

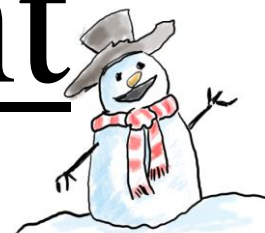


Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church

The Point



February 2015



West Joppa
& Old Courts Roads
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Riderwood, MD 21139

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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.huntchurchpreschool.com

Friends,

I didn't make it to church on Sunday, January 18th. I was almost a mile from Hunt's church but I soon realized that I was destined to miss church. As your pastor, I was frustrated. I was prepared to lead worship and preach but found myself stranded in the physician's building parking lot off Bellona Road. It seemed that life once again interfered with my best laid plans. Yet I was not alone on that Sunday. The plans of many other people were altered without warning as well.

Like so many others that morning, I looked at my weather app as I normally do; it indicated that road conditions were fine with only a forecast that some light rain would fall throughout the day. "*A routine car ride to church,*" I thought. So at 8:00 AM, I went outside to enter my car. Suddenly, I discovered some signs that the day would be different.

First of all, I discovered ice on all the windows of my car. With my window scraper in hand I managed to scrape the thinly veil of ice off the glass in no time. I then got into the car and before I even started the car, I got a call from Jody Waters on my cell. She tells me that her husband tried to make it to church but found the roads dangerously icy and noticed numerous cars sliding off the road. Therefore he turned his truck around and drove back home. I thanked her for her call but indicated I would try to make it.

I left my driveway and lightly pressed on my brakes to test the roads for any ice. Noting no slipping, I breathed a sigh of relief. I made a turn on another road and soon discovered three cars piled up in the middle of the road. Other cars in front of me were turning around since the road was blocked. I turned around and drove back to my house. I called back Jody Waters and said that I was cancelling the 9 o'clock service and asked her to call the praise band in order to let them know. I then called all those that I knew who attended the early service to let them know of the cancelation.

My plan was simple. I would wait an hour and drive to church for the second service at 10 AM. Surely the ice would have melted by then. I turned on the local news and found no weather reports or warnings. "*Good news!*" I thought.

At 9:15 AM, I left my house a second time. I made it out of the neighborhood with no problem. I soon found myself driving on the beltway toward Towson. I took the Charles Street exit and with a sigh of relief said to myself, "*Yeah, I'm going to make it.*" I made the right turn off of Charles onto Bellona and suddenly I saw a nightmarish scene. The entire road was covered with a sheet of ice. I could see that farther down the road there were cars piled up with emergency lights blinking everywhere. I quickly realized that I had traveled into a place of no return. On that morning, Bellona lived up to its name. Bellona is the Roman female goddess of war. On this morning, I was in a war with the weather and I was losing.

**Also Included in
this newsletter:**

February Calendar

Thank You Notes

*Inclement Weather
Announcement*

Ushers

Lay Readers

*Board of Child Care
"Cookie Drive"*

Mid-High Group

*Stewardship
Campaign Results*

*2014 Financial
Summary*

Home & Hospital

*Hunt's Church
Preschool
Announcement*

Trustees Activity

Missions News

I didn't make it to church that morning, but yet worship still happened. I got a call from Lloyd Schubert. After I told him of my dilemma, he said, "*Gary, stay in your car and don't drive. There is no use in risking injury to you or others. I will keep you in my prayers.*"

I called O.J. Spikes, our choir director, at 9:50 AM. He told me that he was at the church and that a few people had already showed up. I told him that I was stuck on Bellona Rd. and would be unable to get to church. After the call, I slipped down an entrance road and parked in the lot of Physician's Building. I listened to the radio to hear any weather updates – I heard no reports. I did hear the sirens of ambulances making their way up Charles Street toward the hospital. I spent the next two hours sitting in my car listening to religious music and praying for unknown people whose lives were affected by the weather in ways more critical than mine.

After two hours, I noticed that traffic on Bellona road had resumed. I left the parking lot and my car was able to make it up the driveway. The road on Bellona was still icy; yet I managed to get on Charles Street to begin my drive back home. I got a call from O.J. while minutes from my house. He said that Cheryl Warren, our pianist, made it to church and that twenty people showed up for worship. O.J. led the worship service by reading the liturgy in the bulletin, singing the hymns that were chosen for the day, and leading the congregation in prayer. He even gave a sermon. O.J. told me that the church also got new visitors. A couple with a child got off the icy road of Old Court and made their way to the church parking lot. They were going to worship at Rock Church. Instead, the weather led them to Hunt's church. I also learned that Cara Derr showed up with her son, Jacob. It was Jacob's first time being the acolyte for Sunday worship.

