ways? Why should we be forced to accept other beliefs, when our beliefs come under scrutiny? Why should we be tolerant of others beliefs?

I think that during this time of year, regardless of whether we are Christian or not, we become more sensitive to others understanding of this time of year. As Christian, we feel that we should celebrate in a way that is honoring the birth of our Savior. We feel that all of the symbolism should reflect a faith in the ever present Lord of our lives. The Jewish celebration of Hanukkah happens around the same time. Those who don't believe in those two faiths still take advantage of this time of year to express the concern of the world to care for the less fortunate. Albeit, there comes the commercial end of things.

How can we survive as a country without the retailers that sell us everything we need and don't need? We get offended by the fact that we don't greet with Merry Christmas, and yet we participate in all of the secular activities like everyone else. We somehow would like to believe that we are different. We are different in our religious beliefs, we are different in the ways in which we express our beliefs and what day we do that on. We trust that we have the one true religion, but, so do others. We know that this is true. We can look in the scriptures and see the same issues taking place in the time of Jesus just as now. Even with Jesus in their presence,

there were people who believed that their faith was the one true faith. Even when Jesus hung on the cross there were people who believed differently. Even as Jesus died, and the curtain in the temple was torn, and the stone was removed from the front of the tomb, there were people who didn't believe that Jesus is the living God. How can we expect anything different. So I come back to the original question, 'How can we survive as a country without the retailers?'

Our faith is not about giving gifts. Our faith is not about saying Merry Christmas, and being afraid (or not afraid) of offending someone. Our faith is about believing that Jesus is our Savior, and we celebrate a date in December that signifies to us that Jesus is alive in our lives. Christmas is a time when we can be re-born in our belief. It is a time when we renew our relationships; show our Christian spirit of renewal. Our faith is also about being tolerant with other people. It is not about believing what they believe or giving up our own beliefs, it is about understanding that everyone, from the very beginning of Christianity, didn't believe the same way we do. Toleration is accepting that everyone is different. Toleration is looking to your neighbor and expressing your beliefs, but recognizing that they may express their beliefs to you as well. Toleration is understanding that the secular world isn't tolerant of our beliefs all of the time. Some where in all of the conversations, I think that it is necessary to sit down and have that hard conversation. The conversation that allows us, with open minds and hearts, to discuss what our belief in Jesus Christ truly means to us. There are many people that have never known a Christian, or maybe never known what a Christian is all about.

We are quick to judge people, simply on a disagreement of a single phrase, "Merry Christmas". That phrase might just be a way of opening up a conversation to your beliefs. God gives us many opportunities to renew our faith and to proclaim to the world our Lord, Jesus Christ. Can you, will you, make a conscious effort this Holiday season to proclaim the Good Word of Jesus Christ?

Merry Christmas
Pastor Jim



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True religion is the life we live, not the creed we profess.

- J.F. Wright

Living With Purpose In a Worn Out Body by Missy Buchanan

Ordinary Days

There's a slow, steady rhythm to ordinary days. Uneventful kind of days that follow a simple routine of meals, medications, and favorite T.V. shows.

During this time, empty squares march across the calendar.

One day feels like the next.

In truth, I like days that are uninterrupted by crisis or sudden change.

I am thankful for the repetition.

But Lord, it's easy to get lost in the monotony.

Save me from the emptiness that comes with too

much time to think and too little to do. It is fertile soil for negative thoughts to grow.

And if I hold too tightly to rigid routine, remind me that I may miss out on a wonderful surprise.

Help me rediscover the abundant blessings in my life.

Today I will turn the pages of an old photo album, and I will give you thanks for my life stories.

I will pray for my loved ones, calling each by name.

O Lord, show me the extraordinary joy in ordinary days.



AED Training

A AED Training session will be held at the main fire station in Darlington on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 PM. This session will be open to all previous holding cards for our AED (which are how expired) and to anyone who would like to take this training for the first time. Please contact Susie Head at 410-836-3535 by December 11th if you will be attending.

Lunch Bunch



December Lunch Bunch, Wed 28
Dec at 12Noon: Theme - Crabfest!

