Almost Christmas

This Advent season, I am following a general theme built off of a John Wesley sermon, “The Almost Christian,” which is, in turn, based off King Agrippa saying to Paul in Acts 26:28 (in the King James’ Version), “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” Wesley’s sermon looks at the difference between someone who is Christian in name, the “almost Christian,” and someone who is Christian in truth, the “altogether Christian.”

In working towards this theme, I want to explore the idea from another angle — what is the difference between an “almost Christmas” and an “altogether Christmas”?

First, and this one almost goes without saying, there is a time difference. As a child, I could not wait for Christmas to arrive! I would count down the days and even the hours. I remember when I was old enough to know what was happening, I was upset that we didn’t have Christmas the moment we arrived home from the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service! (Notice the subtle encouragement to attend!) After all — it was technically Christmas Day when we got home! However, in my parents’ home, Christmas did not start until grandparents arrived and breakfast had been cleared. That is, the timing of Christmas had to do with the people in our lives. With so many of us celebrating Christmas while we also remember those who aren’t around anymore, maybe part of our celebration should include a remembrance of their place in our lives, a way to give God thanks for the gift they were to us, and for the hope we have of resurrection joy.

Second, even to this day, I get excited by all the decorating that goes with Christmas. I never cared for putting it all away, but I love seeing the gaudy lights on my house! When we lived in Alaska, the city of Anchorage encouraged everyone to decorate and to keep their lights up for months afterwards as a way of beating the seasonal depression of dark days. However, as much as it might “look” like Christmas, isn’t Christmas more about how we treat each other, how we serve God, and how we make space in our hearts for faith? Decorations help, but they are ultimately only “almost Christmas.”

Third, as much as we might downplay gifts, and I know some families have taken to substituting some gifts in favor of donations to churches or charities, gifts have been part of the season ever since the Magi presented Jesus with gifts in Matthew 2. Giving gifts primes us to be generous, to think of others, and to make a plan for generosity in our lives, but they are also “almost Christmas.” We cannot out-give God, nor do our gifts substitute for what the world truly needs — for us to live as responsible, caring, devoted, and loving witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Finally, one of the things I think many of us struggle with at Christmas is that we want to

Continued on Page 2
be “put together.” What I mean is, everything in its place to make the holiday (the holy day) look right. Honestly, however, every family has struggles, every individual has struggles, and the time it takes to make everything look just right might sometimes be better spent on dealing with the realities of our lives, from grief to health crises, from errant children to mental health. Let me be plain — it is, in my opinion, more important to love others and look after ourselves in this season, than it is to have everything looking just so. As a former District Superintendent told me, “All God’s children have holes!” We all struggle and, in dealing with the struggle, we often find grace.

Timing, decorating, gifts, and appearances are all about being “almost” ready for Christmas. Loving others, serving God, being witnesses, and looking after ourselves and others are what an “altogether Christmas” is all about. May we experience grace, beauty, and love this season, so that no matter the state of our houses, health, families, or finances, we can experience the deep and abiding presence of the Holy Spirit this Christmas!

I am grateful for all you, and particularly grateful for who you are! I am your fellow servant in Christ Jesus,
Church Calendar for December 2019

Sunday, December 1
8:30 a.m. Worship Service (S)
9:30 a.m. UMW Knives Sale (Narthex)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups
10:39 a.m. Praise Team
11:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)
12:00 p.m. Outdoor Nativity Scene Setup
5:30 p.m. Cancelled Youth Fellowship

Monday, December 2
1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 1062 Meeting (B201)

Tuesday, December 3
10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers (ESR)
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Tri-X)
7:00 p.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office)

Wednesday, December 4
9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
2:00 p.m. Sing-alongs at Coliseum Park
6:00 p.m. Wesley Bell Choir (S)
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, December 5
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
5:30 p.m. MOPS Meeting and MOPS Kids (FH and Education Wing)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups

Friday, December 6
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Troop 1038 Meeting (Upstairs)
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)

Saturday, December 7
UMW District Advent Prayer Breakfast
7:00 a.m. District Prayer Team (S)

Sunday, December 8
8:30 a.m. Worship (S)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups
10:15 a.m. Praise Team
11:00 a.m. Worship (S)
6:00 UMW Christmas Dinner Theater (FH)

Monday, December 9
1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
6:15 p.m. Children’s Activities Team (PP)
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee (ESR)
7:00 p.m. Church Council (Tri-X)

