

Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church

8330 Fletcher's Chapel Road, King George, VA 22485 Church: (540) 775-7247 Parsonage: (540) 625-2834

Harvest Celebration Sunday November 24, 2013, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. The Prelude

*Chiming of the H	our	
Welcome and Anr	ouncements	
*The Call to Worship – Psalm 100		
*Hymn	"Come Ye Thankful People, Come"	UMH 694
Litany of Thanksg	iving & Opening Prayer (see insert)	
	nd Prayer s of God's Grace and Prayer Concerns Il Prayer/The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)	
The Children's Me	essage	
	Minute – "Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Gers will come to collect your Estimate of Giving	
*Hymn	"We Gather Together"	UMH 131
	ation od, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hea ave revealed, and do what you have command	
The Old Testamer	nt Reading – Deuteronomy 26:1-11	p. 301
	nt Reading – Philippians 4:4-9 his is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.	p. 1771

The Message

"Rejoice in All Things"

The Receiving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Special Music "How Long Has It Been?" Kay Roy *The Doxology (UMH 95)

*The Prayer of Dedication: Time, talents and gifts You bring to us, O Lord, in Your faithful people. Accept us, and use us, and these our tithes and offerings, for the extension of Your Kingdom here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" (vs. 1-2, 5-6) UMH 92

*The Charge and Blessing:

Go forth with thankful hearts. Go forth into the world with God's renewing and strengthening Spirit. May that Spirit fill us full of praise and joyous affirmations of life. Amen.

Postlude

"Bless the Lord" (2X) Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's Holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

*Please stand as you are able.

Assisting with Worship Today:

Children's Church:

Scripture Reader:

Rob Minx (8:30am) Lori Radolinski 11:00am) Shannon Hartung



Assisting with Worship December 1:

Scripture Readers: Children's Church: Advent Wreath:

Rob Minx (8:30 am) Pam Hunter (11:00 am) Marie Smith (8:30 am) Allen & Arlene Coates (11:00 am)



All are Welcome to our service of worship this morning. We are glad you are here. Our hope is that you will feel God's blessing during this time with us.

Check out our website at <u>www.fletcherschapel-kinggeorge-va.org</u> and let us know what you think! Access the calendar of events. Listen to today's sermon or a sermon you may have missed.

Contact us by email:

Pastor Mike is at <u>reaves.michael.b@gmail.com</u> The church address is <u>fletcherschapel@verizon.net</u>

"Like" us on Facebook: If you are a Facebook user, help spread the word about Fletcher's Chapel's page. Search for "Fletcher's Chapel UMC-King George, VA" and when you find our page, click "Like" so you can keep up with the latest news and events at Fletcher's Chapel.



Our Vision is to be a beacon in the name of Jesus Christ to the world, to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to send them forth to proclaimGod's Word and serve God's will everywhere and always.

Our Mission: ^{"19}Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." -- Matthew 28:19-20

Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH: November 24 – December 1, 2013			
TODAY	Harvest Celebration Sunday		
	8:30am	Early Worship Service	
	9:45am	Sunday School	
	11:00am	Worship	
	2:00pm	Operation Sharehouse at KG YMCA	
Thursday	Thanksgiving Day		
Saturday	District UMW Advent Breakfast at Fredericksburg UMC		
Sunday	Deadline to Return Apple Tree Gifts		
	Canned Food Collection		
Upcoming:			
Sunday, 12/8	Loose Change Collection for Heifer Project		
Weds, 12/11	Finance Committee at 7:00 pm		
	Administrativ	/e Council at 7:30 pm	
Sunday, 12/15	Bring Poinsettias to Church (see insert)		
Friday, 12/20	Serving Dinner at Thurman Brisben Center at 4:00 pm		
Sunday, 12/22	Christmas Caroling after 11:00 a.m. service.		
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Harvest Celebration Sunday: Today we conclude our stewardship emphasis. If you are prepared to submit your Estimate of Giving for 2014, we will collect them during the Stewardship Minute. In your bulletin is an Estimate of Giving Card inside an envelope. Fill the card out, place it back in the envelope, and put it in the collection plate when the ushers come to you. You are not required to fill out a card.

Snowden Behavioral Health Center: Gifts are needed for the residents of Snowden who happen to be there during the Christmas season. This is a difficult time for them and their families. Sometimes gifts are overlooked. Gifts need to follow certain guidelines for patients' safety. Suggestions include winter hats and gloves, journals (no wire spines), puzzle books, and lotion (non-alcohol.). Also suggested are pens, pencils, and crayons (children). Please avoid anything with strings, wires, glass or fragile plastic. Do not wrap the gifts but gift bags left open would be great! Please bring these and leave on front choir pews by December 22nd. .If you have questions, call Lori at 226-4102 or send email to lucytyler25@aol.com. Your kindness in a time of need is a blessing to these patients.

Operation Christmas Child: Thanks to everyone who helped pack a shoebox. Thirty-five shoeboxes were packed here at Fletcher's Chapel.



The congregation and guests of Fletcher's Chapel and our community; Those who are having difficulties in their marriages; The residents and staff of the Thurman Brisben Center; Missionaries throughout the world; Our men and women in service; Those working with the incarcerated; Our Bishop and his cabinet.