In summary, I didn't make it physically to church on that Sunday, and yet worship still happened for me. I had someone praying for me. I was sitting in my car, a portable tabernacle you might say, praying for others that I did not know. I learned that one of my parishioners was learning to serve the church in a new way. I was joyful that a couple worshiped at Hunt's even if they couldn't make it their own church. I learned that God's grace and steadfast love does not change even if the weather does. But still, I knew I missed something; I wanted to be in the midst of the gathered community to remind myself that I am not alone and that we are on the journey of life together. I wanted to be reminded again that God is with us and that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I believe that we do not serve a fair-weathered God; although we are guilty of being fair-weathered followers.

I am planning to be at church on Sunday, if the weather permits. If not, I will try to be safe and I hope that you will be safe as well, knowing that God will be with us even in the unplanned detours.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

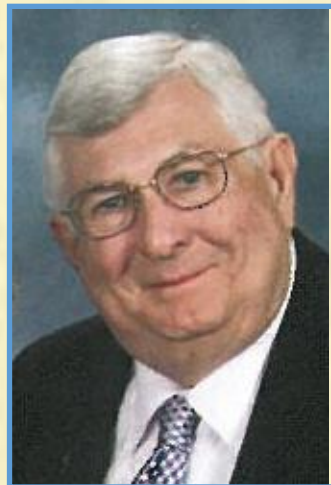


February

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------|---|--|
| 1 Communion 9:00 am Praise Service 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Pickersgill NO Sr. High | 2 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 10:45 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees 8:30 AA | 3 "Casserole Ministry" Casseroles Due 7:30 pm Praise Band | 4 12:30 pm AA 7:30 pm BCCW Meeting | 5 7:30 pm Choir | 6 7:30 am Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 8:30 pm AA | 7 11:00 am to 11:30 am Preschool Sponsored Winter Event Cookie Decorating & Craft Making |
| 8 "Scout Sunday" 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 | 9 10:45 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:30 pm AA | 10 7:30 pm Praise Band | 11 12:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting | 12 7:30 pm Choir | 13 7:30 am Men's Fellowship 11:30 am Funhunters 8:30 pm AA | 14 9:00 am Women's Fellowship Breakfast |
| 15 "Love Sunday" 9:00 am Praise Service 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Service 10:00 am Sunday School NO Sr. High | 16 10:45 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:30 pm AA | 17 "Shrove Tuesday" 6 to 7:00 pm Pancake Supper 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg. 7:30 pm Praise Band | 18 "Ash Wednesday" 12:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Service | 19 7:30 pm Choir | 20 7:30 am Men's Fellowship 8:30 pm AA | 21 9:00 am Trustees Work Day 10 am to Noon Pinewood Derby Set-Up (VanMetre Hall) |
| 22 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 | 23 10:45 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:30 pm AA | 24 7:00 pm Carroll's-Gill's Endowment Fund Meeting 7:30 pm Praise Band | 25 12:30 pm AA | 26 7:30 pm Choir | 27 7:30 am Men's Fellowship 8:30 pm AA | 28 |

Dear Hunt's Family,

It is with sincere appreciation we say thank you, for all the love and care you showed Chuck. He truly loved his church and all its people. The outpouring of love shown to him on the celebration Sunday, for his 32 years of service, touched him deeply.



Sorrowfully, only three weeks later, before we had a chance to say "thank you," the outpouring of love was there again to say "good-bye."

You will never know how much the love and support meant to our family. The visits to the funeral home and the packed sanctuary were over-whelming signs of how much he meant to many of you.

Many, many thanks to two of the greatest gifts God has given Hunt's, Barbara Green and Pat Brown. It was a wonderful gift to us not to have to worry about how and where to feed over 200 people. You both are truly a blessing to everyone you touch.

Thanks also to everyone who had a part in Chuck's service. Beth, the Praise Band, O.J., Merle, Steve, Jerry, Rev. Gary and Rev. Laurie.

***Special thanks:** to Walter and Lynn Henss; two of the most compassionate people we are blessed to call friends – to Mike and Tracy Carpenter who lovingly and caringly helped to walk us through a very difficult time – to Fred Turner, who lovingly gave Chuck his last ride to Hunt's.*

Apapé,

The Schwarzkopf Family

Harriett

Chuck (Jr.), Brian, Amanda, Rob, Dean, Julie

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



Hunt's Church Family,

Thank you very much for your heart-felt and generous Christmas gift. It was truly appreciated by my husband, Jim, and me. I also want to thank you for your love and numerous acts of kindness throughout this past year. –I was additionally blessed this past year with “new friends” that I acquired through participating in the monthly Funhunters’ luncheons. Unfortunately for me, I lost one of these “new friends” when he went Home to be with our Lord, but I will always be grateful for the opportunities that I had to nurture that friendship during those times of fun and fellowship with the Funhunters.

