

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church  
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# GOOD NEWS

from MOUNT OLIVET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*"For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2b*

On different occasions I read or come across an article or advertisement seeking people who would love to have a star named for them or someone else as a memorial or as a way to bestow honor. When the wise men came seeking Jesus, they were looking for what Matthew says was His star. What a proclamation! The heavens and nature were shouting out to all the world that the event of his birth was there for all who were willing to take the time to notice.

The wise men came from the other side of the world at that time seeking the Son of God. Their journey was not an easy one, as I am sure packing and preparing for a trip of that magnitude took time and effort and commitment. Their efforts, however, were abundantly rewarded in spite of their trying to be deceived by a jealous King Herod. I am sure there were others who tried to trick them out of their precious gifts that were being brought for Jesus alone.

We do not have to go to all of that trouble today to seek Jesus. The scriptures proclaim the Son of God who takes away the sins of the world and brings good tidings of great joy for all is readily available to all who will search for him. As you began the new year, watch for those who will try to detain, deceive or rob you of your faith journey in your seeking a relationship with Jesus or as you you try walk closer with God. The wise men were truly wise, because they knew what their priority was, Nothing was going to hinder them from their task. What will hinder you from your task of truly following Jesus this year?

*Grace & peace,  
Jerry*

## Online Giving

*Coming January 2014  
(see page 4 for details!)*

*You can even  
donate from your  
Smart Phone!!*



Mount Olivet UMC is offering a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader



## Happy New Year!

*Remember, in 2014, as in all other years, Jesus reminds us of the two most important commandments:*

- 1. Love God*
- 2. Love your neighbor as yourself.*

*May we all learn to LOVE like Jesus in 2014!*

# Children's Ministry

My heart is so full of gratitude this January. God has done amazing things in my life and in our children's ministry at Mount Olivet. If I were asked five years ago where I would be today, I would never had thought of having the opportunity to serve such a wonderful church family and my God in this way. I am truly humbled and in awe as I reflect on how God has moved me here. (Jeremiah 29:11)

We are blessed to have so many talented people here who are willing to share of their time and talents. The scriptures tell us in 1 Corinthians 12 that we all have gifts and are all individual members of the body of Christ, and I am so thankful that so many 'get that' and are using their gifts to bring glory to God! This goes well beyond children's ministry too. I look out on Sunday mornings and see so many smiling faces doing ministries from greeting, singing, teaching, serving refreshments, rocking babies, and so on and so on. If you want to experience this joy – get involved this year!

I am filled with excitement and anticipation to see what God has in store for us this year. My prayer is that we all are open to hear His word and see His guidance as we plan and prepare. With this being said, please know that I always welcome ideas and/or suggestions that you may have. Again, this is our children's ministry, and I count it as joy to have others be a part of seeing the blessings that flow as children grow in Christ. Pray with me, that this ministry will mark all with generosity and grace as we make disciples.

*In His Service and God Bless,  
Tina*



## Bridging the Digital Divide

The "digital natives" (kids born into a culture of technology, who know this world in no other terms) are unique in many ways, and researchers are gathering notes. Here are some of the latest findings about characteristics of this young generation from learning experts Marc Prensky (Teaching Digital Natives), Don Tapscott (Growing Up Digital), and Josh Spear (Undercurrent.com), along with suggestions on how to best bridge the digital divide and keep God at the center of kids' lives.

## Today's Kids . . .

1. Expect freedom of choice in everything. The myriad of choices might be overwhelming to adults, but kids take this for granted. They're capable of cutting through the clutter.
2. Enjoy customizing. Remember when Burger King promised we could have it our way? Today's kids can't imagine an alternative.
3. Scrutinize and seek integrity. Based on their online experience, kids are continually assessing, reviewing, and expecting more from providers of online content and products. They can quickly access interviews and opinions of others.
4. Want to be entertained, whether it's for education or fun.
5. Desire constant collaboration and relationship. From texting to multiuser games to file sharing and social media, kids connect with others for advice at any moment.
6. Have a need for speed. Their world is instantaneous. They're not used to waiting for information.
7. Actively pursue innovation. New gadgets and features help them collaborate, be entertained, and learn in new ways.

