

# Andrew Chapel UMC

Winter 2011

Loving God, Following Christ, Serving Others

## Celebrate Christmas with Us!

The Advent and Christmas season mark the beginning of a new Christian Year, as well as offer many opportunities for worship and service. Here are some of this season's highlights.

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|     | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAYS</b></p> <p>8:45 a.m..... Prayer &amp; Praise<br/>           9:30 a.m. .... Sunday School<br/>           10:30 a.m. .... Fellowship<br/>           11:00 a.m. .... Worship<br/>           6:00 p.m. ....HS Youth</p> |    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Eve Services</b></p> <p>5:00pm Family worship &amp; Children's Pageant<br/>           11:00pm Traditional Worship &amp; candle lighting<br/>           Both will feature Holy Communion</p>  |
|     | <p>Among the many activities of the season, you will want to participate in our annual <b>Progressive Dinner</b> on Dec.3th. Sign up on the bulletin board to join us!</p>  |    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Almost Angels and Youth Bake Sale</b></p> <p>Our 4th-7th graders and Youth (8th-12th) will have a bake sale for various mission projects of the church.</p>  |
|    | <p>Join us for the Greening of the Church on Saturday morning, <b>Dec. 3</b>, at 10:00.</p> <p>The poinsettias arrive and will be on display <b>Dec. 9th</b>.</p>   |   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ring the Bell at the Great Falls Safeway.</b></p> <p>This is great for the family. Check with the office for more information on how you can participate.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Dec 4th: Second Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>Holy Communion at both services. The 11am service will have a special lesson on Chrismons for the children</p>  |  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Look for our "Giving" tree</b></p> <p>found in the Sunday School entrance. Gifts benefit Rising Hope UMC in Arlington for the poor and homeless. Help decorate our Mitten and Hat Tree for RedBird Mission.</p>  |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 11th</b></p> <p>The 11am service will feature our own Andrew Chapel Handbell Choir The Cherub choir (K &amp; 1st grade) and the newly formed 2-3rd grade choir will also perform.</p>                              |  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alternative Gifts</b></p> <p>Find the perfect gift for the person that has everything or honor or remember a loved one. An alternative gift is truly a special offering. The alternative gift table can be found inside the Sunday School entrance <b>December 4th thru Dec. 18th</b>. Choose to give a designated amount to selected UMCOR initiatives, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer International or Gleaning for the World.</p> |
|   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special Music</b></p> <p>On <b>December 18th</b>, at 11am worship, our choir will present <i>Christ is Born: Special Music with Brass and Percussion</i>.</p>   |  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Eve Offerings</b></p> <p>Christmas Eve worship services, will include a special offering for Rising Hope mission. On Christmas morning you and your children can wake to see how much Jesus got for his birthday on our website.</p>   |
|   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Youth</b></p> <p>Dec.4th Dee Tree Party<br/>           Dec. 11th Youth meet at Church<br/>           Dec. 18th Caroling &amp; Christmas Party<br/>           Dec. 25th no youth</p>   |  |  |



## Making Peace After 9/11

"Making peace after 9/11" is the story of the denomination-wide effort of the people of the United Methodist Church to help those affected by the attacks.

In a series of stories, commentaries, video and audio pieces that revisit many of those called to action that day, this presentation from Sept. 5 to Sept. 14 explains what the people of the church did and how their work changed their lives as well. The package can be found at <http://umc.org/911/>.

One of those people is the Rev. Myrna Bethke, who lost her younger brother in the twin towers but refuses to seek revenge and has become internationally known as a tireless worker for peace. A video story about Rev. Bethke is available at <http://goo.gl/weQfJ>.

The Rev. Chuck Ferrara, a former NYPD officer who had become a United Methodist minister, found himself on Sept. 11 in the middle of the rubble of what once were the very streets he patrolled.

Donna Glessner, a homemaker in Shanksville, Pa., wondered why her house shook that day only to learn a plane had crashed nearby. Since then, Glessner has made sure the "heroes of Flight 93" are honored and remembered as she continues to offer support to the families of those who died in the crash. A video story about the United Methodist ambassadors at the Shanksville site is available at <http://goo.gl/Hmlu3>.

These are only a few of the stories from United Methodists who were motivated to do whatever they could. Their efforts changed them and changed the church.