Tuesday, December 10
10:00 a.m. UMW Wesley Circle Meeting (PP)
10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers (ESR)
7:00 p.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office)

Wednesday, December 11
9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning UMW Circle Meeting
6:00 p.m. Wesley Bell Choir (S)
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, December 12
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups
7:00 p.m. Thursday Evening UMW Circle Meeting (FH - Stage)

Friday, December 13
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)

Saturday, December 14
7:00 a.m. District Prayer Team (S)
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)
4:00 p.m. Parents’ Night Out

Sunday, December 15
Music Sunday
9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups
10:30 a.m. Combined Worship (S)
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
Monday, December 16
Anchor Newsletter Deadline
1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Troop 1062 Meeting (B201)

Tuesday, December 17
8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Breakfast and Work Day
10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers (ESR)
10:30 a.m. Staff Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Vibrant Worship (Tri-X)
7:00 p.m. PPSRC (Tri-X)
7:00 p.m. Reunion Group
(Pastor Tommy’s Office)

Wednesday, December 18
9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
12:00 p.m. Women’s Fellowship of Circumstance
3:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Book Club (ESR)
6:00 p.m. Wesley Bell Choir (S)
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, December 19
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups
7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Book Club (ESR)
7:00 p.m. MOPS Studies (PP)

Friday, December 20
6:30 p.m. UMM Christmas Dinner and Communion (FH)

Saturday, December 21
7:00 a.m. District Prayer Team (S)

Sunday, December 22
8:30 a.m. Worship (S)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups
10:15 a.m. Praise Team
11:00 a.m. Worship (S)
6:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 23
1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
7:00 p.m. UMW Executive Board (ESR)

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve —
Church Offices Closed
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Children’s and Families Service (S)
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service (S)

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day — Church Offices Closed

Thursday, December 26
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups

Friday, December 27

Saturday, December 28
7:00 a.m. District Prayer Team (S)

Sunday, December 29
9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups
10:15 a.m. Praise Team
10:30 a.m. Combined Worship (S)
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, December 30
1 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)

Tuesday, December 31
New Year’s Eve — Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 1, 2020
New Year’s Day — Church Offices Closed

Scouts BSA Schedule
Tuesdays — Weekly
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 151 Meeting
7 p.m. Scouts BSA Troop 151 Meeting

Fridays, December 13 & December 27
6 p.m. Venture Crew 1151

Friday, December 13-Saturday, December 14
4:00 p.m. Scouts BSA 151 Troop Game Night Lock-In

Tuesday, December 17
7:00 p.m. Scouts BSA Troop 151 Committee Meeting (PP)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Malinowski</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Tori McFadden</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Jim Dickert</td>
<td>12/22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callum McDonald</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Bonnie Harper</td>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>Zaq Selassie</td>
<td>12/22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Avery</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Kerri Black</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Jean Kinard</td>
<td>12/23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Garner</td>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Iris Avery</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Melissa Doughty</td>
<td>12/23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Gore</td>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>Marilyn Eubank</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Carol Oswald</td>
<td>12/23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarah Spencer</td>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>Josiah Biondolillo</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Richard Pollock</td>
<td>12/23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Peretin</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Lori Gillespie</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Tyler Brown</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Kravitz</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Ronald Bunch</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>Becky Felix</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Capriotti</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Trent Lumpkin</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>Shelby Williams</td>
<td>12/26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandy Belbin</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Sally Lewis</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>Eddie Ridout</td>
<td>12/27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Winston</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Gail Gulla</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>Andrew Townsend</td>
<td>12/27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John DeShetler II</td>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>Kyla Pereira</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Kris Wayman</td>
<td>12/27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Kertesz</td>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Scott Williams</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Joan Spunzo</td>
<td>12/28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Ellison</td>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Mary Parker</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>David Richardson</td>
<td>12/28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanner Williams</td>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Debbie Charlton</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Laura Sandford</td>
<td>12/28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.G. Womble</td>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>Sarah Sudduth</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Jessica Evers</td>
<td>12/28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Seguin</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>William Hoyt</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>Barbara Groover</td>
<td>12/29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Bryan</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Ben Kessler</td>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>Gary Greer</td>
<td>12/29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Snider</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Sara McNeil</td>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>Paul Hogge</td>
<td>12/29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Brooks</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Ruth B. Morris</td>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>Kellie Hoyt</td>
<td>12/29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bruce Guthrie</td>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>Ryan Tuttle</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnstone</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Vickie Carper</td>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>Nancy Stout</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Quinn</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Jim Weaver</td>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>Eva Francis</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia Tricarico</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Joyce Winston</td>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>David Klass</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Jones</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>A'nna Irby</td>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>Austin Welch</td>
<td>12/31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Moffat</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rick &amp; Karen Nolin</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Chuck &amp; Holly Blackmon</td>
<td>12/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woody &amp; Joyce Wilson</td>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>William &amp; Christine Woods</td>
<td>12/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck &amp; Roxanne Farmer</td>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>James &amp; Susan Stephens</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray &amp; Joan Spunzo</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Peggy Doughty</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy &amp; Joseph Kertesz</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Tori &amp; Michael McFadden</td>
<td>12/31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Glenda Helms</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upcoming 50 Plus Events

