

Glad Tidings

For unto us a child is born and
he shall be called wonderful,
counselor, the mighty God, the
Everlasting Father, the Prince
of Peace.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

In Whistling in the Dark (HarperOne), Frederick Buechner compares Advent to the moments right before a symphony conductor raises the baton to begin a much-anticipated performance. "You hold your breath to listen," he writes. "You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

During December, silence can seem elusive, Buechner admits. But "if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world holding its breath."

As we have been jolted once again into a season we know comes every year and yet, we never seem to be ready, may we hear the words of Buechner and hold our breath for a bit to listen. May each of us have a sense of the love of God through the rebirth of the Savior in our hearts this year.

Merry Christmas! Joy and Peace to you all

**The Newsletter of the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian
Church and the Makemie Presbyterian Church**

December 2015



SESSION DIGEST from Clerk of Session NMPC...

Nuts and Bolts:

- The Stewardship solicitation letter and pledge form have been distributed.
- Christmas bonuses for the staff were approved.
- The carpets have been cleaned but were so dirty, they will be done again by Joe's Gang.
- Approval was given to repair windows and the church sign.

Mission:

- The Joy Offering will be collected in December.
- Mission expenditures will be completed by the end of the month.
- Christmas Dinner will be provided to G.F. Horne on December 17. Come help!

Presence:

- Acolytes will be trained by Michele Van Hove and resume in January.
- Adult Sunday School will study "Why This Jubilee" during Advent.

Community:

- The second Advent Wreath Workshop will be at Market Street United Methodist Church on December 6. The first was successful. Advent devotions are available in the Makemie Room.

Moderator:

- Rev. Gould expressed her thanks for the study leave on the future of the global church.
- At the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia meeting, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth G. Hendricks was elected General Presbyter and a 3 year extension of operations at Makemie Woods was approved after considerable debate.
- Birthdays will be celebrated once a month on the second Sunday by listing names in the bulletin rather than by singing.
- The Goulds will host an open house at the manse on December 15 at 5 PM.
- The installation of new Ruling Elders is planned for January 10 during worship.
- A Session Retreat is tentatively scheduled for January 16 at the Ryon Retreat Center. It will start at 9 AM with worship, training and a major emphasis on planning for 2016. Committee Chairs are also invited.

Clerk:

- Approval was given to the resignation of Evelyn Gibb. Membership is now 46. The average attendance for the month of October was 40.

Treasurer:

- The insurance policy review was completed and the same vendors and coverage will be sustained in 2016.
- Session approved the \$4,800 Housing Allowance for 2016 for the Pastor. At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on December 13, the entire Pastor's Financial Package will be presented for approval.
- The NMPC Corporation Financial Management Committee was directed to move up to \$9,500 from the Belote Mission Trust to the church checking account in December 2015.

Nominations:

- At the Congregational Meeting, the Nominations Committee will move Tom Nielsen, George Heinrichs and Anne Barnes as Ruling Elders for the Class of 2018.

NMPC Youth Sunday School

The young people have just finished the fall lessons on the *Miracles of Jesus*. December will be devoted to getting ready for the Sunday Pageant on December 20th. In January they will be starting on a study of the *Parables of Jesus*. The schedule will remain the same. First Sunday in church, second and fourth Sundays will be lessons. The third Sunday will be music lessons and practice with Michelle .

MPC News...

The congregational meeting approved the pastor portion of the budget for 2016 and the new name for the church-Francis Makemie Presbyterian Church. This decision now goes to the January 23rd Presbytery of Eastern Virginia assembly meeting for the final decision.

At the congregational meeting and as part of the worship service, discussion was held to respond to several questions about the hopes and goals of the church. The questions are hanging in the kitchen and people are invited to stop by and continue to add responses to the questions.

Café Church to be held at 9:15 a.m. is one outcome from the congregational discussion and conversation.