United Methodist News Service reporter Linda Bloom writes that "The United Methodist Committee on Relief mobilized its resources and worked with relief agencies and other denominations to come to the immediate aid of people who in the New York, New Jersey and Pentagon corridor areas either lost someone in the attacks or lost jobs because of the destruction.

"United Methodists donated \$20.8 million to a fund — aptly named 'Love in the Midst of Tragedy' — designed to create a response across the denomination to the Sept. 11 attacks on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Practical lessons learned through 'Love in the Midst of Tragedy' helped UMCOR expand its capabilities in ways that became apparent in the denomination's response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005."

From Sept. 5 through Sept. 14, United Methodist News Service will continue to tell the stories of its people and 9/11.

The stories, along with links to other resources, appear at <http://umc.org/>. All stories are available for republication without charge. For information, contact: Fran Walsh or Maggie Hillery, (615) 742-5400.



## Andrew Chapel UMC Youth

The youth group is off and running this year with a bevy of amazing activities for you to be a part of.

We've already gotten into the swing of things with some great whiffleball and kickball here at ACUMC Youth. We've also gone deep as we've discussed how we live our faith out at school...do we shun those who don't believe as we do? We're gearing up for some events coming soon, but we're also living in the moment, and trying to focus on today.

During the Fall, we will be focusing many of our service projects on hunger in the Northern Virginia and DC area. We will be participating in the CROP Walk in Vienna on Sunday November 13th, raising awareness about hunger in our immediate Vienna area. We will be volunteering at the DC Capital Food Bank on December 10th for a limited number of students. All of this will be leading up to

the annual Souper Bowl of Caring in January.

Special trips we are planning include an epic ski trip to a point unknown. We prefer a point that is near a mountain that is covered in snow though. Long range, we're looking an overnight trip to the ocean during the Spring and a camping trip in the Spring as well.

Mission trips are returning this year. We're in the works in getting a spot with Jeremiah Project. The Jeremiah Project is a home-repair ministry specializing in providing short-term mission trips for middle school student participants. We do not have a date yet, but this will be released soon. For our high schoolers, we'll be returning to the very popular MFuge event. Again, our site and date is yet to be determined but parents, be on the lookout for this as we plan together.

And let's not forget about the unabashed fun that is to be had. Lock-ins at the church, bowling trips, and laser tag all are coming. So too will be the first annual Nerf Bowl (ACUMC's version of the Super Bowl) and a trip to the 2nd scariest Haunted House in the country. All this and more is upcoming.

So if you like laughing, if you like discussing the meaning of Christ in the lives of youth, or if you just like swinging a hammer, I promise you we can use you in the Youth Group. So come on by! And don't worry...I promise you we don't talk about Justin Bieber all the time.

~Will~



## PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH



We are restarting this church's connection the Jeremiah Project, a summer week spent by middle schoolers in service to the community and world. It is a life-changing event. However, in order to go we need middle school youth to sign up.

Possible dates are July 15-21 in Winchester, VA or August 5-11.

Please see Will Waller for information or email him at [intern@andrewchapelumc.org](mailto:intern@andrewchapelumc.org).

Dear Members and Friends of the Andrew Chapel Congregation,

As we prepare for the joyous Christmas season that soon will be upon us, the Staff Parish Committee wants to make you aware of an opportunity you have to make a cash contribution to the Andrew Chapel **Staff Christmas Fund**. The Fund is used in its entirety each year to provide Christmas bonuses to the staff employees of Andrew Chapel UMC.

We continue to enjoy the benefit of experienced staff members who work side by side with the congregation to make Andrew Chapel the church we love. As you know, our paid staff members are John Morris, Pastor; Jennifer Mielo-Shook, Office Manager; Bob Leggett, Choir Director; John Gordon, mechanical engineer; Lee Jeong Hee, Organist; Angelica Rodriguez, Custodian, and Kim Marsh, Nursery Supervisor. Nursery attendants who work with us on a regular basis are also eligible to receive a small Christmas bonus from the fund.

Due to continuing budget challenges, we are unable to provide salary increases for our staff members for the fourth year in a row. Therefore, as your individual situation may permit, we ask that you consider a gift to the Staff Christmas Fund. Without exception, each of our staff members is dedicated to the mission of Andrew Chapel. This is our chance, as congregation members, to show an extra measure of our appreciation for their work.