Flyers with complete details of our April 21 – 25 trip to Raleigh–Durham, NC with additional stops in Mt. Airy, NC and Roanoke and Lynchburg, VA and surrounding areas are available on the rack by the information desk in the narthex. Reservations for this five-day, four-night trip are already coming in and should be made by January 15, 2020.

We won’t meet in December, but let us know if you plan to join us for our Annual Breakfast at Golden Corral on Saturday, Jan 11, 2020. Watch the weekly bulletin for more details.

For questions or reservations on any of our outings, contact Anne or Bill Bryan at 757-851-0748 or by e-mail to abandbb1@cox.net.

First Fox Hill Friends,

As we remember our loved ones this Holiday Season, let’s not forget those who work numerous hours behind the scenes to enrich our spiritual lives.

It’s easy to take for granted our dedicated Staff, some of whom spend time preparing a message, a song, a bulletin, or a clean restroom, while others provide a nurturing and safe place to leave our children during church service, provide spiritual development for our youth, and make sure all of our bills are paid.

Let’s show our devoted Staff how much we appreciate all they do for us throughout the year with a special Christmas Bonus. Please mark your envelope "Staff Appreciation."

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

Your Pastor Parish Staff Relations Committee

Holiday Help for Hampton Healthy Families

Our Angel Tree this year will support 35 children and 15 teens. These “angels” come to us from Hampton Healthy Families and live here in Hampton. Look for the Angel Tree in the Narthex beginning November 17. At that time, you will be able to “adopt” your angel or angels and receive any necessary instructions for this year’s program. All gifts must be returned to the church by Sunday, December 8.

We have volunteers who can shop for anyone who would like to simply make a monetary donation for an angel.

Please contact Tanya Ammons by email at craftytaz@verizon.net or call her at 757-876-5415 with any questions concerning either of this outreach opportunity.
Name That Christmas Song

A lyric from the song is given. In what song would you find the lyric?

1. "Round yon virgin mother and child"
   a. Jingle Bells
   b. Silent Night
   c. I'll be Home for Christmas
   d. We Three Kings

2. "And Heaven and nature sing"
   a. Away in a Manger
   b. Joy to the World
   c. While Shepherds Watched
   d. White Christmas

3. "Tis the season to be jolly"
   a. Jingle Bells
   b. While Shepherds Watched
   c. Deck the Halls
   d. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

4. "God and sinners reconciled"
   a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
   b. O come All Ye Faithful
   c. Hark the Herald Angels
   d. The First Noel

5. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night"
   a. O Come All Ye Faithful
   b. O Come O Come Emmanuel
   c. Hark the Herald Angels
   d. The First Noel

6. "Joyful and triumphant"
   a. O Come All Ye Faithful
   b. Joy to the World
   c. Deck the Halls
   d. Ave Maria

7. "Looked down where he lay"
   a. The First Noel
   b. Little Town of Bethlehem
   c. Joy to the World
   d. Away in a Manger

8. "O tidings of comfort and joy"
   a. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
   b. The First Noel
   c. Ding Dong Merrily on High
   d. Away in a Manger

9. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep"
   a. Away in a Manger
   b. The First Noel
   c. Ave Maria
   d. Deck the Halls

10. "Hang a shining star upon the highest bough"
    a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
    b. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
    c. Hark the Herald Angels
    d. Frosty the Snowman

11. "City sidewalk, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style"
    a. Joy to the World
    b. Deck the Halls
    c. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer
    d. Silver Bells