Sounds privileged, but it's the world kids were born into. So what does all this mean for how we are to raise them to be like Jesus, who was born in a stable?

## Parenting Today's Kids . . .

1. Be unshakable in your family's core values. Like a skinny iced mocha latte with no foam, spiritual truths today are also perceived as customizable. Make space for inquiry, research answers together, and help your child critically evaluate messages—and the value of an unchanging God. If your child sees how the family's core values are a positive bedrock, he or she won't stray far.
2. Encourage kids to evaluate their own integrity in their social media interactions. The Internet has turned us all, young and old, into armchair quarterbacks to a large degree. While kids are assessing others' opinions, remind them that others will be scrutinizing what they write in the same way. Encourage them to think of their entire audience of friends—including God—before posting a message. If they seek first his approval, they're less likely to worry about anyone else's.
3. Share interesting online finds together. Funny videos and games are excellent bonding tools. Let your kids show you some of the latest apps. Ask them to help you find ways to combine technology and the Word of God, like prayer apps, and how to download last Sunday's sermon.

*Additional comments for Children's Ministry- (continued from page 2)*

*"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."*

—Proverbs 22:6

Helpful Links:

<http://www.connectsafely.org/> - This site provides unbiased news and opinion on the impact of the social web. Find safety tips, ways to preventing cyber-bullying, parent guide for instagram and other apps, and analysis of the latest research.

<http://www.pluggedin.com/movies.aspx> - This site is a Focus on the Family publication designed to shine a light on the world of popular entertainment while giving families the essential tools they need to understand, navigate and impact the culture in which they live.



## *Nursery Volunteers*

8:30 Service    9:45 Sunday School    11:00 Service

January 5

Pam Harrison  
473-1414

Valerie Wright  
473-1094

January 12

Denise Trevino  
305-8210

Kathy Seawell  
473-2056

January 19

Wendie Paramore  
216-6626

Jennifer Phillips  
473-5269

January 26

Elizabeth Gallop    Millicent Duprey    Wynne Hopkins  
423-0484    473-6079    475-1006

If you cannot serve during your scheduled time, please make arrangements to swap with someone else on the schedule. The Nursery can always use additional volunteers. If you are willing to serve, please contact me!

*Elizabeth Gallop, Nursery Coordinator  
423 0484*

# facebook



Are you a Facebook user?? Follow us on Facebook to keep up with church events, needs, announcements, etc! Search for "Mount Olivet UMC" on Facebook... and "like" the page, so updates show up in your newsfeed. Questions? Contact Stephen Stetson at [techdirector@mountolivetumc.org](mailto:techdirector@mountolivetumc.org)

We're making an effort to update frequently, so "like" us soon!

*Follow  
Mount Olivet UMC on  
Facebook!*

## *Worship*

### **JANUARY ALTAR GUILD**

Toni Franklin, Chm; Reha Otte, Louise Gray, Edna Black, Donna Tillett

*Co-Chairs: Marguerite Martin - 473-5290*

*Margaret Daniels - 473-3534*

**Communion Stewards** -will be announced in Bulletin

### **JANUARY USHERS**

8:30 Lynda Midgett

11:00 am Staton and Marguerite Martin

### **JANUARY GREETER**

Edna Black

A special thanks to John Wescott for helping with the Church Christmas decorations.

*Tr-Chairs:*

*Kathy Seawell, Lynda Midgett, Sarah Wise*



## Online Giving

Coming January 2014

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for giving. Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions, one time payments, and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have internet access. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

- No need to write weekly checks
- No need to worry if you're out of town
- Convenient & easy

Follow these 4 easy steps to participate today!