Please place your contribution of cash in an envelope marked "Staff Christmas Gift Fund" or make a notation on the memo line of your check made out to Andrew Chapel UMC. Your envelope or check may be placed in the Sunday morning collection plate between now and Sunday, December 18 or given directly to John Jarrett (Staff Parish Chair) or Keith Montgomery (Church Council Chair).

Thank you for your consideration. May the Spirit of Christ be with you and your family.

Sincerely,

John Jarrett  
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson



LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,



WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL – Matthew 22:37

FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,

THERE WILL BE YOUR HEART ALSO – Matthew 6:21

**IT'S BEGUN!** Sunday, November 6 marked the kickoff of our 2012 stewardship opportunity and, by now, everyone should have received a letter from me about it. If you didn't, please let me know – we certainly don't want to leave anybody out! 2011 has been a good year, especially if everyone is able to fulfill their pledges by December 31, and I think 2012 will be even better thanks to all of you! As you may have seen on one of the bulletin boards in the hallway, we have a large empty heart – the visual representation of our theme. Let's work on getting our "heart" filled by December 4 so that we can look forward to next year full of confidence that we can do even more of God's work both within our walls and out in our community. This year's special project, is actually two projects—a new A/C system for the parsonage, as well as new windows for Orrison Hall, which estimates put at about \$40,000 combined. Please prayerfully consider the part you would like to play in Andrew Chapel's dreams this year and then return your estimate of giving card on Commitment Sunday, Dec. 4th or sooner. Thank you!!



Sincerely, Alison Combes, 2011 Stewardship Chair



## *Christmas Lesson for the Salt Shakers*

Jesus said that we are the "salt of the earth" and the children at the 8:45 am Sunday service have been given the nickname Salt Shakers because they clap and use shakers as we sing along during this service. They make a joyful contribution to our worship first service. Here is a special section of our newsletter just for them.

### *Where Is Your Heart?*

You probably don't have a checkbook, but your mom and dad do. Most of us don't like to carry a lot of money around with us, so we put our money in the bank and when we need to buy something, we just write a check or use our ATM card to pay for it. It is very important to keep track of all of the times we use a check or our ATM card so that we don't spend more money than we have in the bank and we know where we spent our money.

You can tell what is really important to a person by looking at their checkbook and bank statement and how they spend their money. In one brief look you can learn if someone loves to eat, if they have a pet or if they like to rent videos.

Jesus once said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The heart is a symbol for love, isn't it? So what Jesus was saying is that you can tell what a person really loves by what he treasures the most. How do you know what a person treasures the most? Do you ask them what the most important thing is in their life? No, there are two ways you can tell what is most important to a person. The first is how they spend their money and the second is how they spend their time.

If we say that we love God, but spend every cent we have on ourselves, do we love God or self? If we say that we love God, but we never spend any time with Him, do we really love Him? Jesus said that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. If we say that we love our neighbor but we never share what God has given us with them, do we really love our neighbor? You don't learn what a person's treasure is by asking them. You learn by watching how they spend their time and their money. Look at the things you spend your time and money on and then ask yourself, "What do I treasure? Where is my heart?"

We need to make sure that our heart is in the right place. Show your love for Jesus and for one another in the way you spend your time and your money.

Adapted from 2011 Sermons4kids, Inc. © 2001





*Thank you from Hazelle Tigner's Family.*

We want to thank everyone for all of the kindnesses shown during Diana's mother's illness and death. It was wonderful to receive all the good wishes, kind thoughts, healing comments & prayers for the spirit & heart. Also thank you for the food, flowers and offers to help for our physical side. The Prayer Chain was the source of cancel & comfort - Thank You each of you! The Care Committee was unbelievable! Shan Stavish made one or 2 calls to us and magically everything else was done AND done amazingly well. To each of you on the Care Committee, especially Shan, Thank You for making a difficult time flow with ease I am sure if God keeps score all of you on both teams are way ahead!!!

When someone is old & ill the head knows what is happening but the heart doesn't believe it. When it is all over you are left in a confusing daze. Knowing there are people like you waiting to welcome you back into life and the real world makes it so much easier.

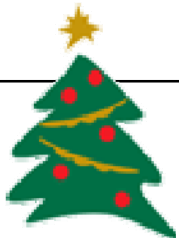
Thank you all for being there!

## **PROGRESSIVE DINNER, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3**



Come One! Come All! Please come to our annual holiday Progressive Dinner on Saturday, December 3, beginning at 6 P.M. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food, good fellowship and a good time! The event is for adults only and we 'progress' to 3 houses; the PRUETTS for appetizers, the GREMS for a main dish and the ISAACS for dessert.

