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GOOD NEWS

from MOUNT OLIVET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FROM THE PASTOR



The other day we were sitting around the table talking about New Year's traditions. It became obvious, the traditions a person associates with New Year's are directly

related to where people have lived. As Southerners, our mouths watered as we talking about black-eyed peas, ham hocks, and collards. Others from more northern regions began talking about sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, and kielbasa (that's from my son-in-law who left Erie, Pennsylvania to come south for an education, NCSU, and to get away from lake-effect snow). The discussion made me wonder where these New Year's traditions came from and what they mean.

So I googled New Year's traditions and origins, finding some interesting stuff, such as people have celebrated New Year's for more than 4,000 years. Fireworks began in China but were a big part of US tradition, including New York, until the city banned fireworks and started some ball-drop in 1906... it will never last. While there are many different ideas on how to celebrate, we also have some pretty common themes, including "lucky foods,"... a German tradition brings sauerkraut into the mix, almost world-wide acceptance concerning peas but, as Southerners, we got it right with black-eyed peas as a symbol of coins, cabbage or collards representing folding money, ham or pork as prosperity.

The two traditional ideas strike deep within my heart: the Winter Solstice (Dec. 21) as the turning point of the year with days beginning to lengthen, being viewed as the "birth of the year," and the time between Winter Solstice and New Year's Day as the time to set things straight in our lives. That setting straight included items such as complete housecleaning, paying off debts, returning borrowed things, reflecting on personal shortcomings, giving alms, and physically jumping into the sea or other large body of water to literally wash our slate clean. As one writer put it "the point of it all is by ending the old year with respect and beginning the New Year in the way we want it to begin, we establish our intentions for the New Year."

Those are very important themes, "new birth," setting things straight in our lives, and establishing our intentions for the New Year. I can see why the Church took these long held ideas and "baptized" them into Christian thinking. It was Pope Gregory XIII who reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

These themes are Biblical. New Birth: *John 3: 3 "I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* *2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* *Setting lives straight: Romans 6:11-14 "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, ..., but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. Establishing our Intentions: Joshua 24:15 "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

During January, we will use these New Year's themes which are also part of our Vision Statement. As Disciples of Christ, we will passionately follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as we unite to promote and nurture spiritual growth among all God's Children. These themes will be examined in a Sermon Series: We Are Mount Olivet!

January 1 - We Are Mount Olivet! God's Vision for Us

January 8 - -We Are Mount Olivet! We are Passionate Disciples

January 15 - We Are Mount Olivet! We are United by Spirit

January 22 - We Are Mount Olivet! We are Growing as God's Children

Together we will establish our intentions toward God's desired future for us! Happy New Year's!

Dr John

Children's Ministry

I am excited for the upcoming month of January. Most of you are familiar with our programs. However, I still want to highlight them.

On Sundays, children are able to attend the Children's Moment, Children's Church, and Sunday school. Sunday nights, we have our S.U.R.G.E. Program.

The Children's moment is a time where the children are able to have a "moment" tailored especially to them. When they go down to the front of the sanctuary, it is our goal to provide them with information or a story that will provoke their thinking and encourage them in their faith.

Children's church allows them the opportunity to learn and grow in their knowledge of Christ and how he loves them.

In my mind, Sunday School has always been an amazing faith-builder for our children. This is another area in which we can encourage their relationship with God and others.

S.U.R.G.E. stands for: Students United, Reaching, Guiding, Each Other in Christ. This program is for Third-Fifth Grade students. We meet on Sunday nights at 5:00pm. Our amazing volunteers (Kim Head and Sarah Gregory) and myself want to see our students grow.

We are also very blessed to be able to offer nursery. We have an amazing Nursery Coordinator, a wonderful staff member, and volunteers. I would like to announce that Mount Olivet UMC is seeking an additional hourly assistant nursery attendant. Responsibilities include caring for children ages Birth-5 years old on Sunday mornings and at other times when nursery is offered. Interested persons may apply in the church office (252.473.2089).

With all the programs that we offer, and the desire to see growth in our children, I ask that you join me in prayer. Pray specifically for our children, their families, and the volunteers who touch their lives through our church ministry.

*Director of Children's Ministry,
Crystal Hale*



Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School

July 10 - 14, 2017

9:00AM - Noon



Thanks!

S. C. and I have been doubly blessed with your prayers, food, phone calls and visits during his

stay in the hospital and recovery at home. He is pain free and only has a couple more weeks

before he goes back to work. We have truly felt surrounded by your continued support during

his illness, surgery and recovery. Thank you for being the presence of God's Love.

*Happy New Year...
S. C. and Jean*



Happy New Year! As we transition into 2017, I cannot help but reflect on everything that God did in the Cove throughout 2016. God has blessed us with a great year at the Cove, as our students had many opportunities to grow in their love for God and their understanding of His love for them. In the past year, our student ministry has gone on many trips and retreats, held a Confirmation class that saw students get baptized and profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and offered multiple Bible studies as well as fellowship events.