1. Visit the church website at [www.mountlivetumc.org](http://www.mountlivetumc.org)
2. Click on the Online Giving button
3. Click on the Create Profile button
4. Create your online profile & choose your way to give

EFT Checking/Savings OR  
\*Credit/Debit Card

***\*Credit/Debit giving is more expensive for the church. Our first and foremost wish is to not have members incur additional credit card debt while giving.***

We encourage you set up an Electronic Funds Transfer account today!

### A Simple, Generous Choice

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to your church.



Confused about QR codes? If you do not have a QR code scanner on your Smart Phone, go to your App Store and search for "QR scanner". Many good scanner apps are free. One good one is "Red Laser." Once you have a QR scanner app, you'll probably start noticing QR codes everywhere!

When scanned, these codes take you to the associated web pages automatically and store the info in your phone.

## Welcome to Jim and Debra Lowder - Music Ministry

"New Beginnings"

The new year is a time for new beginnings and especially this year brings a new beginning for Debra and I as we begin our new life at Mt. Olivet UMC and Manteo. To say the least, we are excited to join the family of believers at Mt. Olivet.

I look forward to joining you and leading you in worship through song and praise. My message to the church is based on a particular passage from Colossians that has guided me throughout my career with the church. Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV):

*15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Debra and I are grateful for the help we've had and will receive as we make our transition to the OBX and especially Mt. Olivet UMC. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing the message and mission of the Gospel with the people of Manteo and to those who visit this wonderful and beautiful part of God's creation called the Outer Banks.

*Love, Peace and Alleluia! Jim Lowder*



Happy New Year! January will be a time for us to catch our collective breaths at the Cove, as the Christmas season that has brought many wonderful special events has now come to a close. We will be back into our normal weekly schedule once the students return to school on the week of January 5th. As January begins and we look ahead to 2014, I hope that you have been able to take some time to reflect back on the things that God has done in your life in 2013. Whatever trials and difficulties you have gone through or are still going through, I hope that He has granted you the grace to feel His presence and His faithfulness during the hard times. I also pray that you were able to experience some blessings in 2013 and praise Him during the good times. No matter what your past year was like, the New Year brings the opportunity for starting fresh.

I encourage you to spend some time in prayer and ask God to give you some goals for the coming year. The students at the Cove often tease me for my goofy acronyms (i.e. PLOW, ACTS, SOAP, etc), but I would like to share one that I learned from my high school soccer coach regarding setting goals. (Disclaimer: I know that my coach did not make this up, so you may have heard these principles somewhere else, but he was the person who taught this to me.) The following model is one that you can use to set goals in all areas of your life. I hope that this model is helpful to you, as it has certainly become helpful for me whenever I write out personal goals.

Goals should be “S.M.A.R.T.”:

Specific- Instead of setting broad goals, (pray more) give details (pray one hour daily)

Measurable- Set goals with measurable outcomes

Attainable- Set goals that stretch you but are still possible to reach.

Relevant- Set goals that are worthwhile

Timely- Set time limits for your goals



Most importantly, pray through any goals that you set or New Year’s resolutions that you make. Ask God what He wants to work on in and through your life in 2014. Psalm 127:1-2 (ESV) says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.” No matter how good your intentions are, and no matter how much you grow in other areas of your life, you will not truly succeed in attaining your goals apart from His work in your life. You will not grow in your relationship with Jesus unless He is doing the work through the Holy Spirit, so ask Him to guide you as you implement goals and strive to attain them. Spend time communicating with Him during the goal-making process so that your New Years resolutions do not fall by the wayside this year. I hope that 2014 is a great year for you, and that God does incredible things in your life as you chase hard after Him.