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Greeters/Ushers & Liturgists

Greeters & Ushers:

Dec 4th - Budd & Gail Henry
Dec 11th - John Day & George Rockey
Dec 18th - Debbie & Liz Johnson
Dec 24th - Budd & Gail Henry (Candlelight)
Dec 25th - NO SERVICE

Liturgists:

Dec 4th - Bob Hudson
Dec 11th - Bernie Spangler
Dec 18th - Pat Spangler
Dec 24th - TBD
Dec 25th - NO SERVICE



Caroling



Meet at George Rockey's at 6 PM on December 16th to go caroling through Dublin in a hay wagon. When you return you can roast hot dogs and marshmallows over the bonfire. There will also be the family's famous chili and hot chocolate. Dress warmly and parents must accompany their children or have a permission slip signed if leaving the child with another adult attending. Donations of hot dog rolls, marshmallows and s'mores ingredients and any paper products would be appreciated. Get you voices ready to WOW the community!! The Rockey farm is 1 mile from the intersection of Rt 136 and Dublin Rd (Rt 440) going towards the Scarboro Landfill. For more information call George @ 410-457-0123.

Prayer Concerns



- * Jerry & Helen Fields
- * Bill & Ruth Knight
- * Bill Walker
- * Mae Burkins
- * Brittany Miller
- * Kathy Bridges
- * Marguerite Hall
- * Maggie Harrison
- * Mary Dorney
- * Linda Ruth
- * Tristan Stone
- * Jack & Ruth Lewis
- * Shirley Copeland
- * Betty Kalmbacher
- * Gene Barberry
- * Ralph Clay
- * Mattie Waddell
- * All those in our church family serving in the military.

Needy Christmas Families

Dublin UMC is again supporting needy families for Thanksgiving and also Christmas. When you receive this article Thanksgiving will be over and all the families will have received food for their Thanksgiving Dinner. We need to have gifts and food for these families for Christmas. You may purchase gifts or give a monetary gift and the Mission Committee will purchase it for you. If donating gifts please put the family number on the package and also the children's age too. Now is the time that we need to remember the less fortunate. Thanking you in advance for your assistance to this program. All gifts needs to be at church by Sunday, December 18th. Susie Head, Chair, Mission

◇Family #1: Mother - Son (Age 11) - Pants Husky 30 x 26 - Shirt 18 - Daughter (9) - Slim Pants 10-12

◇Family #2: Mother - Father - Daughter (12) - Pants 9-10 - Blouses/Tops Med/Large - Daughter (8) - All size 8-10

◇Family #3: Mother - Son (7) Pants 7 Slim - Shirts - 7/8 - Socks - Underwear - 6 - especially would love to have some Leggos

◇Family #4: Senior Citizen Woman

◇Family #5: Senior Citizen Woman

PLEASE
GIVE

Scholarship Opportunities with the United Methodist Women



For many years United Methodist Women in the Baltimore-Washington Conference have sponsored local area ministries that make life better for women, children and youth. The local Unit's support is needed and much appreciated. One such project and one that the Friendship Circle is supporting is the UMW Scholarship Fund. It provides financial assistance for undergraduate students who are members of churches within the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The awards are made according to financial need, academic achievements, and active church membership. Applications are due yearly by March 15th and may be obtained through the Church Pastor, the Conference Center, or the contact person for the UMW, Linda Yost (410) 239-0429. The completed applications must be signed by the Pastor with a letter or recommendation from the Pastor, and a current transcript of grades. Scholarships are renewable; but a new application must be submitted annually. Students will be notified by June 1st. Payments are made directly to the colleges in August and/or December. If you think you may be interested in applying, start the process as soon as possible.

Leadership Day

LEADERSHIP DAY

January 14, 2012

Baltimore-Washington Conference **BALTIMORE REGION**

*Equipping, Empowering and Encouraging the
Baltimore Metropolitan and Baltimore Suburban Districts*

Leadership Day: Training for clergy, church leaders, laity and others who want to take a more active leadership role in their local congregations and communities. Participants will receive training in several areas that will help each leader gain deeper insight and critical information into themselves, their congregations, and the communities in which they serve. The expected result is spiritual leaders living transformed lives and leading transformational ministries. Two classes will be offered in the morning and two electives in the afternoon. To better serve you, classes will be held in two locations: Bel Air UMC and Hiss UMC. The same classes will be held in each location.

All registrations can be completed on-line at www.bwcumc.org/academy/leadershipdays.