Kristalene Balao, Mikie Barker, Wesley Berry, Colleen Bowie, Dave & Dee Campbell, Barbara Canaday, Delores Coates, Faye Coates, John Coates, Darrell Critzer, Audrey Davenport, Joe & Dot Dunivin, Christine Holdren, Louise Henderson, Pam Hunter, Gwen Henderson, Ceili Leahy, Bryan McGhee, Mike Nave, Pat Pelletier, Brad Pruett, Chuck Rabbitt, Hubert Roberson, Sam Robinson, Joey Rowe, Keith Sager, Clifton Seay, Shirley Sigert, Tai (re: Lori Radolinksi), Claude Stevens

Prayer Request Cards are available in the pew racks. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate or give it to the pastor after the service.

Apple Tree Gifts: All thirteen children have been claimed. Please return the gifts no later than Sunday, December 1. You can still buy a board game or purchase approved gifts for the inmates.

Advent Study Offered: If you do not attend a Sunday School class, consider joining the Adult Class which meets in the Fellowship Hall during the month of December. The class meets at 10:00 a.m. and is taught by Pastor Mike. We will read and study together "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam" by James Moore. This is a five-week study about "how Christ breaks into our confusion and brings Christmas, how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of Bedlam." See Pastor Mike today to reserve you copy of the book, then plan to joins us beginning Sunday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Litany of Thanksgiving and Opening Prayer

Let us join together in our responsive reading:

We praise and thank our God

For all that we have been given!

We praise and thank our God

For earth and oceans, rain and sun, for food and homes.

We praise and thank our God

For the blessings of life and faith and hope.

We praise and thank our God

For the Creator who made us, the Christ who saved us, and the Counselor who guides us.

We praise and thank our God

For family and friends, for neighbors and coworkers.

We praise and thank our God

For God has blessed us beyond all expectations.

We praise and thank our God

For all blessings which compel us to reach out to those with less, to be of service to any in need, to keep company with the unwelcome, to seek peace and make friends of our enemies.

Let us pray together:

Lord God, you have enriched us, saved us, loved us. Open our hearts and minds to your will that we may be free to share everything we have, to give away whatever holds us hostage in spirit, that we may always know that possessions are just that: things, lovely to have, but in the end only good for the good they can do in this world. Keep us always in that work, the work of Christ and Christ's kingdom, the kingdom of God. Amen.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Advent and Christmas Worship – Songs for a Savior



December 8: The Prophet's Song *Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 5:2-4* (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)

December 1: Zechariah's Song Isaiah 43:18-19; Luke 1:68-79 (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)





December 15: Mary's Song Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 1:46-55 (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)

December 22: The Songs of the Angels and Shepherds – *Luke 2:8-20* (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)





Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Our Song for the Savior Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20 (7:00 p.m.)

Each Sunday we will sing the hymns and carols of the season. The scripture readings and the messages will focus on the songs proclaiming the coming birth of Jesus – the priest, Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist; the prophet Isaiah; Mary, the mother of Jesus; and the Angels and Shepherds in the fields. On Christmas Eve as we sing our favorite Christmas Carols again and we will look at our own song to sing today as we continue to proclaim the Messiah's birth.

"Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace"

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

In our last article as part of this year's stewardship emphasis, we saw that God is the owner of everything and that we are managers and stewards of what God has given us. We considered how each of us has been given gifts of time and talents as blessings of God's grace. We also learned about the importance of using these gifts for God's glory, for the good of others, and for the ministry here at Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church.

In addition to time and talents, God has also given us financial resources. For most of us, this means working to secure monetary gain. But make no mistake about it: According to Deuteronomy chapter 8, God gives us the ability to earn money. According to King Solomon, even work itself it a gift from God (Eccl. 5:19) In fact, everything we have — even the air we breathe in order to be able to work — is a gift that has been temporarily loaned to us by God.

The truth of the temporary status of our financial resources was brought home to a pastor who needed a dark suit to conduct a funeral. He had very little money, so he went to a local pawn shop where he found a like-new suit in just the right size at a very inexpensive price. As he paid for the suit, he asked the clerk how the pawn shop could afford to sell the suit at such a low price. The clerk smiled and admitted that all their suits had once been owned by a local mortuary that had gone out of business.

The minister felt a little strange wearing a suit that had once been part of a funeral home's inventory, but he quickly set aside his apprehension since the price was so low and since no one would know. Everything was fine until in the middle of the funeral service, he casually started to put his hand into the pocket of the pants — only to discover there were no pockets! What an object lesson he received that day as he preached about the importance of living in the light of eternity while wearing a pair of pants without pockets!

All of us know the old saying, "You can't take it with you." That's why whatever we are going to do with the financial resources God has entrusted to us has to be done in this life. In fact, whatever we intend to do for the Lord with our money, we need to

be doing now. Or as one person observed, "Do your giving while you're living so you'll be knowing where it's going!"

How we use the money which God has given to us is an indicator of our priorities. Our checkbook will reveal clearly the things that are really important to us. How we spend our money is, in fact, a barometer of our spiritual temperature and of our personal faith. You see, it doesn't take a lot of faith to make a rational, logical decision concerning our giving. As we review expenses and anticipated income, we can easily find the balance and base our commitment on the numbers alone. But exercising faith, looking to God as our Source to provide above and beyond what we might reasonably be expected to give, well — that's another story.

Remember, giving is not to help "poor God" pay the bills. Giving is not because God needs anything from us. Giving is God's way of growing Christians. Every time we give for God's glory from hearts that have been redeemed by God's love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness. Every time we give of our resources that have been loaned to us by God, we grow in grace and in our walk with Christ.