We have also seen positive growth in our Sunday Night Youth Group program. We have added a discussion group component to this meeting, which allows our students to go deeper into Scripture and its applications. We have also added more seating in the “movie room” and the upstairs rooms at the Cove, which has helped accommodate an increase in our numbers. God continues to bless Mount Olivet’s ministry to middle school and high school students in powerful ways, and it is a privilege to witness.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Cove Student Ministry with your prayers, presence, gifts and service. We are looking ahead with anticipation to all the incredible things that God is going to do in 2017.

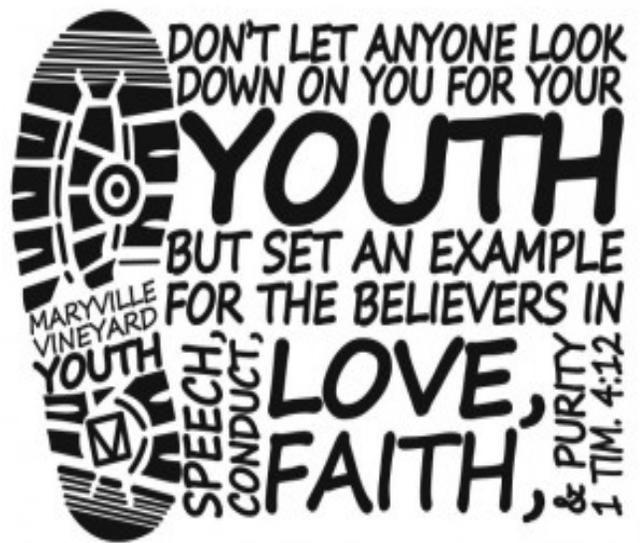
Drew Peyton

Sunday Night Schedule Changes in January

January 1st- We will not meet for youth group, as we will be traveling back from Winterfest at Liberty University.

January 22nd - Youth worship service- Dinner at 6:00, service at 7:00. This event will give our students the chance to lead a worship service for our church family and community. The worship music, teaching, and every other aspect of the service will be run by students. We will be taking up a love offering that will go towards the Cove’s upcoming Mission Trip to Nova Scotia, Canada.

*Please note that we will have youth group at its normal time from 5:00-7:00 at the Cove on January 8th, 15th, and 29th.



2017 Winter Schedule

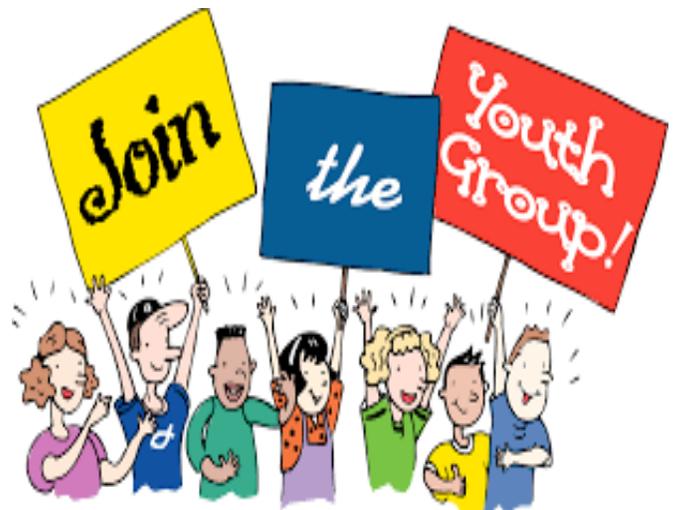
All events are open for students in the 6th-12th grade unless otherwise stated

Wednesday- High School Bible Study, 7:30-9:00 pm at Drew’s House. This Bible study is open to all 9th-12th grade students. We will discuss topics that are of interest to our students, study the Scriptures and pray together.

Thursday morning youth breakfast, 7:00 -7:40 am each Thursday morning school is in session; come out for a great hot breakfast and a guest speaker each week. Transportation is provided to Manteo Middle School and Manteo High School after breakfast. This event meets in “Room B” inside the main church building.

Sunday night Youth Group 5:00 - 7:00 pm. This is a time for students to grow in their love for God and their love for one another as they fellowship through the sharing of food, playing games, and studying Scripture together.

Sunday school will continue to meet as previously scheduled. (9:30-10:30)



Music Ministry



Ephesians 5:19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

Our chancel choir leads worship each Sunday morning for the 11:00 AM service. We would love to have you join us! If you are interested in singing with the choir, we meet on Thursday evenings in the choir room.



The Resounding Praise team leads worship for the 8:30 AM service each Sunday. If you are interested in joining, then stop in at a rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM or contact me for more information. We would love to see you there.



