

Triumph Newsletter

January 2019

A Gift to the Community

With Pastor Abi taking a star turn as a shepherd in the newly painted Scene 6, the annual Drive Thru Nativity was again a very successful gift to the community. It was a cold night that saw well over 100 participants in the form of builders, actors, scene managers, cooks, carolers, greeters and jacks of all trades. Although the newfangled addition of a narration CD tied up traffic at the beginning and ultimately was scrapped, 100 more cars than last year created its own traffic issues for the better part of the night! Discussions have already been held with Manassas City Police regarding traffic control next year.

The mood was set early as all participants met in the church sanctuary for a prayer of praise and thanksgiving and a reminder of what it was that we were really doing that night. Although it was cold outside, there was plenty of warmth inside through the fellowship of the “off-duty” cast members and the hot foods, sandwiches and desserts provided by many food donators. When all was said and done, the complete set tear-down was completed in about two hours. It was also confirmed that at least one of the attendees Saturday night came to visit STUMC for church service the next morning!

Thank you to all who participated in one way or another - STUMC members truly make this event what it is every year! Pictures are available in the Photo Gallery on the church website.

Upcoming Events

- **Jan 8** - Tuesday Night Dinner Returns
- **Jan 8** - Leadership Orientation
- **Jan 12** - Bi-District Training Day
- **Jan 17** - Baptism Class
- **Jan 18** - OWLS Lunch at Bella Vita
- **Jan 20** - Confirmation Information Meeting
- **Jan 26** - UMW Pot Luck Brunch



Christmas Day Dinner 2018...

...was an amazing day! We begin prepping the turkeys on Dec. 23—it's hard work but there's always time to smile for the camera! Thank you to all who baked the turkeys for us - what a blessing!



We had extra help so the rutabagas were peeled and cut a day early!



December 24: there was much deboning and peeling done in the Fellowship Hall.



Sweet potatoes were done in record time and...

...we had about 150 pounds of white potatoes to peel!





Early Christmas morning the “to go” meals for the police stations, fire stations, and hospitals were assembled. Connie Santee oversees this part of the dinner to make sure everyone gets the right boxes for their delivery and volunteers delivered the meals.



Time to start serving our meal!

We had a steady stream of guests throughout the day and enjoyed the live music provided a couple of times during the festivities. For those who like numbers, we sent out 375 meals this year and served 465 meals to guests who came into the church for a total of 840 meals.

Many, many thanks go to our chef, Frank Priest! He truly does a phenomenal job in putting this meal together.



Desserts, anyone?



Thanks be to God for providing us with the means to share this meal with our community on Christmas Day!



From the Desk of the Senior Pastor

"Where there is no vision from God, the people run wild, but those who adhere to God's instruction know genuine happiness." (Proverbs 29:18, The Voice)

Beginning this January, a new strategic planning team will enter into a holy conversation with one another, the congregation and its leadership, and the community at large to discern three critical formation questions:

Who are we?

What has God called us to do or be?

Who is our neighbor?

At the heart of this process is discernment about our understanding of our identity as a faith community, our sense of purpose, and our relationship with God. On behalf of this new team, **I ask for and covet your prayers!** The team came into being as a result of the Leadership Summit that was held in September, which included many key leaders, staff, and members who believed the time was right to assemble this team. Before we left the Summit, we asked each person to go home and pray about this group and then submit (3) names to me before the October Church Council meeting of potential leaders from the congregation who embodied the following skills, attributes and qualities:

- Represent a range of ages
- Diverse
- Committed believer
- Knowledge of our mission & purpose
- Organized
- Driven / energy – will see the process through
- Broad perspective
- Works well with others
- Loves St. Thomas
- Visionary

As a result of this process, seven people were discerned by the Church Council as embodying these qualities and when an invitation was extended to them, they all agreed to serve!

They are pictured below from left to right: **Rev. Abi Foerster, Cheryl Rosko, Bill Coppa, Marian Ludlow, Leslie Oakes, Perry Bailey, Will Ameen, Ron Campbell, and Zuzana Steen.**



This group, commissioned by the Church Council, gathered for the first time in November to get to know one another and establish a foundation of trust within the team. They also named the group the SPARK Team because they felt this name embodied the aspirations of the congregation. It is our hope that the work of this team will spark the passion of the congregation to live most boldly into its faith and call to ministry.

