



Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church

The Point



February 2014

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Staff

Rev. Gary
Sheffield-James
Pastor

Beth Woody
Secretary
&
Editor of "The Point"

O. J. Spikes
Music Director

Jim Holford
Praise Leader

Service Schedule

9:00 AM
Praise Worship

9:00 AM
Adult Sunday School

10:00 AM
Traditional
Worship

10:00 AM
Sunday School

**Hunt's Church
Preschool**

www.huntschurchpreschool.com

GRACE AND THE FRESH FALLEN SNOW



Friends:

As I write this article, I am sitting at my study looking outside through the window at the snow covered ground. The snow fell a week ago, yet it's still on the ground. By all accounts, January is one of the coldest months we have experienced in a long time; thus the reason for the continual snow cover.

I like watching the snow fall (although I'm not thrilled about driving in it). As the snow falls upon the trees, hills, streams, and countryside, I soon notice how the scene begins to change. Mother Nature acts as an exterior designer giving me another view of my surroundings. The fresh snow covering slowly transforms the world around me. It's a covering that changes me because it brings about new sights and stirs the imagination.

A major snow fall slows down the world. With six inches of snow on the ground, schools cancel classes, numerous events are postponed, government workers are issued a liberal leave policy, and many people decide to stay home rather than drive to work. Life slows down. We have more time to connect to those in our family. We can sit still and read a good book or maybe take a nap. We are able to step away from our work-a-day world for a moment and reflect about life and our place in the journey. Our thoughts and imaginations might even meander toward God. We are presented with an opportunity for a new revelation about ourselves and our purpose in life.

**ALSO
INCLUDED:**

**February
Calendar**

Baby News

**Inclement Weather
Notification
Information**

Ushers Schedule

**Lay Readers
Schedule**

Thank You Notes

**Financial Summary
for 2013**

Missions Report

**Upcoming
Tea Party**

**Request
for Cookies**

**Funhunters
Fun-filled
Luncheon
Destination**

**Casserole
Ministry's
Recipe of the Month**

**Hunt's Church
Preschool's
"Open House"
and
Winter Event**

In a work-a-day world we can lose sight of what God's grace is about. Presbyterian pastor Tullian Tchividjian wrote, *"My observation of Christendom is that most of us tend to base our relationship with God on our performance instead of [God's] grace."* In the corporate world where one's self-worth is often tied to job performance, quotas, and numerical success, it's easy to think of God's grace as a meritocracy – we have to earn it. Yet grace is God's free, unmerited gift.

Weather prognosticators are predicting a cold, harsh winter ahead. More snow may be on the way. How much? Who knows? All I know is that I have ready access to my shovel. When the snow comes, my plan is not to shovel the snow in a hurried and obsessive fashion. Rather I aim to take more breaks. I will spend time just looking around to see how different the neighborhood looks in its snow covered splendor. I might even go inside and pour myself a hot cup of coffee or even take a nap. After a while, I will decide to shovel some more. Who knows? I might even find some mystery in it all.

Kiki Smith, an American artist, describes how hard it is to embrace God's grace. She writes, *"You can have fantasies about having control over the world, but I know I can barely control my kitchen sink. That is the grace I'm given. Because when one can control things, one is limited to one's own vision."* She is right! The need to control puts limits on our own way of seeing the world. We want to see it our way. Yet the question of faith for us is this: Where do we see God when things are beyond our control?

Winter is indeed upon us. What will happen when the snow comes and hems us in and we are reduced to a snail's pace in the flow of life? For me, I will remind myself that I'm not in control of the weather; nor am I in control of many things in life. The weather has changed the traffic of life. Now that the traffic is at a standstill, I've been given an opportunity to see the world in a different way. When the snow falls and covers the earth, the world looks differently. When the free gift of God's grace covers our restless hearts, we view the world differently because we are different. Let it snow! Let God's grace abound!

