

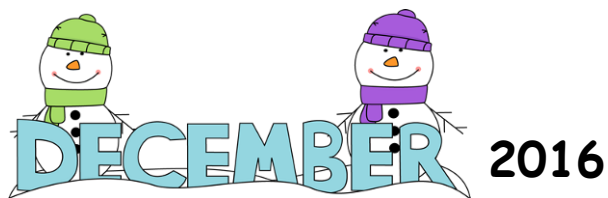
Cloverdale Church of the Brethren
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Wings of Faith

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren

Patrick Starkey, Pastor

Tasha Veal, Church Secretary



December 4 - Deacons meeting

December 8 - Christmas Together Banquet at Camp Bethel

December 11 - All Church Christmas Dinner

December 12 - Hosting Northern Area Ministers breakfast meeting

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

December 25 - Christmas Day- Come and worship!

December 26-30 - Church office closed

January 2 - Church office closed

Cloverdale December 2016 Calendar

Sunday School 9:15am

Sunday Worship 10:30am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 TOPS 5:30pm	2	3 Thrift Shop 9am-1pm
4 Deacons meeting after worship 4:45p Troop 25	5	6 6:00pm Commissions 7:00pm Church Board	7 Family Night 5:45 pm Bible Study 6:45pm Jr. Choir 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	8 TOPS 5:30pm	9	10 Thrift Shop 9am-1pm
11 All Church Christmas Dinner	12 NAMA Breakfast	13 Gospel Choir 6:30pm	14 Family Night 5:45 pm Bible Study 6:45pm Jr. Choir 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	15 TOPS 5:30pm	16	17 Thrift Shop 9am-1pm
18	19	20 Gospel Choir 6:30pm	21 Family Night 5:45 pm Bible Study 6:45pm Jr. Choir 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	22 TOPS 5:30pm	23	24 Thrift Shop CLOSED Christmas Eve Service
25  Come and worship!	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed Gospel Choir 6:30pm	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 Thrift Shop CLOSED

Our Church Mission — We seek to learn from Jesus Christ how to live, and to share with all people the good news of God's love, whole-heartedly and humbly, prayerfully and peacefully.



Church Servants for December



Greeters

- 4 - Carolyn Heath
- 11 - Bob & LaVerne Cosner
- 18 - Doris Kent & Tracy Tardy
- 25 - Lenny LaRose

Nursery

- 4 - Rita Foster
- 11 - Tracy Tardy
- 18 - Ginger Roberts
- 25 - Kim Brown

Thrift Shop

- 3 - Nancy Walters & Lois Flora
- 10 - Denise Aker & Roberta Rogers
- 17 - Marjorie Snider & Sharon Dillard
- 24 - CLOSED - Merry Christmas!
- 31 - CLOSED - Happy New Year!

Deacons on Call

Susan & Lenny LaRose

Altar Decor:

Music, Worship,
& Fellowship

Opening of Church

Bob Cosner

December Birthdays

- 2 - Sandra Kidd
- 2 - Lillian Beahm
- 9 - Mike Phelan
- 11 - Shawna Brogan
- 12 - Sabrina Gulick
- 14 - Kenny Entsminger
- 15 - Dana Belle Kinzie
- 17 - T.J. Clark
- 18 - Thelma Byrd
- 18 - Patrick Starkey
- 19 - Matthew Radcliff
- 19 - Violet Keith
- 22 - Doug Wallace
- 22 - Eddie Herron
- 26 - Carlton Rogers
- 28 - Janie Entsminger
- 31 - Tracy Tardy



Happy Anniversary!!

- 3 - Bobby & Becky Dennis
- 14 (1991) - Ben & Kathy Bowman
- 16 (1961) - Bob & LaVerne Cosner
- 20 (1969) - John & Dianne Baker
- 20 (1975) - Robert & Janet Murray
- 22 (1962) - Luther & Patricia Deel



Ushers:

- 4 - Roger Reed, Michael Beahm, Kenny Entsminger, Maynard Harris, Reggie Wallace, Paul Reavis, & Johnnie Criner
- 11 - Roger Reed, Michael Beahm, Maynard Harris, Carolyn Heath, Rick Naff, Walter Nelson
- 18 - Roger Reed, Michael Beahm, Kenny Entsminger, Maynard Harris, Carolyn Heath, Rick Naff
- 25 - Roger Reed, Michael Beahm, Kenny Entsminger, Maynard Harris, Carolyn Heath, Walter Nelson



Special Acknowledgements

Many thanks for all the cards and well-wishes show to us during the celebration of our message. We are so blessed by the support and encouragement of our church family. **In Christian Love, Reggie & Carolyn Wallace**

Dear church family, Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, letters and calls during this time of loss for me and my family. I really appreciate your support. **Love, Marceline Dooley & Family**

The Women's Fellowship Annual Christmas Bazaar on November 5, 2016, was a great success! Thank you everyone who helped! There is great preparation that goes into this one day event. Our preparation paid off, and this was due entirely to the fact that many volunteered their time and talents. Our vendors were a special group of talented artisans. Their talents combined with your hard work resulted in a net profit of \$2,543! Thanks! **-Marjorie Snider**

Cloverdale CoB, Virlina District, & Camp Bethel News & Events

January/February Newsletter: As usual, we will be having a January/February combined newsletter. Anything you would like to have in the newsletter for either month, please have to the church office by Monday, December 19th!!!

Our deacons will meet on Sunday, December 4, following worship.