If you are in 6 – 12th grade and are looking for a great time to worship with your peers and prepare to lead, then come and join us. Youth Praise meets on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM.

We will be leading worship this month in the evening on January 22.

More detail to come! We would love to have you share your talents with the Youth Praise team and the church.

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a bright new year. Sometimes when we enter a new year it brings about new worries in our lives. The holiday season can be a challenging time and I would like to encourage you with words from Matthew 6:31-34.

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Keep your eyes on Jesus and he will lead you through any difficult situation and be with you throughout this New Year. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace. God bless!

Our Christmas musical, 3 Wise Men and a Baby, was a great success. Thank you to all who participated in this special time of celebration! We will begin rehearsals for our Easter cantata in late January. More information coming soon!

Nathan Schierer, Director of Music



Make a
JOYFUL NOISE
unto the Lord!

Missions

Missions wishes to thank our generous Congregation for another year of sowing and partnering with established mission organizations, with local mission and outreach needs and emergency needs as well. 2016 was definitely a year of needs and we a church; being Christ's hands and feet met those needs and exceeded expectations in many cases. The hymnal drive for Hatteras UMC was a real blessing to that church and community.

The Angel Tree outreach of helping those men and women fighting the battle to overcome addiction with gifts for their families and for them was met with great enthusiasm. We are blessed to have served the 6 women at Albemarle Teen Challenge in Elizabeth City; 20 men at the House of Prayer in Greensboro, and the 12 men at Dare Challenge as well as share a little donation with the facilities.

THANK YOU for your participation in the Reverse Advent Food Drive for the Food Pantry as well.... at the time of print, we have not had an "official weigh-in" of the donations so look for that next month. Suffice it to say, it was a big success and the Food Pantry is very grateful for your donations and embracing this opportunity to help out.

We expect to be on point and watching and ready to meet needs in 2017. We are every grateful for the trust you put in our committee and we promise to be good stewards of your donations. We ask that you keep us and the mission needs in your prayers and keep us abreast of needs you know of that may have missed our radar.

Missions Committee



MORE THANK YOUS

Dear Mt. Olivet Friends,

Thank you for your recent partnering with us for two families in need. Your donations and thoughtfulness is so appreciated and helpful in our continued efforts to assist those in need in our community.

*Yours in faith,
Interfaith Community Outreach*

From: The Lifeguards at Nags Head Ocean Rescue

Mount Olivet,

Thank you for your continued support of the Lifeguard dinner ministry. The lifeguards truly look forward to it every week!

*Merry Christmas!
Capt. C. Mote*

Worship



Worship Newsletter

January 2017

Altar Guild and Ushers will be announced in Bulletin

Thanks to everyone who helps with Worship Committee activities.

Sarah Wise, Worship

January Birthdays

- 2 Sadler Smith
- 3 C. K. Evans, Adam Fauth, Joel Midgett
- 4 Robbie Campbell, Alyse Stewart
- 5 William Pitts
- 6 Gordon Blanchard, Margaret Edwards
- 7 David Davis, Mallory Hopkins
- 8 Pearce Gregory, John Grissom, Owen Head, Holt Rose, Rita Shearin
- 9 Genesis Rain Gregory
- 10 Susan Fearing
- 11 Lea Taylor Bonner, Kathy Davis, Matthew Schleizer
- 12 Katie Brill, Earl "Squirrley" Green, Trent York
- 13 Bryan Erpelding
- 14 Chris Adams, Karen King, Alice Turney
- 15 Olivia Daniels, Andy Ennis, Priscilla Fauth, Breanna Lane, Shon Ballance Lee, Benson Nissley
- 16 Erica Burkhart, Drew Peyton, Mark Vrablic
- 17 Dawn Buckalew, Roy Gray, Pam Stemmerich
- 18 Paul Creef, Amanda Hernley, Rebekah Paramore, Morgan Sawyer
- 19 Orin Beasley, Margaret Daniels, Jenna Gwaltney, Margaret Henderson, Pat Lester, Debbie McClearn, Ryder Tedrick
- 20 Sandy Moore, Janet Zottoli
- 21 Richard Murphy
- 22 Melinda Long, Holly Stemmerich
- 23 Anna Basnight, Savannah Brill, Renee Glover, Zachary Reed
- 24 James Cox, Rufus Hopkins
- 25 Carol Adams, Chandler Fearing, Paige Keel, Nikki Seward
- 26 Dailey Midgett
- 27 Wesley Carmichael, Jamie Wescott
- 28 Blake Dowdy, Carol Setzer, Myra Speake, Gloria Spence
- 29 Darlene Craddock, Paul Mayfield
- 30 Smith Belton, Mark Gamiel, Nita Hepler
- 31 Mack Hopkins, Roxie Pritchard, Ashley White

Remember, Jesus said our children are very important!