Do plan on coming and sign up on the sheet in the narthex. If you want more information, please call Carol Blackwell on (703) 430-0095.



## Special Worship during the Advent Season



10am as we decorate the church for the season. Many hands make light work. Then on **Sunday, the 4th** the children will receive a special lesson on the **Chrismon ornaments** that hang on our Christmas tree. The sanctuary will be full of poinsettias by **Sunday, the 11th**, just in time for two very special additions to our service. The **Andrew Chapel Hand bell Choir** will play which is a real treat. **The Children's Choir** will also sing. The Cherub Choir (Kindergarten and 1st grade) and our new choir of 2nd-3rd graders will be sure to make you smile. The Fourth Sunday in advent, **December 18th**, will be a special service, *Christ is Born: Special Music with Brass and Percussion*. We will listen to our beautiful chancel choir and join in as we recall the Christmas story. Let's not forget the **Christmas pageant at 5 pm on Christmas Eve**. Outfitting for costumes and practice will be after church at noon on Dec. 11th and 18th. Any child is welcome to participate. Who would dare miss all the little angels helping us understand the true meaning of Christmas? In addition, **holy communion** will be held at the **5 pm family service**. **At 11pm on Christmas Eve** a **traditional candlelight service** and holy communion will be held. **Christmas Sunday and New Years Day** there will be no Sunday school and we will hold only one service at 11am. I know I'll be there! Joyous Noel to all, and to all a good night.



**Cherub Choir**



*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICE



## Happy Birthday Jesus!

This time of year it's time to remember that Christmas "is not your birthday." It is amazing how this phrase has reoriented the holiday for so many. Our Christmas Eve offering will be a way to honor Christ's birthday and celebrate his presence in our lives by blessing people in need in the community. This year we will dedicate the Christmas Eve offering to Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church.

## I GIVE HIM?

Rising Hope ministers in the name of Christ to the spiritual and practical needs of the most at-risk people on the Route 1 Corridor south of Alexandria, including the many broken, homeless and destitute we are called to serve. Programs include: emergency assistance and referrals, drop-in center, transportation, job counseling, after-school programs and advocacy as well as food and clothing distribution. They recently had mold in their Food Pantry due to a faulty air-conditioning system and had to remove it and re-build.

We plan to post the total offering on our website by the time you wake up on Christmas day so you can see what we at Andrew Chapel UMC gave to honor Jesus' birthday. We hope you and your family will take this opportunity to share with us in celebrating the birth of our savior, Jesus and reflect on the deeper meaning of Christmas.





## Recipes FROM Church Members

### **Blueberry-Chicken Wild Rice Salad Submitted by Lisa Smith**

1/2 C slivered almonds, lightly toasted  
2 C blueberries, washed and drained  
1/4 tsp. sugar  
1/2 tsp. chopped fresh tarragon  
Salt and ground black pepper to taste  
2 C cooked wild rice, or wild-and-white rice combina-  
tion  
1 C cooked and diced chicken or turkey breast meat

For the salad dressing: 1/2 C orange juice, 2 T white wine vinegar, 1 T chopped flat-leaf parsley

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place slivered almonds on a rimmed baking sheet and bake for 5 to 7 minutes, until lightly toasted. Transfer nuts to a cool plate so they don't continue to brown in the hot baking sheet. In a large bowl, combine blueberries, sugar, tarragon, and salt and pepper to taste. Stir well, and let stand for 15 minutes. Add the rice, chicken, and toasted almonds.

In a small bowl, whisk together the orange juice, vinegar, and parsley. Pour over the blueberry-rice mixture and stir well. Refrigerate salad until meal time. Serves 4 people.



## Christmas Recipes

### **Cranberry Chicken Submitted by Cathey Frei**

8 chicken breasts (I used boneless, skinless)  
1 8-oz. bottle French Dressing  
1 can whole cranberry sauce  
1 pkg. Lipton's onion soup mix

Place chicken in 9X13 baking dish.

Mix together: French dressing, cranberry sauce, and onion soup mix. Pour over the chicken. You can marinate this overnight to let the flavors soak in. The next day, take the dish out and allow it to warm to room temperature or you can go ahead and bake at 350° for approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes.

Best made a day ahead so the flavors can blend overnight.