COST: \$40 per person includes materials and lunch

DEADLINE for registration: January 1, 2012

SELF PAY
PLEASE SELECT LOCATION

- Bel Air UMC, 21 Linwood Avenue, Bel Air 21014
- Hiss UMC, 8700 Harford Road, Baltimore 21234

Basic Session
Select Two

- Stewardship and Finances
- Being an effective Member of SPRC
- Effective Leadership: Empowering Change for the 21st Century
- Visioning/Mission and Goal Setting: How to improve your congregation's focus

Elective Session
Select Two

- Small Groups: The Call to Action Impetus for growing your churches
- Worship Planning
- Radical Hospitality: Evangelism for the 21st Century
- Call to Action Planning: How to get the most out of the study

**BEL AIR UMC
SCHEDULE**

8-9	Check-in & Fellowship
9:00	Worship
9:40-10:45	Basics I
10:50-12	Basics II
12:00-1:15	Lunch
1:15 -2:20	Elective I
2:25-3:30	Elective II

**HISS UMC
SCHEDULE**

8-9	Check-in & Fellowship
9:00	Worship
9:40-10:45	Elective I
10:50-12	Elective II
12:00-1:15	Lunch
1:15 -2:20	Basics I
2:25-3:30	Basics II

Please print clearly

Mail by the deadline of January 1, 2012 to ensure a seat in the class

Name _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ E-mail _____

Church _____ District _____

Mail registration with check to:
MS. SANDRA COCKRELL
Baltimore-Washington
Conference Mission Center
11711 East Market Place
Fulton, MD 20759

Make checks payable to:
CONFERENCE TREASURER

Questions: 410.309.3442 or
scockrell@bwcumc.org

For office use only

Payment received _____ Check/Cash _____ Check #: _____ Entered into Gateway by: _____ Date: _____

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

1. Jerry Mace
3. Elizabeth Johnson
4. Carol Ann day
5. Stuart Knight
6. Marguerite Hall
6. Mary Roland
18. Robert Brewer
19. Allison Dill
20. Larry Dill
22. Ruth Lewis
22. Susie Head
26. Susan Borig
26. Marti Hudson
26. Keith Thompson Sr.
27. Sue Henry
29. Joanne Ainsworth
29. Jennifer Lewis Stojka
29. Mary Beth Copeland

Anniversaries:

10. Curtis and Angela Randow
12. Donald and Lorraine Horton
13. Gary and Rebecca Scarborough
31. Kevin and Susan Henkel



Mark Your Calendar!



December Opportunities:

- ◆ Girl Scouts: Monday Evenings - 7PM
- ◆ Boy Scouts: Tuesday Evenings - 7PM
- ◆ Patrick Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
- ◆ Men's Group: 3rd Saturday of the Month - 9AM
- ◆ Bible Study: Monday Evenings, 7PM
- ◆ FROG Group: 1st & 3rd Sunday - 6:30PM
- ◆ Sr. High Youth: 2nd & 4th Sunday - 6:30PM
- ◆ PPRC: 1st Tuesday of Month - 7PM
- ◆ UMW Lunch: 7th - Mt Nebo - 12N
- ◆ Listening Day: 8th - 9-11AM - Ames UMC
- ◆ Antique Auto Group: 10th 5:00-10:00PM
- ◆ UMW: 12th - 10:30AM
- ◆ Girl Scout Leaders: 13th - 7PM
- ◆ COM: 13th - 7PM
- ◆ Boy Scout Leaders: 14th - 7PM
- ◆ Caroling: 16th - At Rockey's
- ◆ Children's Christmas Crafts: 17th
- ◆ Children's Christmas Program: 18th - 6PM
- ◆ Christmas Eve Service: 24th - 7PM and 11PM
- ◆ Lunch Bunch: 28th - 12N
- ◆ Manna House: 31st - 8:00AM - 12N



Future Events

January Opportunities:

- ◆ Girl Scouts: Monday Evenings - 7PM
- ◆ Boy Scouts: Tuesday Evenings - 7PM
- ◆ Patrick Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
- ◆ Men's Group: 3rd Saturday of the Month - 9AM
- ◆ PPRC Meeting: 1st Tuesday of Month - 7PM
- ◆ Bible Study: Monday Evenings - 7PM
- ◆ FROG Group: 1st & 3rd Sunday - 6:30PM
- ◆ Sr. High Youth: 2nd & 4th Sunday - 6:30PM
- ◆ Ad Board: 17th

Happening Soon!