The SPARK Team will begin meeting weekly in January and hopes to report the work being accomplished to the body – so look for more communication in the months ahead. Ron Campbell agreed to serve as the Convener and Bill Coppa will record and communicate the key recommendations as they come to light. Indeed, this is an exciting time in the life of St. Thomas.

To God be the Glory!

Pastor Abi



Kids Christmas Service: Christ The Savior is Born!

On Sunday morning, December 23, our King's Kids and Kidz Rock choir did an awesome job retelling the Christmas story through drama and song! Thank you to all who participated, worked behind the scenes, and to parents for allowing your child to be a part of this.

*“Unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord”*

Luke 2:11



The next Baptism Class will be held on Thursday, January 17 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM at St. Thomas. This is a required orientation class for any adult considering baptism or for any parent who would like their child baptized. Baptism is one of two sacraments offered in the life of the United Methodist Church and marks the official initiation into the body of Christ, the Church, which joins the new member to Christians everywhere. It's the beginning of a life-long process of growth in Christ. Child care is offered during the class. To sign up, please email Leslie Oakes or call the front office, (703) 368-5161.

United Methodist Women

The UMW would like to extend their gratitude and THANKS to our outgoing President, Pat Dodson. She has served for many years as UMW President and we appreciate her leadership and years of service! She will be moving over to Chair the Church Council and we wish her all the best!

Our new incoming Co-Presidents are Sarah Hammack and Donna Williams. These women have been long time members of UMW and Chair of the Crafts Committee for the Bazaar. Please welcome them and give them your support in the coming year!

Bazaar totals and disbursements will be reported in January. Thanks to all who supported our missions by donating their time, resources, making crafts or shopping at one of our many bazaars! All proceeds go to support missions for women and children locally and around the world.

UMW PotLuck Brunch & General Meeting

Saturday, January 26, 9:00am, Room 300

All women are invited, you do not need to be a member of the UMW. Bring a dish to share. We will be making Protestant Prayer Beads. See the curio cabinet in the Narthex for examples. We will have kits available for purchase or you can bring your own beads [Contact Sarah Hammack (ham82mack@comcast.net) or Donna Williams (grammiof3@verizon.net) for a supply list]

UMW Monthly Circle (small) Groups

Dorcas Circle - Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm in Room 300. Contact Launiesped@aol.com

Media Circle - Meets 1st Friday of the month from 7-9 pm. Contact Terynn.hayes@verizon.net

Bazaar Craft Group - Meets every Thursday at 9:30 am in Room 304/306. Contact Ham82mack@comcast.net This group is on break until March 2019.

A Bead and a Prayer - more from Pastor Abi

Before my father died, he gave me a rosary that he had found helpful in his prayer life. At the time, I didn't think too much of it and the beads landed for several years in my jewelry box. Then, several years later when I was at a District Clergy meeting, I was given a set of Protestant Prayer Beads and invited to use them to enhance my prayer life. Certainly, a thoughtful gesture, but nonetheless I did not have personal experience with the beads and so felt a small sense of panic about what to do with them. The beads given were inspired by the work of Kristen E. Vincent who has authored the book *A Bead and a Prayer* and so I purchased my own copy of the book and began exploring the use of these beautiful prayer beads. Nearly a decade later, I have made several sets of my own, taught a handful of retreats on how to make your own, and generally have found them to be useful in my own prayer life.

Honestly, when I was beginning to make prayer a more regular part of my life, I discovered that my mind tends to wander... I'll begin to pray and then a few moments later I'd be thinking about my grocery list, what needed cleaning at home, my ministry "to do" list – maybe you can appreciate my short-comings on the way to a perfected life in Christ! The beads are tactile, yet simple enough to hold and help me stay focused when I pray. They have become a blessing in helping me to pray for others and for expanding my prayer discipline.