Grace & Peace,

Gary



<h1>February</h1>						<p>1</p> <p>Senior High Sub Pick-Up 10:30 am to 11:30 am</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>9:00 am Praise Service 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>2:00 pm Pickersgill 6:30 pm Sr. High "Super Bowl Sunday"</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Noon Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees</p> <p>8:30 AA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 pm SPPRC Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Praise Band</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:30 pm AA</p> <p>7:30 pm BCCW Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 am Men's Fellowship</p> <p>9:30 am to 11:00 am Preschool's Open-House</p> <p>11:30 am Funhunters (First Watch)</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 am Women's Fellowship Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am Preschool Sponsored Winter Event</p>
<p>9</p> <p>"Scout Sunday"</p> <p>9:00 am Praise Service 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>"Making cards" 2:30 pm Brownies 6:30 pm Sr. High</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Noon Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 pm Praise Band</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:30 pm AA</p> <p>7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 am Men's Fellowship</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p>15</p> 
<p>16 Board of C.C. Cookies Due</p> <p>9:00 am Praise Service 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School 6:30 pm Sr. High</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Noon Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 pm Praise Band</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:30 pm AA</p> <p>7:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 am Men's Fellowship</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10 am to Noon Pinewood Derby Set-Up (VanMetre Hall)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00 am Praise Service 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School 2 pm Pinewood Derby 6:30 pm Sr. High</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Noon Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 pm Carroll's- Gill's Endowment Fund Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Praise Band</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:30 pm AA</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30 am Men's Fellowship</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	

Baby News

Some friends and members of our Hunt's Church family may not have heard the exciting news that David Shou Spikes was born on November 28, 2013 at 8:06 a.m.



He weighed-in at 7 pounds 10 ounces.

David's proud parents are O.J. & Meg Spikes.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the case of inclement weather, please listen to WBAL Radio AM 1090.



A decision will be made by 7:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings as to the church holding services that day.



USHERS: During the 10 o'clock service in February:

February 2	Jim & Mary Foster
February 9	Steve Lippy & Bobbie Roop
February 16	David Young & Dan Funderburk
February 23	David Young & Chuck Schwarzkopf

LAY READERS:

	<u>9:00 service</u>	<u>10:00 service</u>
February 2	Margie Anne Bonnett	Matthew Bayne
February 9	Meg Whiteford	Melissa Regan
February 16	Marcia Conlin	Robert Sparks
February 23	Howard Lin	Dan Funderburk



To Hunt's Congregation:

I thank you for your generous gift at Christmas. It's a blessing to serve this congregation for another year and I know God has great things in store for us as we enter this New Year. Again, thanks for your generosity.

With Appreciation,
Gary



My family and I greatly appreciate the extravagant generosity demonstrated by our church family at Hunt's this holiday season. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

- *Meg, OJ, and David*



My gratitude to all those at Hunt's for your generous Christmas gift! It is a joy and pleasure to serve as a worship leader at Hunt's.

Thanks so much,
Jim Holford



Dear Hunt's Family,

I would like to thank you for the generous Christmas gift I received from the congregation. I would also like to thank you for letting me be your pianist. It has been such a blessing to me to play the piano for worship, and I especially appreciate your smiles and kind words and continued encouragement.

Sincerely,
Cheryl



Thank you very much for your thoughtful and generous Christmas gift. It will be used for something special and worthwhile.

Once again, "Thank you,"
Mara Lauterbach



To Hunt's Congregation:

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It was greatly appreciated by me and my family.

Thank you,
Shawn Cook & Family



Hunt's Church Family,

Thank you very much for your kind and generous Christmas gift. It was truly appreciated by my husband, Jim, and me.

The extremely cold weather that we experienced during the second week in January caused a couple of unexpected situations to occur for us. In the early morning hours of Tuesday, January 7th, Jim's car would not start. Later that morning, it was towed to Hollenshade's repair shop. Fortunately, it was able to be fixed that same day.

The following evening, when Bryce (our grandson) and I entered my house around 5:30 p.m., we were greeted by an unpleasant noise. It sounded as if it was raining inside my house. (It was not raining outside.) We went in search of the origin of this sound and quickly discovered that a pipe had broken in the basement's ceiling and water was pouring from it onto the basement floor.

However, in these adversities, God was truly present.

- Even though it was initially thought that the car's problem was more extensive than the battery, this was not the case. When a new battery was installed in Jim's car, it worked fine.
- Our sump pump is located a few feet from where the water was gushing from the pipe and fortunately swallowed most of the water.
- A friend recommended a plumber who came Wednesday night to "centralize" the problem and to restore water to the rest of the house. He returned Friday afternoon (while I was at work) and replaced the broken pipe.
- Your gift completely covered the costs of these "unbudgeted" situations. – Once again, "thank you" from Jim and me.

In Christian Love,
Beth Woody



HUNT'S 2013 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Following are Hunt's Operating Expenses and Income for 2013. Operating income includes regular offering and donations, payments to the church by our preschool, and income from community groups. Operating expense includes monies for items such as staff salaries, property maintenance and utilities, Christian education, and conference apportionments. Not included are monies donated or spent for missions, memorials, our preschool, or other special funds.