Here is the December invitation: Special series for **ADVENT: PAUSING ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM**-come join in an interactive worship experience as we grow deeper in faith. We have a seat waiting just for you. And a cup of coffee.

Children's Christmas program will be December 20th at 9:15. The Littlest Star!

Celebrate a traditional Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve at 11pm at Makemie in Accomac with communion and candlelight in a more formal approach to greet Christmas morning as we ring the bells at midnight.

Mission: The congregation is supporting two families from the Lighthouse Ministries. If you would like to participate please stop by the church to pick up an angel or contact Wanda Hughes.

Faith Meets Life Men's Group

All men are invited to gather on Dec. 18th from 9 till 10 a.m.. We will chat about thoughts and concerns in reference to Luke 1: 39-55 and Hebrews 10: 5-10. This group of men gathers to discuss any number of things, but we do so knowing that what is spoken in church stays in church. Come and join the discussion or simply come and listen. The point is we simply would like the men of the church to join together.

If you have any questions please give me a call. 789-3303 Grace and Peace, Howard

Joe's Gang

Joe's Gang cleaned the first floor carpeting in November - hope you can see the difference! However, the floor in the Makemie Room still needs a second cleaning. We will be scheduling a special time in January to redo the Makemie room and the second floor. We are planning to make this an event for some of our young folks who attend Broadwater to meet their community service requirements. More details will be provided later.

Stewardship Thoughts

The month of November has many special moments. Decisions must be made. In the world of Stewardship new activities for 2016 are being scheduled while several 2015 financial needs still exist. The function of our stewardship drive is to ensure we cover the entire cost to operate NMPC from maintenance to mission and all functions in between. Our future looks bright. We are growing in attendance, activities and our spirit of enthusiasm. The key to our future success lies in the amount of financial support we can generate during this stewardship drive. If we work together, pray together, and stretch our giving together, we can look back on 2015 as the last year we had to borrow money from our endowment to keep the doors open and our ministry having a positive impact. If you have not completed the pledge form, please do so. If you are concerned about the word "pledge," feel free to change it to "estimate" on the form. We need everyone to participate.

What's been happening this fall...

The Annual Chili Cook off was won by Rick Arvidson and was presented with the NMPC "Silver Serving Ladle". \$500 was given to the Foodbank to mark this church mission effort.



Rev. Monica again hosted a fun time in the front of the church on Halloween Night. Seen here is "Bumble Bee" Monica with Quinn, Chris and Carter Ames. Wow! She ran out of candy this year!



Joe's Gang on their last work day shampooed the carpeting on the 1st floor. Although a good job was done, it was decided to do the Makemie room again in January. This turned out to be a 2 doughnut work day!

The Holiday Season Special Events



Christmas Open House at the Manse Tuesday

December 15th from 5-8pm. Please come and stop by the manse at 1 Holly Street. Mike and I are looking forward to spending the evening with each of you from both congregations. We are hoping our neighbors and other we know will be there too. We do hope you will have time to come by for five minutes or more. We'll keep the lights on and the food coming.

G F Horne Christmas Dinner on December 17th

We will be preparing all day and serving at 5:00 pm at G F Horne. If you want to help please check out the signup sheets in the Makemie Room. Can't be there to help - we can always use financial support to offset the cost. Not sure what you can do - let Cada Grove know and he will help you find a spot to help.

Christmas Caroling and Party December 20th



Yes! another year of the NMPC singers and maybe this year some MPC singers will be venturing out to sing to shut ins, at the Hermitage, and at any place else that we can get invited. After the caroling we will all head to Rick Turner's house for a party to help celebrate the wonders of Christmas. We will be meeting at NMPC at 4:30 to warm up and get organized (we need a lot of that).

