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The Pathfinder

Jonesborough United Methodist Church

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WOOD

Wood – have you thought much about it? Wood comprises many of the things we have around us. The Communion table is made of wood, nicely constructed, sanded smooth, stained, varnished and waxed, as are the podiums and the pews. At home, tables and chairs etc., are all made up with wood.

As someone who works with wood, I have come to appreciate taking the rough piece of a tree, cutting it to the size I need, sanding the roughness away so that it has a silky texture and feel to it, staining it a rich color and preserving that color with varnish or polyurethane.

But wood has an ugly side too!

Jesus' life ended on two pieces of wood. The cross of Jesus' day was not finely sanded or stained. It was rough, jagged and splintery. Most of us have seen the movie The Passion of the Christ; now if the graphic bloodletting in it is anywhere near accurate, how painful it must have been for that cross to be placed across Jesus' back and shoulders for His trudging walk to Calvary. Then He is stripped of His garments and placed against the rough, jagged, splintery wood rubbing or grinding on those open festering scourge wounds. **He did this for me and for you!**

Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death but His path began at His birth. He humbled Himself at birth ... we all have read the Christmas story ... "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (KJV – Luke 2:12).

The manger, what a soft sounding, nice word. Most Nativity sets show the Baby Jesus in a hay-filled square wooden box with x supports for the legs. In reality, the manger was a feeding trough where several different kinds of animals went to feed. Animal saliva dripped into it, feed not completely eaten was left to mold, with rodent droppings in it. This is where Mary and Joseph had to lay the Baby Jesus (hopefully they had some clean straw to put in it, but then again maybe not). Humbling to think that our Savior had to start His earthly life this way. How many of us cringe or get a chill just thinking about it? **He did this for me and for you!**

So during these Holy Days and holidays, say a prayer of thanks to and for our King that humbled Himself in the "manger."

Submitted by: Joe Likavec

SCRIPTURE VERSE

Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV) "For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders, and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

SAVE THE DATE

Dec 1 Hanging of the Greens at 8:45 am service

Dec 1 Children's Christmas Program at 10:45 am

Dec 1 Youth Dinner at 5:30 pm

Dec 1 Appalachian Christmas at 7 pm

Dec 4 JAMA Christmas Concert, Trinity Baptist Church, 6:30 pm

Dec 8 Open House at Pastor Karen's

Dec 22 Christmas Cantata

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 8 pm

Dec 29 Combined Worship Service (Christmas Hymns) at 10 am

EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Committee and volunteers had a wonderful time handing out 1,000 oatmeal creme pies at Jonesborough's Haunts and Happenings!



We're already looking forward to our next project - handing out chocolate at the Jonesborough Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 14. Everyone can help donate towards this project. We ask that you send in individually wrapped, peanut free, holiday chocolate and place in the collection bin in the Narthex by Sunday, December 7. Please make sure the chocolate is peanut-free!

Also, all are welcome to come help hand out candy the night of the parade! This is a wonderful way to share God's love at such a joyous event!

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan 8 Wednesday
Night Light begins

Jan 22 African Children's Choir

Jan 24-26 Resurrection
for Youth

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Condolences to Stuart Lumsden on the death of his mother.

(If you have news of births, deaths, awards, etc. that you would like to have published here, please contact the church office.)

JAMA Christmas Concert

Join us on December 4, at 6:30 pm, for our annual JAMA Christmas Concert at Trinity Baptist Church. Beautiful music will be shared by the Jonesborough area choirs and we will collect canned goods and take an offering for the JAMA (Jonesborough Area Ministerial Association) Food Pantry, which serves over 130 families every month.



Our thanks and prayers go out to all our military veterans and their families. Your service and sacrifice are greatly appreciated.

Barnard Davis (US Army) - Susan Miller's nephew

Caleb Wade (US Army) - Rupe & Ella Billions' grandson

Cody Hallberg (US Air Force) - Lee & Nancy Hallberg's grandson

Todd White - (US Army) - Doug & Donna Barnes Bennett's son-in-law

Mickey Teasner (US Navy)

Lauren Bennett (US Army Reserve)

Jake DeMatteo (Army)

Steven David Hunt (US Army Reserve)

Brian Ehlschlager (US Army)

Shawn Allison (US Marines)





HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

On December 1, we will have a special Hanging of the Greens Service at the 8:45 am service. We'll finish decorating the church while learning more about why we use wreaths, poinsettias and certain ornaments during this season of Advent and Christmas. We'll sing Christmas Carols and we'll have a guest appearance from Anna who, like us, was waiting for the Christ child.

Luke 2:36-38: "There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem."

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS GROUP

Our senior fellowship, the CYB group, will have a special luncheon at the Eureka Inn on Thursday, December 12, at noon. We have been asked to get our reservation in by Sunday, December 8. Please contact Larry or Sharon Moore at 423-926-0605 to make your reservation.

Please watch the church bulletin for further details.

Children's Ministry Program

The children's Christmas program, "Sing with Us the Christmas Story", will be Sunday, December 1 during the second service. It will feature narration from scripture and many traditional Christmas songs. The congregation will be participating in all of these songs! Most of you won't even need the hymnal!! The kids have learned several special songs that I know you all will enjoy.

A new project this year, bucket drums, will be introduced. The altar will be filled with Mary, Joseph and a real baby Jesus! There will be angels, shepherds, wise men and of course, animals! Don't miss this performance, it is always special!



APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS

The annual Appalachian Christmas Sing-along will be held on Sunday evening, December 1. It's early this year because there are only four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. During this busy time of year, it feels good to gather and sing the songs of this joyous season. This will be the 25th year that we've joined together in singing, laughing, and celebrating the birth of Jesus. We missed last year due to a snowfall that covered our town.