Income	\$ 380,576
Expense	<u>362,328</u>
Net	\$ 18,248



Please keep in mind as we begin 2014 that it is very important for all of us to stay current with our pledges. If you have not made a pledge and would like to do so, please contact the church office. Our church relies on your ongoing generosity to meet its operating expenses. A convenient way to make your donations is through electronic giving, available through the Hunt's website.

If you have any questions about this information, including getting started with electronic giving, please contact Linda Keatts.

I wanted to thank everyone who sent cards to my nephew over Christmas. He received approximately 25 and was very touched that so many people who didn't even know him took the time to think of him. This is a letter I received from him to thank all of you.

Dear Hunt's Church,

First and foremost I want to thank everyone for sending me Christmas Cards and for all of those who have kept me in their prayers. You have all helped to brighten my holiday.



This year has been very tough for me. My appeal was shot down and my hope has been at an all time low. I'm doing everything I can to find the positive in all of this and let me tell you it's hard. To be an innocent man in prison has to be one of the toughest tests of you faith.

I thank God every day for all I have in my life. I'm so grateful for all the love and support I have from family and friends. So once again, thank you for all your Christmas cards and prayers. You are all in mine as well.

**God Bless you All,
*Chad Olson***

If anyone would like to continue to write or send him cards I know he would appreciate it

Thanks so much,
Linda Flavin

THANK YOU

I want to thank the folks at Hunt's so much for your kindness, prayers, and shawls. Cole's progress is proceeding as scheduled, but he remains ill from the chemo and many drugs which he will be receiving for seven months.

Sincerely,
Frances Eger
(Great-Grandmother)



Missions

December/January Report

THANK YOU to the congregation for your support and donations:

- \$640 for the Advent Special Offering. This offering supports both the summer Sr. High Youth Group mission to repair homes in Western Maryland during Camp Hope and the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp during which homes are repaired throughout Baltimore County.
- \$170 for Child Fund International. This money helps Hunt's support four children abroad. (Note, in the past few months, Patipon and Joel have moved on from the program, and we are sponsoring a new little girl, Laxmi, from India.)
- About 20 dozen cookies for the Earl's Place Resolution Run. Earl's Place, in Baltimore, is a home for men recovering from substance abuse and trying to get their lives back together. This year's Resolution Run had about 600 participants and helped to raise money for their program.
- A record 18 casseroles for the Casserole Ministry in December and another eight in January.



In December and January, the Hunt's Missions Committee sent:

- \$ 355 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's effort in The Philippines
- \$1500 to CRU (Campus Crusade) at Va. Tech
- \$1470 to ChildFund International to support the four children we sponsor
- \$2000 to Global Ministries to support our missionary in Nicaragua, Nan McCurdy

February Missions

- 1) Casseroles need to be in the Hunt's freezer **by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5.**
- 2) Bring in all of those box tops you have saved!

*They will be counted and taken **in March** to the Board of Child Care.*

- 3) Bring in cookies for children at the Board of Child Care **by Sunday, February 16th.**

(See more information elsewhere in this newsletter.)

If anyone has an idea or would like more information on any project, please contact Melissa Regan at melissa.regan2@gmail.com.

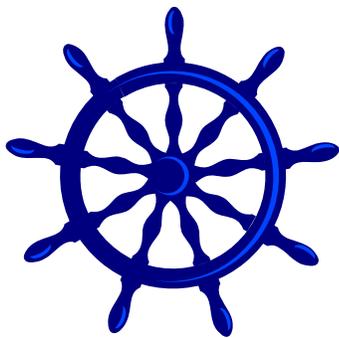
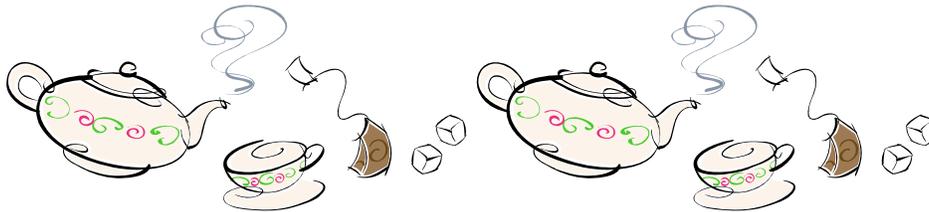


Tea for Missions

On **Saturday, May 3rd**, we are planning on hosting a “**Tea and Talk**” at Hunt’s church with the money raised going to Missions. We are currently in the planning stage and are looking for volunteers to help with this fun and worthy Mission project. We are looking for helpers on the day of the Tea as well as bakers and small sandwich makers. We also need to borrow teacups and teapots from our Hunt’s members.