12. "Please have snow and mistletoe and presents under the tree"
    a. Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
    b. Silent Night
    c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
    d. Jingle Bells

13. "Somebody snitched on me"
    a. Bill's Christmas Treat
    b. The First Noel
    c. Nuttin' for Christmas
    d. Deck the Halls

14. "Bearing gifts we traverse afar"
    a. Jingle Bells
    b. Silent Night
    c. I'll Be Home for Christmas
    d. We Three Kings

15. "Come on, it's lovely weather"
    a. Deck the Halls
    b. While Shepherds Watched
    c. Jingle Bells
    d. Sleigh Ride
We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Nancy Spain who died Saturday, November 9, 2019. The family is planning a springtime celebration of Nancy’s life at her home in Buckroe Beach.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Jean Sprouse who died Monday, November 18, 2019.

We extend our condolences to former member Sharon Whitley in the death of her daughter, Mary Susan, Saturday, November 23, 2019.

Martha’s Ministry Notes
Thank you to Jean Pickin and her members for the wonderful receptions for families and friends of Jack Clough, Tom Arden and Willie Simpson. It was most appreciated by family and friends.

December/January Members: Leader: Karen McNeil

UMM Christmas Dinner
Set for December 20
The United Methodist Men will hold their Christmas Dinner and Communion on Friday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

UMW Christmas Dinner
The UMW Christmas Dinner/Theatre will be held on Sunday, December 8, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are $15, and may be purchased in the Narthex on November 17 and 24, and December 1. Tickets will also be available at all Circle meetings. All proceeds will benefit Youth programs.
Grief and the Holidays Next Book Club Topic

You've lost someone you love. Your heart is broken. Now you're facing a holiday or special occasion. What are you going to do? How do you handle this? This is the topic for the next Book Club.

“Surviving the Holidays Without You: Navigating Grief During Special Seasons” is the next topic of discussion at the Wednesday Afternoon and Thursday Night Book Club meetings, which will take place at 3 p.m. December 18, and 7 p.m. December 19, in the Edith Spencer Room.

Bestselling author, hospice chaplain, and grief specialist Gary Roe has given us a grief survival kit designed for the holidays. Speaking from both personal and professional grief experiences, he will empower us to navigate special days and seasons with new confidence. Finding our way to grieve well over the holidays can be overwhelming without a trusted guide. Gary knows the pain and offers effective tools to help us face the holidays with hope rather than apprehension.

Healing from loss is challenging. Facing a holiday while grieving the loss of a spouse, child, parent, or someone close is tough duty. Use holidays and special times to help you grieve and honor the one you're missing.

No Food Pantry in December

Getting nourishing, safe food to people facing hunger is the goal of the First UMC Fox Hill Food Pantry. Because the fourth Wednesday in December is Christmas, there will be no distribution of food. The next Food Pantry distribution will be Wednesday, January 22, 2020, from 12-2 p.m.

Foods that are needed this month are: canned soups, stews, and chili; canned meats; boxed cereals; bags of rice or beans; boxed side dishes, such as potatoes, rice, and pasta; and nutritious snack bars.

Harris Teeter sends postcards and coupons for free items routinely to those who have a VIC card. In the recent past, peanut butter and a two-pound bag of sugar were the free items with the coupon and a VIC card. If you have a VIC card, but do not want the coupon item, please consider obtaining the (non-perishable and non-breakable) items and donating them to either the HELP basket or the Food Pantry tub.

We appreciate all generous donations of food products, but please check expiration dates on items. No expired items will be distributed.

Thank you for your support. To volunteer, please contact any member of the Food Bank Committee — Mary McAnally, Mary Rountree, Mary Smith, Darlene Hayden, Kathy Fisher, or Claudine Womble.

Merry Christmas
Joys and Gratitude

A big “Thank You “to the volunteers who supported the Pumpkin Patch Reading Program this year! You interacted with and blessed more than 300 children who visited this year — not only with your hard work, but with your overwhelming enthusiasm. The smiles and laughter of the kids, along with compliments from the adult chaperones and schools show what a good job you did. I want to especially thank the United Methodist Women for financially supporting a group that otherwise would not have been able to attend. I love our church family — you never fail to amaze me with your unending support and love. God has showered us with so many blessings.

Pauline Snider
Pumpkin Patch Reading Coordinator

To Martha’s Ministry: Thank you for your kindness.

