

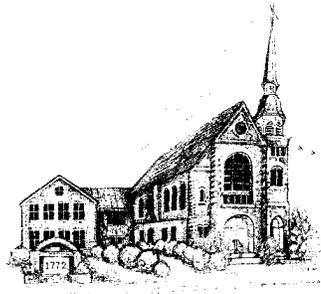
Happy
Holidays



**CHRISTMAS
2017**

Baptist Connection

Newsletter of Berryville Baptist Church



CHRISTMAS AT BERRYVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

BERRYVILLE HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR

Sunday, December 10th

1:00 – 4:00

Please bring your Nativities and cookies to share

A Service of Christmas Music

Presented by our Adult Choir and Voices In Brass

Sunday, December 17th

11 AM

No 9 AM Service

Children's and Youth Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th

6 PM

Followed by our

Church-wide Christmas Party

In Our Fellowship Hall

Please bring a plate of cookies to share.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

Worship Service

10 AM

No Early Service or Sunday School

Candlelight Communion Service

7 PM



Nurses's Corner

Charles Manson died last month. He was universally despised for engineering a string of murders in California in the late 60's. What a lot of people don't know is that he had a miserable childhood. His mother was 16 when she had him, and initially he was not even given a name at birth. When he was very young she took him to a bar and tried to sell him for a pitcher of beer. He was routinely and viciously abused by people in his family, the reform schools and the prisons. Essentially, he grew up hating and hated.

The Laurel Center in Winchester has a new area recently opened for children of sexual abuse. It is already full, and there is a waiting list. This is a sad commentary on our society, but also a further sign that we are in the last days. Satan, knowing that his time is short, is pulling out all the stops on the human race before Jesus comes to split the eastern sky.

Would you be able to recognize signs of abuse or neglect in a child? Dirty clothes and skin, fear of adults, bruises or burns in various stages of healing, poor eye contact, reluctance to participate in school or social activities, a child who is very thin or obviously malnourished are some examples (I have to add, when I was very small, there were periods of time that I simply refused to eat. My mother was afraid the neighbors would see me when I went outside. I have a couple of pictures of that period. I was a scrawny little blond brat, but smiling and well-dressed.)

You can call the Sheriff's Office in Berryville or in Winchester to report any suspicions you have about a child, and you don't have to give your name. There is a forensics nurse at the hospital who is well-trained to look for signs of child abuse. All I'm asking you to do is to keep your eyes open, especially this month when there are so many activities geared toward children and gift-giving. I know Christmas is supposed to be about warm fuzzy feelings, but when it comes to child safety I don't do warm and fuzzy. You may not be able to prevent the next Charles Manson, but you may be able to keep another young mind from becoming evil.

Merry Christmas, my beloved,
Judy Melton R.N., F.C.N





Mark the date of December 17 on your calendar. The 11:00 Worship Service will be a service of music and praising the Lord. Our adult choir will present the Christmas Story through the glorious sounds of music. The handbell choir known as Voices in Brass will also participate in this service. Please join us on this special Sunday.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our traditional Christmas Eve Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 24, beginning at 7:00 p.m. As part of our service we will celebrate in the observance of Holy Communion. We will join together to welcome the Christ Child through music and word. Our service will conclude with a lighting of our individual candles and the singing of "Silent Night." We encourage families and friends to join us for this celebration.



Feed The Hungry

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Also, we have adopted 4 families to receive Christmas dinner baskets : a family of 6, a family of 4, a family of 3 , and a single senior. Complete meals will be provided.



Our congregation turned in their bread banks just before Thanksgiving. So far we have collected \$1,053.17. Please return any remaining banks to the church as soon as possible. All proceeds will be sent to the Baptist General Association of Virginia to be designated for World Hunger. We can make a difference in the lives of so many men, women, and children who go to bed hungry every day.



ON DECEMBER 1 WE WELCOMED THE ADVENT SEASON SHARING A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WITH MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MIDDLETOWN. IT WAS A TIME OF REAL JOY AND RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS. THE LAST TIME WE VISITED THE CONGREGATION WAS 2013, AND THEY WERE IN STEPHENS CITY.

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 WE WILL TRAVEL TO ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE TO MEET MANY OF OUR MILITARY FRIENDS AGAIN AND SHARE A PROGRAM WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE MILITARY FIGHTING CANCER. IT IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL TIME IN THE LIFE OF THE BAPTIST RASCALS, AND WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE THE INVITATION EACH YEAR.

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 THE TEAM WILL BE PART OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. WE WELCOME BACK A COUPLE OF OUR GRADUATES WHO WILL BE HELPING WITH THE EVENING.



PLANS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN, BUT I AM THINKING WE WILL BE CLOSER TO HOME THIS YEAR.



Children's Christmas Program

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 6 PM WILL BE THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

PRACTICES WITH THE CHILDREN WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AND 17 DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND TO HELP US PULL THIS TOGETHER. CHILDREN ARE ASKED TO BE AT CHURCH ON THE NIGHT OF THE PROGRAM AT 5 PM. ARRIVAL TIME FOR THE PUPPET TEAM WILL BE PROBABLY BE 3:30 BUT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER TIME. I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND KIND WORDS FROM OUR CONGREGATION FOR THE BAPTIST RASCALS AND YOUTH AGAIN THIS YEAR.

THE PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT SACRIFICES DURING THE YEAR TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS SUCCESSFUL, AND I AM GRATEFUL TO ALL.

BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON, AND MAY WE CONTINUE TO BE LIGHTS OF HIS LOVE IN SO MANY WAYS.