This January, in partnership with the United Methodist Women, we will be offering a Prayer Bead workshop so that folks can make their own set. Our hope is to then integrate the use of the beads in worship on the 3rd Tuesday of each month as we lift up the needs of the community in prayer. All ages are invited to participate in the workshop being held at the UMW PotLuck Brunch and General Meeting on January 26. To sign up, please call the church office (703) 368-5161 during business hours Monday through Friday.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (The OWLS)



On October 19, 17 OWLS meet at Red Embers, a restaurant that is part of Uptown Alley, a family gaming venue in Manassas Mall. Although not everyone agreed on the quality of the menu, we all did agree that the fellowship shared was wonderful, as usual



On November 16, 18 OWLS dined at Uncle Julio's, an authentic Tex-Mex restaurant in Gainesville. Everyone enjoyed the Mexican atmosphere and the selection of food. Mostly, everyone had a wonderful time visiting with each other in the relaxed, casual setting.



For our December outing we ventured to the Bull Run Festival of Lights. More on this adventure in the next newsletter.

On January 18 the OWLS will meet at Bella Vita (an OWLS favorite restaurant) at 9675 Liberia Ave at 1:00 PM. Please plan to join us for a wonderful afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. RSVPs are required so please RSVP to Marian Ludlow (703-361-4390) or Lynn Furlong (703-499-0243) by Tuesday, January 15. This will be a great way to kick off our 2019 OWLS adventures.

STUDENT MINISTRY

THE PACK AM: SUNDAYS AT 9:40 AM in Room 305

Students 6th-12th grade are invited to join us as we journey together through "The Gospel Project," God's redemptive story for mankind.

THE PACK: 1ST, 3RD, AND 5TH TUESDAYS

Meet us at 5:30 pm for dinner in the Fellowship Hall! After dinner, we head over to "The Den" where we play games and talk about relevant faith topics that impact our every day lives until 7:00 pm. All students grades 6th-12th are welcome!

Pack Christmas Party: We had a great time at our Christmas Party on December 18th! The evening featured dinner, fellowship, a hot cocoa bar, cookies, the Christmas Wrap Challenge, and of course the stocking gift exchange. It's always a joy to gather and fellowship in Christian love.

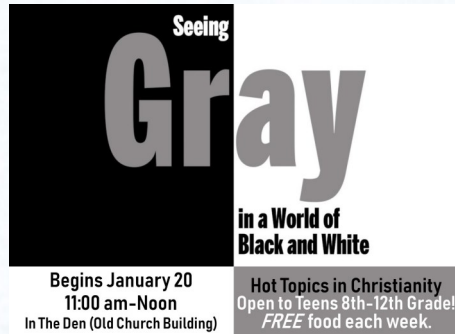


UPCOMING PACK MEETINGS

January 15: Topic-Evangelism/
Parent Meeting In Sanctuary

January 25-26: Bi-District Bowling
Lock-In

January 29: Family Game Night



**Seeing Gray:
Hot Topics in
Christianity**

All students grades 8th-12th are invited to come over to The Den (Old Church Building) starting January 20 from 11am-Noon for a several week study into some of the hot topics in Christianity. There will be FREE food, fellowship, and polite discussion hosted by our Student Ministry team leaders. The class is based on Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton's book, *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*. Contact Caleb to sign up today or for more details! caleb.mathews@stthomasumc.org



Confirmation is a time where teens are given the opportunity to respond to their baptism and choose a life following Christ.

The class is open to students who feel ready to take this next step and will begin with an orientation on Sunday, January 20 with a student and parent meeting at 12:15 pm in Room 300. Come learn all the specifics of what the process is like. Make sure to mark your calendar for the meeting and then the retreat at Camp Highroad on February 1-2.

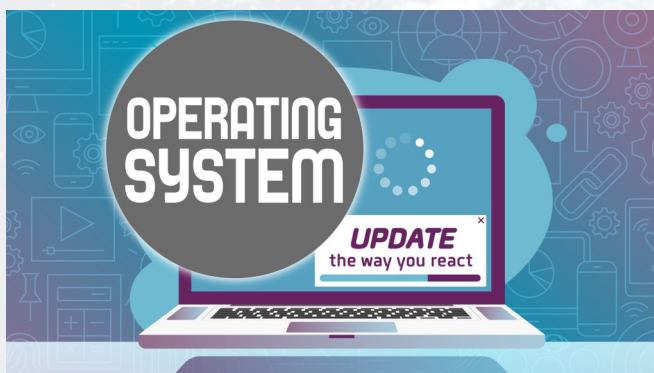


Bottom Line:
I need Jesus.