The youth will be sponsoring a soup and grilled cheese sandwich supper starting at 5:30. A special offering will be taken for Habitat for Humanity.

Mark your calendars and join us for a special time of fellowship. We have so much to be thankful for!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On Saturday, November 16, a group got together to pack the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. As you can see from the pictures below, this was a great success! Thanks to all those who donated and all those who came to help pack the boxes.



JOTS FROM JANE

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May you be well

May you be cleansed and purified of all that isn't health.

May every cell in your body wake up and fight.

May the powerful light of healing move into every part of you.

May you return to being purely you.

May you be well.

By Joanna Fuchs

Blessings,
Jane Turner, Parish Nurse

SISTERS OF FAITH

The Sisters would like to wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We will be celebrating with caroling at Cornerstone Assisted Living on Tuesday, December 10. Our Christmas party will be at Sue Russell's home December 12. We would welcome anyone interested in attending; please contact Claudia Randolph, 423-202-2409, or Pam Ward, 423-948-0905, for more information. We will again be supplying soaps, shampoo, powder, and many other goodies and necessities to Four Oaks Nursing Home. This has become a yearly event for the Sisters.

Remember what the season is all about and reach out to others. This is not always an easy time for many people. Depression, poverty, homelessness, broken homes, and hunger are rampant during the Christmas season. Share a smile, give a hug, slip a surprise into someone's pocket. Make Christmas a little brighter for someone. We are all missionaries, even in our own communities.

Our own Sister, Ruth Grapperhaus, has finished her courses to become a Lay Minister. We congratulate you and are proud of your service to the ministry.

*Claudia Randolph, President
Sisters of Faith*

PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE

Join Joe, Pastor Karen, JJ and Makayla in celebrating this holy season with food and fellowship at the parsonage.

When: Sunday, December 8

Time: 2 – 4 pm

Location: 1016 Allison Drive, Jonesborough

We hope you will join us. We love you all dearly and look forward to this time together!

SARAH MAYES CIRCLE

The Sarah Mayes Circle will gather for their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 10, at noon at the home of Charlene Cleveland. We will have a potluck lunch followed by a fun exchange of gifts (\$10 limit). All women are invited to join us. If you want to ride the church bus, we will leave the parking lot at 11:30 am.

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR RETURNS

Mark your calendars and tell your friends because you are not going to want to miss this. The African Children's Choir is returning to Jonesborough UMC on Wednesday, January 22, to share a concert with us. We will need lots of volunteers.

Five to six families to host the choir

Volunteers to set up the sanctuary for the concert

Volunteers to prepare a meal on Wednesday night

Volunteers to prepare two rooms for the choir to nap in

Volunteers to run the merchandise booth

Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers

It is such a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate these children while supporting them on their journey to make a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. Don't forget – mark your calendar – JANUARY 22!

Busy Hands Supports Many Projects

As Busy Hands completes 2019 projects, we have been very blessed with several new members who sew, knit and crochet to help us expand into other missions.

Locally we continue to provide twiddles (to Alzheimers), adult bib/covers, port pillows (to use on seat belts for those with ports), walker bags, neck pillows, and chemo hats. In addition, we provided ongoing support with hats/scarves, and blankets to the V.A., children, nursing homes, the homeless, and Family Promise.

Once again, Niswonger Children's Hospital requested additional isolette covers for the tiniest at-risk preemies. The covers are very labor-intensive requiring three layers to help keep the inside dark and deaden machine sounds. The sewing ladies have again accepted the challenge.

This year, Busy Hands stepped up to help with the Operation Christmas Children Shoebox mission by sewing, knitting or crocheting various items. The ladies made dresses, boys shorts, soap sacks/washcloths, little dolls with blankets, small totes, bracelets, hair clips and head bands ... totaling nearly *300 items*!



YOUTH NEWS

It's hard to believe Thanksgiving is almost upon us. I find myself so very thankful about so many things. We have watched God do miracle after miracle. Thank you, Father.

December will find the youth busy. On December 1, we'll start off with Appalachian Christmas. The meal starts at 5:30 with a donation to Habitat for Humanity. This is a great way to start the Christmas Season.

On Sunday, December 8, we'll go shopping for our angels after late church. Bring money for lunch. We'll come back to the youth house to wrap all the gifts, and should be done by 3 pm.

We'll go out to eat as a group on Sunday, December 15. We will leave the church at 5:30. I need to know if you will be going by December 1.

On December 22, we welcome Family Promise families. We need to be here at 4:30 to help get our new friends all settled in.

December 29 will be our "White Elephant" party at the Johnsons. Make sure to bring a gift. We will leave the church at 6 and return by 9. Don't forget that Resurrection is January 24-26. The cost is \$40. The money needs to be in by December 8.

May each one of you have a Blessed Christmas.

*Merry Christmas,
Miss Mary Ann*



MONTHLY MISSION DECEMBER

Wesley Foundation, on the campus of ETSU, is a Christian-based place where students can meet. They can share a meal on Tuesday evenings provided by various area United Methodist churches. Jonesborough UMC feeds them at least twice a year.

Wesley Foundation also provides a worship service on Tuesday evenings that includes, among other things, music by a Praise band, and Communion. They also have some Bible study groups. This year, under the direction of their new Director, Reverend Caleb Frazier, they are offering a group for freshman and transfer students called Freshly.

There are many different ways in which Wesley Foundation helps to serve the needs of several ETSU students. We hope to have a few students visit us on a Sunday soon to share more information.

JAMA Item for DECEMBER



Please give generously
to

Jonesborough Area
Ministerial Association.

Jonesborough United Methodist Church

PO Box 115, Jonesborough, TN 37659