You can cut into diagonally cut halves and serve the extra sauce on the side for buffet servings.

## **Gingersnap Cookies** **Submitted by Laura Bumpus**

2 cups sifted flour  
1 TBSP ground ginger  
2 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 tsp salt  
3/4 cup shortening (I use sticks of butter)  
1 cup white sugar  
1 egg  
1/4 cup molasses  
1/3 cinnamon sugar



Cinnamon sugar:  
1/4 cup sugar mixed with 1 TBSP cinnamon.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Sift the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon and salt into a mixing bowl. Stir the mixture to blend. Then, sift it all a second time into another bowl.

Place the shortening (butter) into a bowl and beat until creamy. Gradually add the white sugar. Add the egg and molasses and beat until smooth.

Add the flour mixture and shortening mixture together. A soft dough will form. Roll dough into 1 inch diameter balls. Roll each ball in cinnamon sugar and place 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet.

Bake about 10-12 minutes. Cool cookies on a wire rack



### ***Pumpkin Dip***

## **Pumpkin Dip**

1-8 oz. cream cheese (reduced fat preferred)  
2 cup powdered sugar OR 1-1/4 cup Splenda  
1-15 oz. can pumpkin  
1 rounded tsp. cinnamon  
1 rounded 1/2 tsp. ground ginger  
Can add ground fresh nutmeg if you wish

Mix cream cheese & sweetener with mixer  
Add pumpkin and beat again  
Add spices. Mix thoroughly. **Refrigerate overnight.**

Buy pears early enough to allow for ripening.  
Cut up apples and pears and serve ginger snap cookies for dipping.

# Andrew Chapel Missions

## Let's Be Angels and Open Our Hearts To Others!

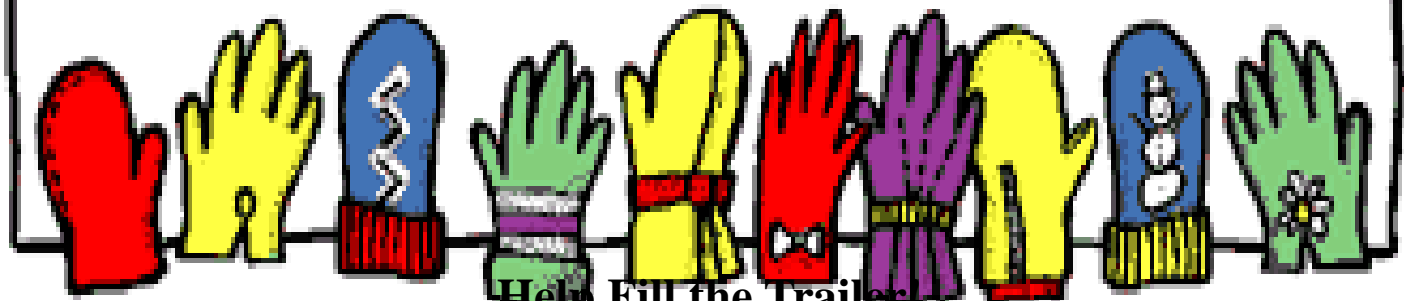
Please look for our Christmas "Angel" tree found in the Narthex. ANGELS represent gifts for Rising Hope UMC in Arlington for the poor and homeless. Each angel has a special request that from an adult or child. To participate, select an angel from the tree and ask the Missions volunteer to write your name next to the requested item. Then, purchase the item, wrap it, and secure the angel tag to the package. Place bring your gift to the church office by December 4th. The gifts will then be delivered to Rising Hope. Please see Linda Austin if you have any questions. It's that easy...and filled with God's love too!

# Angel Tree



## Tree Trimming Time!

Starting December 4th, please bring new hats, gloves, socks, mittens and scarves for children and adults to decorate our Education entrance Christmas tree. All items collected will be sent to Red Bird Missions where the Winter season is very cold! We will be collecting these items through all of December. Thank you!



Help Fill the Trailer!



Art for Humanity is collecting items to ship to Honduras. Help us fill the trailer by Dec. 4th. Items most needed are: shoes (shoes paired together by tying or rubberbanding or placing in a plastic bag), sheets, towels, working laptops, good analog TVs, and adult bicycles in good working order. Items can be placed under the coat racks, or see Suzanne Buchko or Linda Austin.

Because this is a mission of love, we only want items in very good condition. Share your love and compassion by sharing quality items this holiday season.