Memory Verse:
"You are everything
I need."
Psalm 119:57, NIV

PRESCHOOL: One of the wonderful things about preschoolers is they know they have needs and they are not afraid to let you know. That's a good thing and something we want to use to help preschoolers see another need they have – a need we all have – and that is Jesus.

'Yes, I need Jesus' is the focus this month. And, we know from experience that the older preschoolers get, the more they will need Jesus. Life can be tough. Having a friend like Jesus who knows us, loves us, and has the power to help us can truly change our lives. After all, that's what friends do. They help one another when they need it. And there is no better friend than Jesus.



ELEMENTARY: As we follow Jesus, His love transforms us. His Spirit gives us the power to show self-control. We can follow His example and choose to do what we should do—instead of what we want to do.

BOTTOM LINE: Self Control is choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

MEMORY VERSE: "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life." 2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

King's Kids

Our ministry with children seeks to share the faith with the next generation of children from birth through 5th grade. The primary ministry occurs on Sunday mornings. Check it out...

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT STUMC:

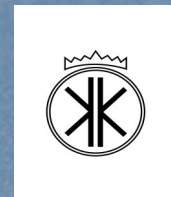
Nursery, 0-2 years old:



Provided during all three worship services from 8:00 AM—12:15 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:40 am

Preschool Kids, Room 107



Elementary Kids, Worship Center

KIDS CHURCH @ 11:00 am

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Begins in the Sanctuary and ends on the 1st floor.



Next Tween Meeting: Friday January 11, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

All 3rd-5th Graders are invited to this month's gathering in the Fellowship Hall as we learn more about Therapy Dogs in our community (yes we will have real dogs!).



Every month we gather for food, fun, faith, and a hands on service project. Plan to join us this month and bring a friend!

News from the Kitchen

We enjoyed serving you last year. It was fabulous to have our annual Christmas feast on Dec. 18; a fun night of fellowship.

We will begin serving dinner again on Tuesday, January 8th. We hope you will make plans to join us each Tuesday night.

We are initiating a new procedure this year. For budgeting purposes we are asking that anyone or any group who needs paper products or any items from the kitchen please fill out our new request form. We are initiating this procedure in order to have enough supplies on hand for each event. So, whether you are having a committee meeting, a fundraiser, a Sunday School class, a get together or whatever you are calling it if you are going to use ANY supplies from the kitchen you must fill out this form. This also includes coffee supplies. We realize this will take some getting use to so please be patient as we work together. If a situation arises where someone has forgotten to fill out the request form please contact Janel Weed 703-507-9075 or Frank Priest 703-627-7394 and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. Please note that if you are requesting a large number of items we will need time to purchase them if we don't have them on hand so please let us know as soon as possible.

We would also ask that anyone who has a key to the back closet to be respectful of this procedure and not run back to get supplies for someone. Please let them know where the request forms are and help them fill them out. Those "extra" keys are for emergency use only.

Also, if you have the need to use the kitchen equipment please contact Janel Weed 703-507-9075 or Frank Priest 703-627-7394 to receive proper and safe care instructions. We are concerned about your safety, food safety, and the care of our equipment. Thank you.

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team

January Menus:

January 8

BBQ Pulled Pork
Corn Souffle
Cole Slaw
Bacon Baked Beans
Dessert

January 15

Grilled Cheese with Tomato
Tomato Cheddar Soup
French Fries
Dessert

January 22

Turkey a la King
Rice
Peas/Carrots
Fresh Bread
Dessert

January 29

Beef Lo Mein
Japanese Style Vegetables
Naan Bread
Dessert

2019 Bi-District Training Day

Saturday, January 12

Registration: Open now at bddd.novaumc.org

Who: For Church Leaders, Committee Chairs and Members, Pastors, Church Staff, & Students of all types!
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath

What: *Engaging Our Community* Keynote Presentation, More than 40 Workshops, Networking, Committee Chair Training, & Lunch

When: Sat. January 12, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Floris UMC, 13600 Frying Pan Road Herndon, VA

Why: Join fellow United Methodists from all over Northern VA at our annual training event. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow in faith!