SOME CHRISTMAS TREES I REMEMBER

One year back in the Valley of Virginia our church transitioned from a Christmas tree to a Chrismon tree. The word Chrismon derives from the words Christ and monogram. They tell the story of Jesus in symbols. The Chrismon tree is always strung with clear lights and white or gold ornaments, ideally handmade, not as my father-in-law would have said, “*store boughten*”.

That Christmas we decided that rather than buy a tree, we would cut down one of the many cedar trees that grew there in the northern Shenandoah Valley. We chose a nice one, drug it into the church sanctuary and proceeded to string the lights and hang the chrismons. The cedar proved not to be a user friendly tree, as demonstrated by the cuts and scratches we sustained. Furthermore the strings of lights and the chrismons consistently wanted to slide off the tree. But we did manage to get it lighted and the chrismons permanently placed. There it stood through Advent and Christmas, scenting the room with the aroma of cedar and bearing mute witness to the true meaning of Christmas,

“... behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”

(Luke 2:10-11, KJV).

By: Dr. Darryl E. Maxwell

THE BLOOD DRIVE

By: Rev. Dan Stanley

Every other month on the third Thursday there is an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the V.F.W. building on 340 here in Berryville.

Driving past slowly in the heavily patrolled 25 mile an hour zone signs were posted blood needed! Giving blood that day was not on my agenda. Yet I turned in thinking I will stay only if there is not a wait line. Much to my surprise and somewhat disappointment no one at that time was waiting. One of the volunteers was a church member and when our eyes met, we spoke and I knew then I was stuck.

Right away I was given a fifteen page or about pamphlet to read. Did you read it? Yes, each page two years ago last time I gave.

You can come back now. Behind a privacy screen she took my pulse, my blood pressure, my temperature, and pricked my finger in order to check my hemoglobin. Are you feeling well today? As well as any other day. How much do you weigh? Naked or fully clothed? Now she left me alone with the computer and the questions. Have you? No, no, no, no. Finally and yet after only a mere few minutes I'm ready to stretch out on the table.

Would you, they asked, consider giving twice the amount of red blood? Your red blood would be separated out. Your plasma and platelets along with saline would be returned through the same one needle. Okay, let's do this.

Here is your phlebotomist. She will be at your side throughout the procedure. What I asked is a phlebotomist? Someone trained to take blood. I thought to myself why not just say this is and she is specially trained to take your blood, today she will be with you, at your side. What one thinks is better left unsaid especially when that person with whom you're with is preparing to stick a needle in your arm and a significant amount of blood will begin pouring out.

The lady who stood at my side was the very best. She took time to explain everything. How long and possible side effects. With the smaller needle no pain. You might feel cold as the saline goes into your body at room temperature. The procedure will take approximately forty minutes.

O-negative. The Red Cross loves your blood. A universal donor. In an emergency, trauma situation anyone, of any blood type can be given your blood. And did you know you are CMV negative which means your blood can be given to premature babies (C CMV is a common virus usually lethal only in little ones yet was not found in my blood) plus it is apparently difficult to determine blood type in newborns.

Laying there watching blood squirt out of my arm I was beginning to feel really good about myself. So infants need transfusions. Yes quite often.

You know O-negative is quite rare. Only 7 percent of people have this blood type. You do know that though anyone can receive your blood you can only receive your blood type which as you know now is quite rare. You might want to be careful. If you were shot like that congressman back in the summer you might bleed out before they could locate your blood type. Now in only a mere few seconds I was no longer feeling upbeat.

Your done. Keep this band-aid on for at least four hours. No physical exertion for the rest of the day. Apparently she was not aware of what I do for a living.

Are you okay? They walk me over to a table with chicken salad sandwiches, cookies and lemonade free for those who successfully give.

When I stepped out of the V.F.W. building, a room with only artificial light, the windows thick yet frosted over like you would find in boys locker room, the daylight that afternoon held a certain beauty and ambiance. Late November with leaves golden brown piled together beside the road, that was the world I was blessed to step back into.

There are many reasons why people do not or cannot give blood: medications, past surgeries, cancer, blood pressure, lifestyle, past travels, and the reasons go on and on.

Honestly, I gave that day only because there was no good reason for me not too. Life is like that. An unplanned moment of decision and in that brief moment I could have driven by. I could have yet I chose not too. I stopped only because there was no reason for me not too.



The deacons want to thank everyone who attended the Thanksgiving Dinner and shared a "dish" to make our meal truly a Thanksgiving feast. We want to thank Mike Marlow for helping with the clean up.

If you missed the program, you missed a wonderful evening of pure praise to our Lord and Savior. God has given Sandy and Dorothy so much talent and all their lives they have used it to honor and praise Him. Sunday evening's program was pure honor and praise. I don't have the words to express how their music filled my heart will joy and praise.

The mitten tree is up and ready to be filled with all sizes of new mittens, hats, and socks. These will be taken to the Salvation Army after the new year.

The deacons wish for all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Nancy Snyder

More than  thousand years ago, Heavenly Father sent the  Gabriel   , a young woman in the  of Nazareth. Gabriel told  that she  give birth  a  who was the Son of God. The  's name  Jesus.  married  , a carpenter. He,  , had been told by an  that  's   the Savior. Later, the emperor of Rome commanded everyone  pay a tax.    journeyed   , the city of their ancestor,  ,  pay the tax. It was time    have her  , but all the  s were full.    had  live in a  . There  gave birth  Jesus  laid Him in a  used  feeding  . That night an  appeared  nearby  . The  told the  that the Savior, Jesus Christ, was born in  that they  find Him in a  . Many heavenly beings joined the  , praising God  declaring peace on  . The  went   the  , then told others about Him. Later, the  were led by a   the place where Jesus was. They worshiped Him  gave Him precious  . A time long  told by  s had finally come.