## Can't Find That Perfect Gift?

Finding the right gift for a loved one can be a challenge. Whether you want to find the perfect gift for the person that has everything or honor or remember a loved one, an alternative gift is truly a special offering. The alternative gift table can be found inside the Sunday School entrance each Sunday from December 4th thru Dec. 18th. Choose to give a designated amount to selected UMCOR initiatives, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer International or Gleaning for the World. Make a difference in the lives of others and touch the heart of your recipient.



## Ongoing Mission Collections

Please remember our ongoing collections of the following items. Leave all donations by the missions cupboard.

**FOOD FOR OTHERS:** If you would like to serve in this ministry, please contact Ann Montgomery at [kadsmont@aol.com](mailto:kadsmont@aol.com) or 703-242-2224.

**ACUMC FOOD PANTRY:** Canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned meats, pastas, spaghetti sauce, cereals, soups/stews, peanut butter & jelly (Please no expired foods)

## BOY SCOUT FOOD COLLECTION TOTALS

Cub Scout Pack 1128 Totals: 3,700 pound of food.

Boy Scout Troop 1128: 3,800 pounds of food.

Delivered to Food for Others @ Prosperity , the food pantry that ACUMC supports.

Boy Scouts: 33 participated last Saturday, 50 participated this Saturday, for a total of 166 service hrs.

Adults: 25 participated last Saturday, 26 participated this Saturday, for a total of 102 service Hrs.

We collected from 1300 homes & the Safeway on Anderson Rd, McLean. In addition other scouts in our Chain Bridge District collected 75,777 pounds for a grand total of 79,577 or nearly 40 tons of food.

# A Thanksgiving Blessing

Tyler sees his new little sister for the first time.



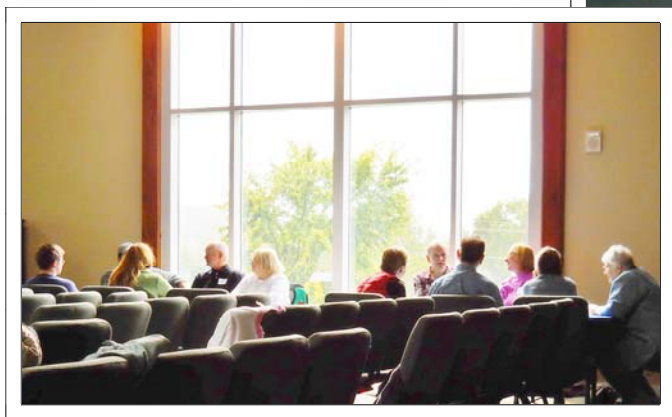
# October Potluck





Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Matthew 22: 37-39: 37

Loving God, loving others and loving ourselves was the focus of the Fall Retreat. We had a good time relaxing together and getting to know each other as we thought more about loving God, loving others and loving ourselves. Rick Dawson, Director of Camp Highroad led the program and challenged us to find an opportunity to grow in our faith with small groups. The success of this retreat has inspired more opportunities for us. Look for a Women’s Retreat weekend coming in March 2012.



## Andrew Chapel's 150 Year History



Don Ellison had compiled, authored, and edited the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of the “Andrew Chapel's 150 Year History (1854-2004)” Book a few years ago, with special credit to Ann his wonderful wife of 63 years for her help in organizing and compiling this document. Due to the depletion of that supply, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the book will be reprinted at a cost of \$20 per book. If anyone in the congregation is interested in having his/her own copy please pre-order your copies by 10 November 2011 by contacting Don Ellison at 703-938-3325 or e-mail him at: [dnae.1@juno.com](mailto:dnae.1@juno.com).

# PRESCHOOL & MDO NEWS

The Preschool & MDO are now focusing on all of the joy that the Christmas season brings!

Barbara Effron, the storyteller, will be visiting us to share some wonderful holiday stories. We always look forward to her visits. Mrs. Idol will also have a special Chapel Time, where all of the classes will learn about the Christmas story and we will celebrate Jesus' birthday!

The children are busy elves making projects and special gifts for parents. We will share them at our annual Christmas Luncheons on Wednesday, December 14th, for MTWF & MWTHF (4s) and the 5 Day Class. On Thursday, December 15th, the TTHF (3s) and the TWTH 3s will have their program with a little help from the 5 Day Class. The children are learning songs and practicing their parts for our production of the Christmas story, which will be presented in our church sanctuary. We are happy to welcome our Preschool families for our program and lunch on those days. The children will be enjoying the KD



Puppets Christmas Show at the beginning of that week on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Friday, December 16th, will be our last day of school for both the Preschool and MDO before Christmas vacation.