Do You Know How To Reduce Your Risk Of Dementia?

Join us for education programs by the Alzheimer's Association at St. Thomas UMC
Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body...tips from the latest research

February 4, Healthy Living...Diet and Nutrition
February 11, Physical Health, Exercise & Social Engagement
February 25 Cognitive Activity...Exercises to help improve your memory

Class 7-8:30 pm Light refreshments 6:30 pm

For centuries we have known that the health of the brain and body are connected. Now with new research advancements, science is able to provide insights into how to make lifestyle choices that may help you keep your brain healthy and help to reduce your risk of dementia.

Pat Brown Nominated as Delegate to 2020 General Conference

At this year's Virginia Annual Conference in June all nominees from the Districts will be voted on and lay delegates will be selected to attend the General Conference to be held on May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN. Pat has been very active as one of the St. Thomas Lay Delegates to Annual Conference for the last two years.

Operation Bearhug

Operation Bearhug is coming! We will be collecting new bears for the hospital and for Manassas Health and Rehab on February 3rd and 10th. We will hug those bears, attach our church information to them and deliver them with love on Valentine's Day. Remember the name, Operation Bearhug, and only bring new bears. Bears should be of a size that fits in a hospital bed. Questions, contact Cathy Campbell at 703-369-3220 or ssteechur@yahoo.com.





Haymarket Church
Where Faith & Life Connect

MANASSAS CAMPUS

8899 Sudley Road
Manassas, VA 20110
Phone: 703-368-5161

Abi Foerster - *Senior Pastor*

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sundays 8:15, 9:40 and 11:00 AM

Tuesdays 6:30PM

stthomasumc.org

HAYMARKET CAMPUS

Sunday Meeting Place:
Gravelly Elementary School
4670 Waverly Farm Dr.
Haymarket, VA 20169

Brian Johnson - *Campus Pastor*

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

10:00 AM

haymarketchurch.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January Birthdays		1 Jennifer Collins	2 Gary Gallahan	3	4 Matthew Kennedy	5 Lauren Obaugh
	6	7 Jamison Weed	8 David Ometz Brian Harper	9 Sherry Mootz Paul Davis	10	11 Doug Price
13	14	15 Sue Booher Holly Banner Susan Must	16 Nanette Santiesteban	17	18	19 Henry Davison Pam MacKay
20 Zachary Brockwell	21 Dwayne Young	22 David Petrilla	23 Jean Webb	24 Colleen Rummel John Guice	25 MaKayla Wright	26 Ava Tacik
27 Marian Ludlow	28 Samantha Sallada	29 Matthew Hammack	30 John Duffy Meredith Crockett	31 Eric MacFarlane Sandy Wastler		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January Event Calendar		1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 Networking Group	3 6:30pm SPARK Team Meeting	4 Support Group 7:00pm Media Circle	5
6 5:00pm DC Homeless Mission Trip	7	8 1:00pm Dorcas Circle 7:15pm Meetings: Finance Outreach/Evangelism Children/Youth Team Communications	9	10 6:30pm SPARK Team Meeting	11 6:00pm KidsCare2	12 8:00am Bi-District Leadership Training Day 8:00am Therapy Dogs 11:00am DAR Monthly Meeting
13 1:00pm Worship Committee	14	15 5:30pm The PACK 7:15pm Meetings: SPRC Missions	16	17 7:00pm UMW Executive Committee	18	19 8:00am USDA Food Program 11:00am Memory
20	21 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	22 7:15pm Meetings: Church Council	23	24 6:30pm SPARK Team Meeting	25 9:00pm Youth Bowling Lock-In	26
27	28	29 5:30pm The PACK 7:15pm Meetings: Center Board	30	31 6:30pm SPARK Team Meeting		
Weekly Schedule (subject to change due to holidays or other events – check with your coordinator)						
12:15pm Joyful Noise Singers	7:30pm St Thom Cats	5:30pm Tuesday Night Dinner 6:15pm KidzRock Choir 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm AA Meeting	10:00am Quilts for Kids 6:45pm Chancel Choir	6:45pm Beginner Bells (Starts Jan 10) 7:30pm Bells of St. Thomas	Group	8:00am Ladies Emmaus Group Breakfast Group 9:00am Food Pantry