Christmas Cookie Rules...



1. If you eat a Christmas cookie fresh out of the oven, it has no calories because everyone knows that the first cookie is the test and thus calorie free.
2. If you drink a diet soda after eating your second cookie, it also has no calories because the diet sod cancels out the cookie calories.
3. If a friend comes over while you're making your Christmas cookies and needs to sample one, you must sample with your friend. Because your friend's first cookie is calorie free, (rule #1) yours is also. It would be rude to let your friend sample alone and being the friend that you are, that makes your cookie calorie free.
4. Any cookie calories consumed while walking around will fall to your feet and eventually fall off as you move. This is due to gravity and the density of the caloric mass.
5. Any calories, consumed during the frosting of the Christmas cookies will be used up because it takes many calories to lick excess frosting from a knife without cutting your tongue.
6. Cookies colored red or green have very few calories. Red ones have three and green ones have five—one calorie for each letter. Make more red ones!
7. As always, cookie pieces contain no calories because the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
8. Any cookies consumed from someone else's plate have no calories since the calories rightfully belong to the other person and will cling to their plate. We all know how calories like to CLING!
9. Any cookies consumed while feeling stressed have no calories because cookies used for medicinal purposes NEVER have calories. It's a rule!

So, go out and enjoy those Christmas Cookies - calories or not - we only get them this time of year!

Volunteering at Manna's House



On November 5th Pastor Johnson, Debbie, Lorraine, Susie and Gail arrived at Manna House on 25th Street in Baltimore to serve breakfast to those who need a hot meal to start their day. We were met by the Director, Saleem Gauhar, a member of Linden Heights UMC. We were shown our duties and prepared for the clients who were already lined up at the door. There was only one other staff person there and he was the cook, dishwasher and all around go to guy. The "breakfast" was not what you and I would call breakfast food. Chicken nuggets, rice, and a mix of peas and corn were served. There was hot coffee and tea, a pastry (donuts, cake, cupcakes, cookies, etc.) and bread (that day was hamburger rolls). We assume the pastries and bread are donated from local bakeries or grocery stores. This must have been a typical meal because the clients did not complain, in fact they seemed to enjoy the food and were very appreciative and thanked us when they left. The eating area only seats 24 so the people eat in shifts. The clientele are 85% black and 15% white; 15% women and 85% men; several children were served in the first seating with their parents. The children were given juice boxes and even though cereal with milk was offered, they wanted the same hot meal as their parents. Each child is given a book and stuffed toy when available.

Manna House is 3 buildings renovated to make one 3 story structure with clothes closets, shower rooms and a HIV-AIDS testing lab on the 3rd floor; a conference room, offices, and staff facilities are on the 2nd floor and the 1st floor has the kitchen, dining area, and storage. Continued on page 7.

Twelve Days of Christmas

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me.

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? Today, I found out.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

The five golden rings recalled the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol...so pass it on if you wish."

Merry (Twelve Days of) Christmas Everyone!



Volunteering at Manna's House Continued...

There are 9 staff members and many, many volunteers. About 1/3 of their budget comes from the government, the rest through fundraisers and donations. Breakfast is served Monday through Saturday; showers and clean clothes give-away are scheduled on Mondays; Women from a UMC take care of sorting all the donated clothes and bagging the clothes requested by the clients. The Director works with local clinics, the health department and local hospitals to help with the health care of the clients. With no permanent address for many of the clients, it is difficult to get them the care and resources needed. Paraphrasing the Director – "We do the best we can with the best we have. Prayer and Faith in the Lord keeps us going."

This is an outreach we hope to participate in each year. We have volunteers signed up now for this year, but would like to keep a list of people who think this is something they would like to do in the future. You would then be called on for the next time we need Saturday Breakfast Volunteers. Parking is secure, but the neighborhood is not the best. We suggest at least one of the 5 volunteers be a male. The women that went in November did not feel threatened or uncomfortable at any time however.