Our Christmas break will be from December 19, 2011 through January 2, 2012. Preschool and MDO will be closed during that time. We will resume classes on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Everyone at the Preschool and MDO wishes you a safe and happy holiday!

The preschool has big plans for 2012! We are planning to replace the large piece of equipment on the playground (hopefully over Spring Break). We have some funds to do this, but we are asking our families for an "end of the year donation" to help fund all of the work that we will be doing on the playground. It will be a wonderful addition that will benefit the preschool and the church. All donations to the preschool for this purpose are much appreciated!

Linda Idol  
Preschool Director

## For Your Information and Prayerful Consideration:

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| Received as of 11/20/2011: \$275,145 |
| Annual Pledges: \$300,770            |
| Annual Budget: \$384,687             |

## Notes from the Church Gadfly December 2011

*There is a kind of contagion that affects the imagination unconsciously much more than we realize. It emanates from things like advertisements and from all the spurious fantasies that are thrown at us by our commercial society. These fantasies are deliberately intended to exercise a powerful effect on our conscious and subconscious minds. They are directed right at our instincts and appetites and there is no question but that they exercise a real transforming power on our whole psychic structures. The contemplative life should liberate us from that kind of pressure, which is really a form of tyranny. **Thomas Merton***



Every year around Christmas, I feel this contagion seeping into my psyche from all the media-TV, radio, ads in papers, and catalogues...all those catalogues..... And Merton was on to something. In *The Tell Tale Brain*, by V.S.



Ramachandran, this eminent neurosurgeon explores the nature of self-awareness in his examination of autism and synesthesia. The discussion and importance of mirror neurons, those reactive parts of our brain which record and in some way absorb and mime what we see around us, clearly illustrate how we become what we see and hear. Part of being, or perhaps I should say, *becoming* human is to empathize with others. This is the basis of compassion. Dr. Ramachandran believes it is some failure in the mirror neurons of autistics that precludes their normal self-awareness and thus an inability to empathize as well.

Meanwhile, we “normal” humans go about absorbing all the cultural messages in our environment and can well end by believing that ***materialism is the core of reality***. God, the Holy Spirit, is the ground of our being. The more time we spend in scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation (Be still and know that I am God.), the clearer it is that we are spiritual beings in a physical world. And most of what quantum physics has revealed about reality confirms our inability to “know” the physical world anyway.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, spent with your loved ones.

## **DECEMBER**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – 10am: Greening of the Church

Youth - Baking

6pm - Progressive dinner

**4<sup>th</sup>** – 11am: Children's Chrismons lesson

Alternative Gifts table begins (through 18<sup>th</sup>)

Almost Angels (4-7 grade) and Youth Bake Sale

6pm: Youth (8th-12th grades) – Dee Tree Party

**10<sup>th</sup>**— 9 am-noon—Youth: Capitol Area Food Bank

**11<sup>th</sup>** – 11am: Bell Choir and Children's Choir

Noon: Christmas eve children's pageant rehearsal

6pm: Youth—Middle and Senior High

**18<sup>th</sup>** –

11am: *Christ is Born: Special Music  
with Brass and Percussion*

Noon: Christmas eve children's pageant rehearsal

**6pm:** Youth Caroling and Christmas Party

**24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve

Children arrive early to get into costumes

5pm – Family Worship and Children's pageant

11pm – Traditional Service and Holy Communion

**25<sup>th</sup>** & January 1st- 11am service only, no Sunday School,  
no youth group



# December

**ANDREW  
CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1301 TRAP ROAD  
VIENNA, VA 22182**

*Loving God, Following Christ, Serving Others*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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This newsletter is published quarterly for members and friends of Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church.

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**Staff:**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rev. John B. Morris      | Pastor                  |
| Ms. Jennifer Mielo-Shook | Office Manager          |
| Will Waller              | Seminary Intern         |
| Mr. Robert Leggett       | Music Director          |
| Ms. Lee Jeong Hee        | Organist                |
| Mrs. Kim Sayer-Marsh     | Nursery Director        |
| Mrs. Linda Idol          | Director, Preschool/MDO |