January/February Volunteers

Nursery Schedule: January – February 2017

Date	8:30 Service	Sunday School	11:00 Service
January 1	Carly Hernly 305-8288 Jackie Hart 473-6579	Millicent Duprey 473-6079	Kathy Seawell 473-2056 Wynne Hopkins 475-1006
January 8	Joyce Edwards 473-3845		Paula Donaghy 480-1844
January 15	Liz Brown 473-9892		Lynnette Crews 473-3295
January 22	Elizabeth Gallop 423-0484		Valerie Wheeler 473-5595
January 29	Joyce Edwards 473-3845		Allison Martin 473-8596
February 5	Rita Shaffer 473-6630 Pam Harrison 473-1414	Elizabeth Gallop 423-0484	Melva Garrison 473-3399 Tiffany Martin 423-2323
February 12	Lee Swain Petty 216-6310		Lisa Fry 475-1717
February 19	Becky Austin 473-5694		Brenda Davis 305-8393
February 26	Paula Oliver 473-2944		Jennifer Phillips 473-5269
March 5			Martha Howell 475-1117

Thank you for volunteering in the nursery. Please make arrangements to switch with someone or find a substitute if you have a schedule conflict.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas!!! Thank you all for your dedication and service in the nursery this year. This is such an important ministry to our young families.

You may have seen in the bulletin that Mount Olivet is looking for an assistant Nursery Attendant. This is a paid, hourly position for the services when Dana is not available. If you know someone who may be interested, please encourage them to contact the church office for more information.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Elizabeth

Evangelism

What a wonderful year we have had in our church and the community. It would not have been possible without the help we received from the staff, Pastor, and of course you. Your support was awesome and helped us to bring the love of Christ to those we met along the way. Most of our projects didn't directly speak verbally of Jesus, but through our actions, brought so many to our church to hear about Him.

Let's take a look back at all the accomplishments of the Evangelism Committee in 2016 that was achieved with your help.

Movie Night showing WarRoom and serving popcorn and drinks

Church Family Picnic at the Old Swimming Hole

Surveying church members on what speaker you would like to hear from and on what topic

Fall Revival with Tim Reeves

Marathon Sunday offering parking in our church lot and giving out water

1st Friday Tree Lighting serving the community with Brunswick Stew

Christmas Caroling out in the community with goodies at the end

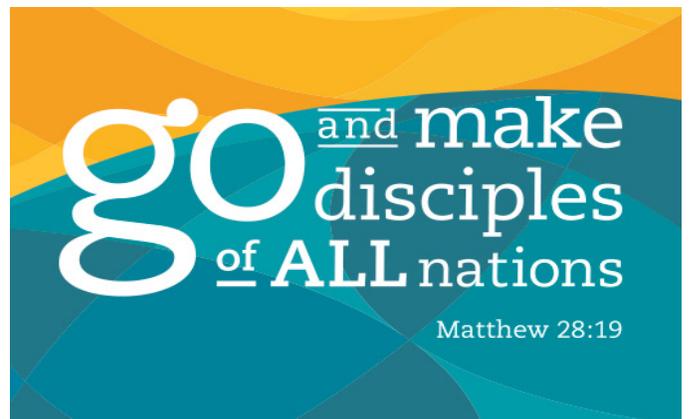
We also partnered with the Sunday School classes, missions, and youth in bringing the love of Jesus to the community.

I want to take this time to thank those that were always there helping without complaint. Always offering their service in bringing our projects to a successful end. Thank you.....



2017 JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bill & Martha Pitts, 45 yrs.
- 5 Gregg & Carmela Kemp, 39 yrs.
- 6 Ben & Elizabeth Gallop, 16 yrs.
- 7 John & Melvin Garrison, 49 yrs.
- 17 Daryl & Tracy Watts, 30 yrs.
- 26 Amanda & Neil Songer, 15 yrs.



Special Thanks to.....

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Aletia Goudy | Sarah Peyton |
| Mrs. Jean Basnight | Dock Sawyer |
| Pastor John Dutton | Sandra Sawyer |
| Bobby Harrell | Nannie Midgett Circle Ladies |
| Kim Head | Nathan Schierer |
| J.B. Head | Kathy Sewell |
| Jimmie Hopkins | Stephen Stetson |
| Stanley Oliver | Bonnie Strawser |
| Drew's Youth Groups | S.U.R.G.E. Kids |
| Drew Peyton | All Sunday School Classes |

Evangelism Committee Members

Gib Harrison

Lynda Midgett

Deloris Harrell

Jim Davis

Of course, thank you for your participation and service in making 2016 a successful year for Mount Olivet UMC.

We as a committee, are looking forward to planning and engaging you in exciting events, platforms, and studies in the year 2017.

The Evangelism Committee Members