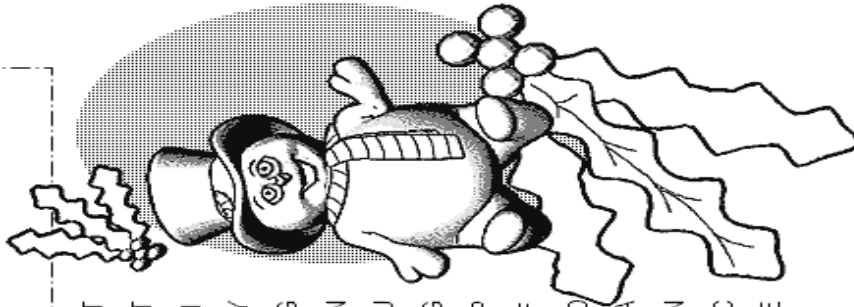
Spot the Differences (7 in total)

Frosty the Snowman

Word Search

Find and circle all of the words shown in the word list below





ALIVE	COAL	HAPPY	MELT
BROOMSTICK	DANCE	HAT	RUN
BUTTON	FROSTY	JOLLY	SNOWMAN
CHILDREN	FUN	MAGIC	

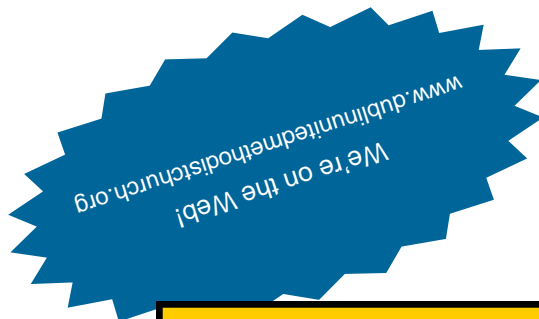


H U Y W I R G O N G B R X H T
 A G H X A H A P P Y P Z U X T
 T O G E L W I S T B T F L L I
 W R J C I M T Z K U J O L L Y
 L B X O V E L S A T P T T Z G
 G A B A E L C N N T I F U N N
 G V T L F T H O R O P X X L U
 Z C D J J N I W E N S K L N G
 B Y Z M F K L M B B A K W L P
 F R O S T Y D A U R L U A X F
 K S N M O N R N L Z K C K D D
 Y R U N P X E C E C K U K M A
 C O D O H S N R J U N L T Z N
 M I C B R O O M S T I C K H C
 S G O D Q G I U B M A G I C E

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December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>**Reminder:</p> <p>All articles and inserts for the newsletter are to be submitted to the editor by the 10th of each month. You may email your entries to Stone-Dill@verizon.net or place them in the Editors mailbox. The newsletter will be distributed the last Sunday of the month.</p>				1 Advent Bible Study 1PM	2	3
4 FROG 6:30PM	5 Bible Study 7PM Girl Scouts 7PM 	6 Boy Scouts 7PM PRPC 7PM	7 UMW Lunch - Mt Nebo - 7PM	8 Listening Day 9-11 AMES IMC Advent Bible Study 1PM	9	10 Antique Auto Group 5PM—0PM
11 Sr. High Youth 6:30PM	12 UMW 10:30AM Bible Study 7PM Girl Scouts 7PM	13 Boy Scouts 7PM Girl Scout Leaders 7PM COM 7PM	14 Boy Scout Leaders 7PM 	15 Advent Bible Study 1PM	16 Caroling at Rockeys	17 Men's group 9:00AM Children's Christmas Crafts 
18 FROG 6:30PM Children's Christmas Program 6PM	19 Bible Study 7PM Girl Scouts 7PM	20 Boy Scouts 7PM	21	22 Advent Bible Study 1PM	23	24 Services: Family 7PM Candlelight 11PM 
25 	26	27	28 Lunch Bunch 12N 	29	30	31 Manna House 9AM - 12N



Dublin United Methodist

1528 Whitford Road
Street, Maryland 21154
Phone: (410) 836-3647

Service Schedule

December 4th

Contemporary, 8:00 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall
Traditional, 10:30 a.m.
in Sanctuary

December 11th

Contemporary, 8:00 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall
Traditional, 10:30 a.m.
in Sanctuary

December 18th

Contemporary, 8:00 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall
Traditional, 10:30 a.m.
in Sanctuary

December 25th

No Service
Merry Christmas!!