More information will be coming. If you can help in any way, please contact Kathy Davis at 410-321-9580 or Ellie Lott at 410-494-0332.

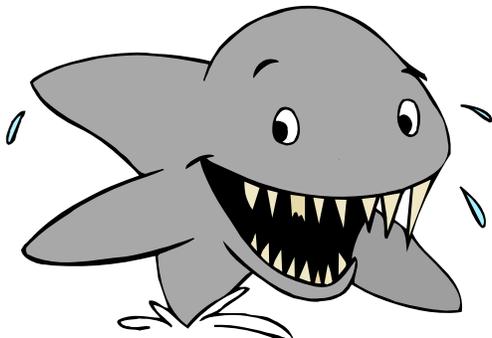
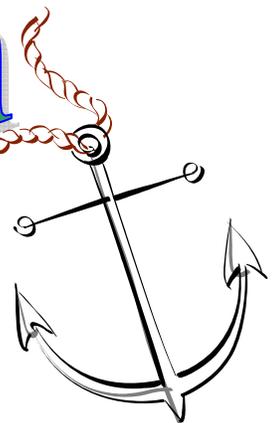


First Watch

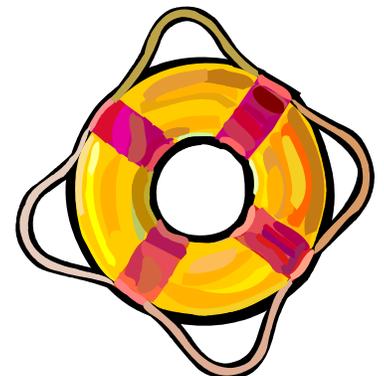
(in the Timonium Shopping Center)

Ahoy, Mateys!

**Come and enjoy some delicious food,
belly-laughing humor, and wonderful Mates!**



**Friday, February 7th
11:30 a.m.**



Casserole Ministry's February Recipe:

"Chicken Parmesan Casserole"

Due Date: Wednesday, February 5

Ingredients

4 cups shredded cooked chicken
1 jar marinara sauce
1-2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 cup whole wheat bread crumbs or panko
1-2 tablespoons olive oil
fresh chopped herbs (parsley, basil, oregano)
salt & pepper

Directions

Grease 8"x8" casserole dish with cooking spray
Layer chicken in bottom
Pour in marinara sauce and mix with chicken
Top with cheese until all the chicken is covered
In a small bowl: mix bread crumbs, olive oil, fresh herbs and dash of salt & pepper
Sprinkle seasoned bread crumbs on top



Freeze before baking



Chicken Parmesan Casserole

Ingredients: chicken, marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese,
whole wheat bread crumbs or panko, olive oil,
herbs (parsley, basil, oregano), salt, pepper

Directions: Let thaw in refrigerator overnight.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes.

Cover with foil if top gets too brown in oven.



COOKIES FOR KIDS

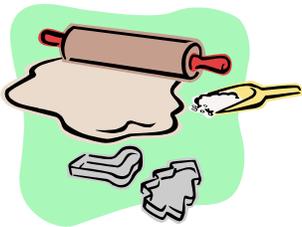


February is our designated month for cookie donations for the Board of Child Care.

Please bring in your home-made or store-bought pre-packaged cookies
on Sunday, February 16, 2014.

We hope to deliver all of the cookies after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on the 16th!

Thanks so much.



P.S. – Please write the number of cookies that are in each container on the outside of the container.

(example: 1 dozen, 2 dozen, 14 cookies, etc.)

This will make counting the cookies **much** easier!



Thanks!
Mary Ellen Lippy

Hunt's Church Preschool

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, February 7th

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Annual Winter Event

**YOU and your children are cordially invited to attend the
Hunt's Church Preschool's Winter Event!**

**Saturday, February 8th
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon -- in Van Metre Hall**

This year's event will have a Valentine's Day theme.

- **Sugar cooking decorating**
- **Valentine's crafts**
- **Valentine's-themed videos**
- **Coffee, water, juice boxes**

Hosted by the Hunt's Church Preschool's Parent Volunteer Group

Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 332
Riderwood, MD 21139

*Address Service
Requested*