— Lydia Simpson

We would like to thank the church family for their prayers and support during the illness and passing of Jack Clough. Special thanks to everyone who helped make his memorial service so meaningful for us, and to Martha’s Ministry for providing such a nice reception. We very much appreciate everything that was done to help us throughout this difficult time.

To Martha’s Ministry: Thanks so much for the lovely reception you and your team provided after Jack’s Memorial Service. The food was delicious; everyone’s time and effort is much appreciated.

— Janet Clough and Family

The family of Colonel Thomas Arden, beloved husband and father, wish to convey our sincere thanks for your kind expression of sympathy in our recent sorrow. Thanks for all of your help.

To Martha’s Ministry, Marilyn, Jane and Bonnie: Thank you for all of the work you did to make the reception for Tom’s Memorial so special. So many of my friends found your services incredibly generous, a lovely tribute to Tom, and a great testimony of our church’s goodness and kindness. Thank you so much.

— Susan and Cassie Arden

Thank you to everyone who showed up to make ornaments for the UMW Advent Breakfast. We averaged 10 people each meeting (we even had people show up and help who were not members of our church . . . Outreach!) for five Mondays and five Fridays. That would be an overall attendance of 100 people! We worked more than 20 hours, and we completed 250 ornaments for the UMW District Advent Breakfast. Thank you to all whom gave their support to this mission whether in attendance, prayers, and/or encouragement.
Financial Fundamentals

This report briefly addresses finances at FUMC Fox Hill. The latest weekly and year-to-date information is in the weekly bulletin.

You, our faithful donors, are the key to our financial success. As we rapidly approach the end of the year, your gifts will determine whether or not we are able to meet all of our obligations. At this point we are all going to need to “dig deep” to accomplish that goal. The Pumpkin Patch helped with a net exceeding $5,500; not our best year, but respectable. December will be a five-Sunday month, but we will need all your help. We are still behind in our Apportionments in support of the Virginia Conference, and failure to make 100% precludes Pastor Brian from receiving any pay increase. As soon as we can cover apportionments, we will work on our planned set-asides for major maintenance. Note that unspecified memorial gifts, which our policy directs to the mortgage principle, have helped us drop our outstanding balance to $229,615.

Have you submitted your 2020 Estimate of Giving card? Some may find it odd that stewardship is not under the purview of finance, but is a stand-alone facet of the church. The church does have a responsibility to be good stewards of all gifts including time, talent, and funds donated, and our financial ability to function is dependent on the gifts of the congregation. In that vein, we encourage everyone to complete and turn in their estimate of giving cards for 2020. We never “send a bill” based on those estimates; their intent is to help you think through and plan for what you can and want to do to support God’s work through your church.

Year-end giving time is here. The church office will be closed on New Year’s Eve, December 31, so your best bet to be sure you beat the tax deadline for charitable donations is to make your gifts by Sunday, December 29. Now is the time to catch up or make a bonus gift – don’t wait till the last minute, especially if you are donating from investments. Talk with your financial/tax professional and contact Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, with any questions.

When you do your shopping, if you like to shop Amazon, be sure to go to www.smile.amazon.com instead of just amazon.com. Select First UMC Fox Hill as the charity of your choice and we will receive a small percentage of your purchase from Amazon at no additional cost to you. A little here and a little there does add up.

We appreciate your financial support of your church. Keep up the good work. If you have any concerns or questions about FUMC FH finances, please contact our financial staff through the office or Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, at 851-0748 or by e-mail to billb-1111@cox.net

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total One Fund - Through October 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income For Planned Expenses&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass Through Income&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass Through Expense&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Pay-It-Forward” Contributions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup>Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, etc.

<sup>2</sup>This item represents funds contributed, but passed through to non-budget items, e.g., flowers, Advocate subscriptions, special mission programs, etc. [Some pass through income was received in 2018; paid 2019.]

---

All submissions for the Anchor need to be received no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to be included in the next newsletter.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOX HILL
1 SALT POND ROAD
HAMPTON, VA 23664

TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

CURRENT RESIDENT or
MAILING ADDRESS
LABEL GOES HERE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOX HILL

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. • Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Can’t be here in person? Livestream us from our website

www.firstumcfoxhill.org • www.facebook.com/firstumcfoxhill
churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org • 757-851-6302

Pastor: Brian Sixbey • Assistant Pastor: Tommy Markham
Youth Director: Josh McNutt • Music Director/Organist: Mark Biondolillo