In Christian Love,
Beth Woody



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 Church Family,

I want to thank you all for the generous Christmas gift. But I especially want to thank you for your continued support and kind words of encouragement. It has been such a blessing to me to get to play for you every Sunday, and I truly appreciate the love and generosity extended to me and my family. May God bless you all in this new year!

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 bonus. It was deeply appreciated. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,
Shawn Cook & Family



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 1 | Steve Lippy & Greg Permison |
| February 8 | Steve Lippy & Alan MacEwen |
| February 15 | Steve Lippy & Jim Foster |
| February 22 | Steve Lippy (& volunteer) |

LAY READERS:

| | <u>9:00 service</u> | <u>10:00 service</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| February 1 | Mary Foster | Robert Sparks |
| February 8 | Kathy Davis | Nathan Derr |
| February 15 | Margie Anne Bonnett | Pegg Melfa |
| February 22 | Ross Leonard | Dan Funderburk |

COOKIES FOR KIDS

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

Please bring in your homemade or store-bought pre-packaged cookies on Sunday, February 22, 2015.



We hope to deliver all of the cookies after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on the 22nd!
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

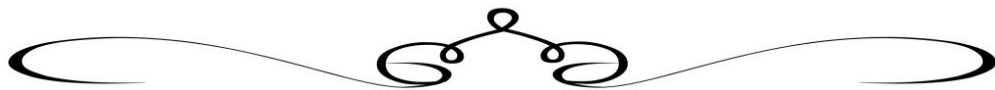




As seen in this picture, the Hunt's Mid-High Group had a great field trip to the SkyZone trampoline park in Timonium to celebrate all the great service acts they performed for Hunt's in 2014 including:

- "Random acts of leaf raking kindness"
- Serving and cleaning up for the Pancake Supper and the Turkey Dinner
- Pumpkin carving contest
- Their big Christmas Present Project.

The entire Hunt's congregation has much to be proud of with the amazing young people growing up around us.



Stewardship Campaign Results

Three T's of Faithful Stewardship

Time



Talents



Treasures

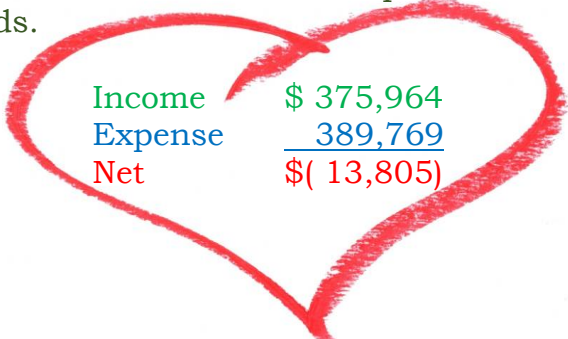
I am happy to report a very successful stewardship campaign for 2015 offerings.

We have received 71 pledges for a total of \$236,306 compared with 68 pledges for a total of \$202,256 for 2014. The church thanks all those who pledged, particularly the many who "took a step up", and also those who contribute faithfully independent of a pledge.

Bruce Douglas, Finance Chairman

HUNT'S 2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Following are Hunt's Operating Expenses and Income for 2014. 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 | \$ 375,964 |
| Expense | <u>389,769</u> |
| Net | \$(13,805) |

Please keep in mind as we begin 2015 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 Bruce Douglas or Linda Keatts.



HOSPITAL AND HOME

I want to thank everyone that participated in this ministry, in any way, during the past year. It may not be said often enough, but it is very much appreciated!!



We sent 325+ cards last year; I say plus because I know many are sent during the years that aren't necessarily recorded. The cards you have sent helped to brighten someone's day; share in their joy or comfort them in their sorrow. I know because I often hear from those who receive them.

We are starting the 2015-16 year. I will be sending a clipboard around for the next few Sundays, for monthly coordinators to sign up. Please provide your phone number and email, if possible. If you miss the sign up or know a month you prefer to do, please call, 410-628-1410 or email me at linda@tefvideo.com and I will do my best to accommodate your request. If you need to be added or removed from the send card list or you have any questions, please do the same.

Linda Flavin



Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays.

We have packed away the holiday decorations and are settling back into our daily routines here at Hunt's Church Preschool. We are learning about hibernation, dental hygiene, arctic animals and much more.

On **February 7th, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** we will have a winter event sponsored by the HCPS Parent Group. All are invited to come decorate Valentine's cookies and do some "sweet" crafts.