The Christmas Services Planned

Combined Choir and Youth program on **December 20th.**

The planning is done, the script is written. All we need now is everyone's support in getting ready for the 20th. As Rev Monica said at our planning meeting *"think lots of shepherds and angels on stage at the same time"*, so that's what is going to happen. We need help with:

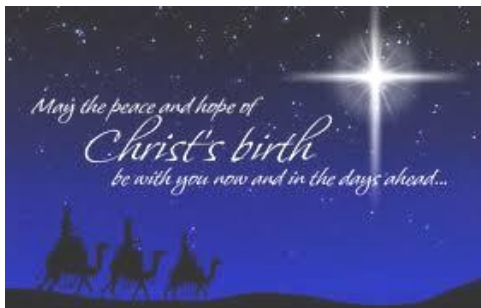
- ! set design and construction
- ! costumes - lots of angels and shepherds (especially staffs)
- ! the rehearsal
- ! *and a lot of stuff we haven't listed!*

Please see Monica or Cada Grove if you want to help.



The
Best
Christmas
Pageant
Ever. ★

Christmas Eve Worship Services



Celebrate Christmas Eve early at 7 pm at Naomi Makemie in Onancock with a family style worship experience, lots of hymns and of course communion and candlelight.

Celebrate a traditional Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve at 11pm at Makemie in Accomac with communion and candlelight in a more formal approach to greet Christmas morning as we ring the bells at midnight.

October Updates and Happenings at NMPC...

The Church Calendar of Events At NMPC in December *Please mark your calendar*

- ♦ Adult Church School starts at 9:30 am – every Sunday
- ♦ NMPC Church Service starts at 11:00 am – every Sunday
- ♦ YOGA every Friday at 10:00 am
- ♦ Children's Church School at 11:15 am - normally meet 2nd and 4th Sunday: for December they will meet the 13th ONLY - back in January
- ♦ Children's Youth Choir - 3rd Sunday each month - December 20th is Pageant Sunday!
- ♦ Choir Practice Wednesdays at 5:30 pm
- ♦ PW December 7th at 11:30 am
- ♦ Faith Meets Life Men's Group at 9:00 am December 18th
- ♦ NMPC Session December 22nd at 4:30 pm
- ♦ Prayer Group at 10:00 am December 3rd and 17th
- ♦ Joe's Gang (ladies welcome) 9:00 am on Date to be determined
- ♦ Lunch Bunch returns in January!

Sunday Moments

6th - 2nd Sunday of Advent,
communion, new member
Dottie

13th - 3rd Sunday of Advent,
baptisms of Fitz Godwin IV;
Molly and Victoria Arvidson;
congregational meeting.

20th - 4th Sunday Advent;
baptism Amelia Stapleton;
Christmas program.

27th - 1st Sunday of Christmas-
carol sing, Song of Simeon

The Christmas Poinsettias A tradition at NMPC for many years returns December 13th

*There is still time if you have not already
ordered your plant(s). If you are still
interested please see Cada Grove by*

Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet on Monday, **December 7** at 11:30 am in the Makemie Room, and our book study will be Chapter 4 (Jephthah's Daughter and Her Companion) from our book *Girlfriends- Exploring Women's Relationships in the Bible* by Barbara J. Essex. Bring a bag lunch- dessert and beverages will be provided. Linda Arvidson will be presenting the annual Thank Offering program. We look forward to seeing you then!

Our January PW meeting will be on Monday, January 4 at 11:30. Please read Chapter 5 (Ruth & Naomi) from the book *Girlfriends*. Please also be thinking about book choices for our 2016 fall/winter studies. We will start this conversation in January, although it usually takes a few months to make a final decision.

Joyous Holidays to all! Pam

The newsletter is published monthly on the first Sunday of the month. Email copies are sent the Saturday before the first Sunday. Input to the newsletter should be sent to: cadagrove@att.net by the prior Monday.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

To:

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Did we miss anyone? Let us know!

Debbie Ryon	12-01
Ted Ames	12-03
Monica Gould	12-04
Harriet Adams	12-05
Molly Arvidson	12-12
Julie Chuquin	12-30
Diane Kelly	12-21