*Drew Peyton*

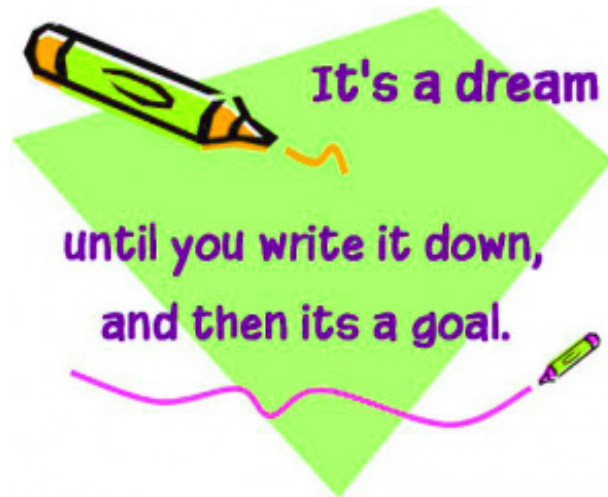
### Weekly Winter Schedule

\*All weekly events are open for students in the 6th-12th grade\*

Tuesday and Thursday- Cove Open Afterschool 3:00-5:00pm

Thursday- Youth breakfast 7:00 -7:45 am.

Sunday- Youth Group 5:30 – 7:00 pm.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Bill & Martha Pitts -42 yrs.
- 6 Ben & Elizabeth Gallop - 13 yrs.
- 7 Johnny & Melva Garrison - 46 yrs.
- 11 Solomon & Cynthia Mills - 12 yrs.
- 12 Frank & Becky Adams - 45 yrs.
- 15 Carl & Becky Boles - 45 yrs.
- 17 Daryl & Tracy Watts - 27 yrs
- 26 Neil & Amanda Spence - 12 yrs

Pearls – by Nancy Harvey

As I was making the centerpieces for the OBH Gala, I had a tingling through my whole body. It started in my brain and ran down through me like a current. I was supposed to be here... I was supposed to be creating these pearl chandeliers... it had meaning.

The Gala raises money for cancer. The pearls were used to make an elegant statement or theme for the party goers, but these pearls took on a different meaning for me. The pearl is started from an irritation or foreign object introduced in the oyster. The oyster strives to smooth over this irritation and thus creates a thing of beauty, the pearl. Each pearl is slightly different in color, texture, shape, even or flawed – it's beautiful.

The tumor in my husband's brain is like that irritant in the oyster; your kindnesses are the smoothing over. All the people through all the years have helped him, prayed for him, helped me and Watson. You each are creating a pearl from a terrible irritant, cancer.

The names and tasks are too numerous to list here... I am afraid I would leave someone out. All the people helping with meals, rides, kind words, clothes, cups of coffee, listening ears, counselors, Social Services, Hospice, Hands of Hope; the list goes on and on. You all are the strands of Pearls strung together like angels shoulder to shoulder, our faith being the cord.

Each chandelier, there are several, has about 120 strands of pearls. That is about 13,000 pearls/people/tasks or kindnesses that have been shown to us over the past 13 years. From the very first seizure-great friends came on the scene to help-today people helping Wallace get to church. I have been a designer artist all these years trying to use my creative brain to promote many OB businesses, but this is the most important job I have – to care for Wallace and Watson and create these pearl chandeliers for HH. The pearls are a symbol of hope and a string of thank yous. This is not a plug for the Gala but a thank you to all of you. Because you have compassion and empathy, you have moved the human condition forward (why else are we here). Our heartaches or "blessings" make us who we are. It has taken me years to accept Wallace's cancer as a type of blessing and testament by faith, but now I know – my heart is broken for Wallace but you all are the pearls. Thank you for such a beautiful journey. Special Thanks to Margaret Harvey and Watson

*HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*

- 2 Sadler Smith
- 3 Charles Kramer "CK" Evans, Joe Midgett
- 4 Robbie Campbell, Jr., Alyse Stewart
- 5 Bill Pitts
- 6 Gordon Blanchard, Hannah Joy DeHart, Margaret Edwards
- 7 Mallory Hopkins
- 8 Pearce Gregory, John Grissom, Holt Rose Rita Shearin
- 9 Genesis Rain Gregory
- 10 Susan Fearing, Cynthia Mills
- 11 Taylor Bonner, Kathy Davis,
- 12 Katie Brill, Earl "Squirrley" Green, Trent York
- 13 Bryan Erpelding,
- 14 Chris Adams, Karen King
- 15 Olivia Daniels, Breanna Lane, Shon Lee, Benson Levi Nissley
- 16 Erica Burkhart, Elizabeth DeHart, Drew Peyton, Mark Vrablic
- 17 Dawn Buckalew, Roy Gray, Jr.,
- 18 Paul Creef, Maryann Handran, Morgan Lee Sawyer
- 19 Margaret Daniels, Jennifer Gwaltney, Pat Lester, Ryder Tedrick
- 20 Sandy Tillett Moore, Rebekah Paramore, Janet Zottoli
- 21 Richard Murphy
- 22 Melinda Long
- 23 Anna Lee Basnight, Savannah Brill, Renee Glover, Zachary Reed
- 24 Rufus Hopkins
- 25 Carol Adams, Chandler Fearing, Nikki Seward
- 26 Ruth Lewis, Dailey Midgett
- 27 Wesley Carmichael, Jamie Wescott
- 28 Blake Dowdy, Carol Setzer, Gloria Spence
- 29 Darlene Craddock, Paula Mayfield
- 30 Mark Gamiel, Juanita Hepler
- 31 Mack Hopkins, Roxie Pritchard, Ashley White



# MISSIONS

Missions wishes to thank all who helped make our Christmas outreach a success this year. Whenever we branch out and do something new - we are never sure how it will go. But we know if God has orchestrated it, it will be great! Our JOY BASKET outreach was great. We are so grateful to all who donated money and food, especially to the NC Aquarium for supplying our stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and fried onions for Green Bean casserole.

Our assembly and delivery day could not have been a bigger blessing. It was so nice to see so many folks turn out to pack and deliver. It was a joyous atmosphere with young and old alike pitching in. We had just enough homemade goodies and are so grateful to all who baked for others...especially Mrs Lynda Midgett who baked 25 pound cakes! WHAT A BLESSING!

Missions is so grateful for all our church family has done for others in 2013. It has been a great year of helping others and partnering with ministries who are helping spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ locally, nationally, and internationally. We are looking forward to seeing how God will use Mount Olivet Missions in 2014 with your help.

If you haven't thought about pledging to missions with your gifts; please pray about that. It is a great way to be part of the "Great Commission."

Editor's Note: The new online giving program will make it very easy to make regular donations to missions... or to send extra money at any time... simply by "clicking a button!"



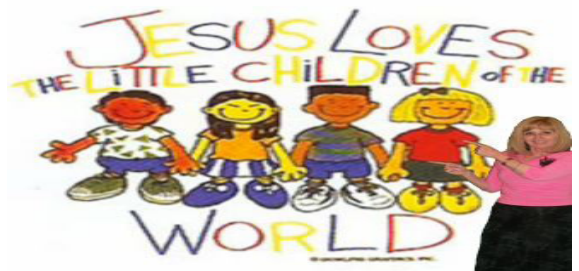
## OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

76 families pledged \$309,912 to the Budget  
29 families pledged \$21,520 to Missions

### Our Budget for 2014 is \$597,399.16

In the past years, we have had over 150 families who have pledged to support God's blessings through Mount Olivet. Yet, as of January 1, 2014 we have only received pledges to the Budget from 76 families for the support of our 2014 Church Budget.

Our church is blessed to be an active church with willing, dedicated staff and volunteers who share God's love through it's many programs: Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Roanoke Island Food Pantry, Chancel Choir, Adult Praise Team, Youth Praise Team, and Missions to name a few. How do we fund all of these and many more programs that present God's love throughout the community? Through the generosity of all of you who are willing to give your best to support our church in presenting God's presence through Mount Olivet's Ministries. If you have not sent in your commitment for 2014, will you reconsider and send in or call in your commitment today?



*Happy New Year!*

*During the new year, remember that God always answers prayers.... He answers in His own time. And He answers in one of these ways:*

*Yes*

*No*

*Not Now*

*May you have patience during 2014 to wait for God's answers and accept His perfect timing for your life!*