We are accepting registrations for all classes at this time.

We will have another **Open House on February 18th from 9:30-11:00 a.m.**
Please let families, friends and neighbors know.

I would like to thank Bob Dey and Greg Martin for visiting our classes and volunteering as Mystery Readers. The children love having guests!
Please feel free to stop by at any time to see what a great preschool we are!

Kelley Unger, **Hunt's Church Preschool Director**



Hunt's Church Preschool's Winter Event



Cookie Decorating

Craft Making



A decorative border of pink hearts with spiral patterns surrounds the central text.

FUNHUNTERS LUNCHEON

This month the Funhunters are planning to have their luncheon at...

**Michael's Café Restaurant
2119 York Road
Timonium, MD 21093**

We had some additional "friends" join us last month. We hope that they will come again this month and cordially invite everyone to join us!

If you are planning to attend, please contact Lynn Henss (443-600-2325) so that arrangements can be made so that we can all sit together as a group.

Trustees Activity

Our first meeting in January was largely spent discussing the task list we compiled last fall, the survey responses that are included on that list, and how many of the tasks we can do ourselves. We decided to begin monthly workdays with one or two objectives in mind. **Saturday, February 21** will be the first of our monthly workdays and **the primary project will be redecorating the "Noah's Ark" bathroom.** It has been many years since the bathroom was painted and it is time for a refresh. If you have an overwhelming urge to share your painting skills, please come out and help. We will have a few other indoor projects, in case we get more people than will comfortably fit in that small room.

A new task on our list is the main heat pump for VanMetre Hall. The compressor seized in mid-December, and we are in the process of selecting not only the vendor but also the best value for its repair or replacement. Depending on options, the cost estimates so far range from as low as \$4,500 to as high as \$30,000. While we do not prefer to take over a month to make decisions like this, it is our responsibility to consider as many factors as possible and to make the right decision for the long term.

Ken Parrish, Trustees Chair

MISSIONS

December/January Report –

THANK YOU to the congregation for your support and donations:

1 – 63 coats!

These were given to Baltimore Kids Ablaze for distribution in Baltimore and to Karen's Coat Closet, a local community project that donates coats to those in need.

2 – A record 22 casseroles for the Casserole Ministry in December ...

and another 16 in January

3 – \$682 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.

4 – About 35 dozen homemade cookies and about eight boxes of Girl Scout 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 700 participants and helped to raise money for their program.

5 – \$426 for the Special Offering for The Wesley, an organization that helps support five elderly people in need at Springwell Senior Living in Baltimore

February Missions

Casseroles need to be in the Hunt's freezer by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, **February 3.**

Do you have any used **mystery novels** you'd like to share?

Carolyn, the volunteer office coordinator at the Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council in the City,

has helped us tremendously with our mission of working with five young men.

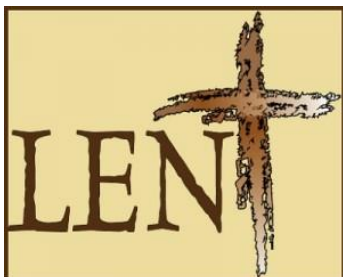
She is a voracious reader of mystery novels, and we would like to show our appreciation for her help by surprising her with a box of mystery novels.

If you have any mystery novels you would like to share, please place them in the labeled bin in the coatroom at church.

Collection ends **February 8.**



Please bring in **cookies** for children at the Board of Child Care on Sunday, **February 22.** Both homemade and store-bought are needed.



Lent begins February 18. The **Lent Special Offering** will be split between the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp and Camp Hope. If you normally give your offering to Hunt's electronically, please consider putting a check in the offering plate with "Lent Special Offering" in the memo line, or edit your online giving to include a missions donation.



We will be collecting new and used athletic **shoes** of any size (but no cleats) for a group of kids and young adults in South Africa through the spring. There is a labeled bin in the coat room. Barb Cox will be going with her adult sons and a small group of volunteers on their annual mission next summer to teach lacrosse and deliver school supplies and shoes to children there through a program called The South African Lacrosse Project (see <http://www.southafricanlacrosse.org/>).

Missions News –

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

- \$1500 to Cru (Campus Crusade) at Va. Tech
- \$1102 to ChildFund International to support the three children we sponsor through this organization
- \$2000 to Global Ministries of the UMC to support our new missionary in Nicaragua, Alina Saucedo

The Hunt's Church website contains news about current missions, including the addresses for and how to send letters to our sponsored children.

Go to www.huntsumc.org and click on Missions at the top.

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

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

*Address Service
Requested*