All-Church Christmas Dinner

Our Annual Carry-in Christmas Dinner, sponsored by the Women's Fellowship, will be held immediately after service on Sunday, December 11, 2016. The Advent season - the four Sundays before Christmas - is a very special time of the year. Plan to attend this dinner to help us celebrate the third Sunday of the Advent season. Our Christmas dinner is well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Since it is a carry-in meal, please bring a dish to share. We will be in the kitchen early to accept your dishes. On behalf of the Women's Fellowship, we look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Advent-Christmas dinner. **-Marjorie Snider**



Christmas Eve Service: We will gather on the evening of December 24 for a service including carols, candlelight and communion. Following the service, meditation time and communion will continue to be offered at twenty minute intervals, when all who are present and prepared will be invited to come forward to receive bread from a common loaf, dip it into the common cup and carry it over a napkin back to the pews, reflecting on the gift and sacrifice of Christ, then, when signaled, partake all at the same time. Please look for service times to be published in upcoming worship bulletins.



Angel Tree Gifts—Please prayerfully consider supporting families of our community through the Angel Tree program. The tree in the narthex contains the information for each child that we would like to bless this Christmas. Place your gifts under the tree in **the narthex by December 11.**

Poinsettias: It that time again! Please check your bulletin on December 4th for the Poinsettia order form. All orders are due to the church or to Barb Nelson by December 11th! Poinsettias will be \$12 each this year. They will be used to decorate our sanctuary on December 18th!



Scholarship from the Ruby Baskerville Scholarship Fund - Blue Ridge Church of the Brethren.

Blue Ridge Church of the Brethren has again extended an invitation to students in our congregation to apply for a scholarship from the Ruby Baskerville Scholarship Fund! Submission deadline is January 31, 2017. To learn more about eligibility or request an application, please contact the church office!



Inclement Weather Policy For all weekly church functions, we will follow the decision of the Botetourt County School System. If school is closed or dismissed early, church activities are cancelled. Board Meeting will be rescheduled for the following Tuesday. Sunday service cancellations will be announced on WDBJ 7, WSLs 10 and their websites, and by a message on the church answering machine.

FALL CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST: New or like-new chest coolers w/handles; Digital cameras or a "GoPro" video camera, LCD projector, working mini-van and pick-up truck, LED light bulbs(75-100W equiv), donations for camper scholarships, new(in-the-box bike helmets and/or horse helmets, canoes, kayaks, paddles and new lifejackets; brooms/dust-pans. Gifts to Camp are tax-deductible. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET - DECEMBER 8

You are invited to Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet on Thursday, December 8, 6:30pm for an excellent dinner and a praise-filled Christmas program in our festive, decorated Ark Dining Hall. Your gift of \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted) will provide much needed year-end funding for Camp Bethel. Our collective support of Camp Bethel puts TOGETHERness into practice as described in Acts 2:43-47. Reserve your family or group by December 2 to (540)992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. Information and registration at www.CampBethelVirginia.org.

WINTER CAMP - DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 1, 2017

Welcome the New Year with your camp counselors! Winter Camp is a fun and spiritual holiday program for camps in 1st through 12th grades led by our reunited Summer Staff. \$70 includes 4 excellent meals, lodging and programming including Group Games, Glow-in-the-Dark Gym Party w/9-square/GaGa/4-square, Singing camp songs & Christmas Carols, a big bonfire, Bible Study, crafts, hiking, nature fun, skits, & game show, sledding and other snow fun(if it snows), worship, wagon ride, summer photos slide show, 2017 summer camp preview...and FREE Camp Bethel STICKERS!...all with your favorite counselors and our excellent summer camp staff! Information and registration at www.CampBethelVirginia.org.

PILGRIMAGE XXI - MARCH 24-26, 2017

Pilgrimage XXI will be held March 24-26, 2017, at Camp Bethel. People from 58 congregations in our district have attended this event which is a spiritual retreat for adults of all ages. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. Pilgrimage is for everyone because no matter where a person is on his or her faith journey, it is always good to take another step and draw closer to God. The basic structure of the weekend is the same each year with talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. Yet God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry, and we give Him all praise and honor!

The only way to truly understand what Pilgrimage has to offer is to experience it. Prayerfully consider if this is your year to attend. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or by email at haynesmk1986@yahoo.com or go to www.experiencepilgrimage.com.

Pastor Patrick's Page(s)~~

... Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the right of the altar of incense. Zachariah was paralyzed in fear. But the angel reassured him, "Don't fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John ..."

... Zachariah said to the angel, "Do you expect me to believe this? I'm an old man and my wife is an old woman." But the angel said, "I am Gabriel, the sentinel of God, sent especially to bring you this glad news. But because you won't believe me, you'll be unable to say a word until the day of your son's birth. Every word I've spoken to you will come true on time—God's time." Luke 1:12-13, 18-20 The Message

In Luke's gospel, the angel Gabriel foretells the surprising birth of John the Baptist, who himself is the forerunner to Jesus. The announcement is made to the father-to-be, Zechariah (the spelling most of our translations use), who, along with his wife, Elizabeth, is well on in years. After stammering a few skeptical words, Zechariah is struck speechless in his disbelief.

Shortly, Elizabeth and Zechariah do conceive. The evidence begins to grow, of God's promise and of Zechariah's participation in it. Still, Zechariah is unable to say a word throughout this time of expectancy.

What are his unspoken thoughts? Does he walk around, going through the motions, in a confused stupor? Does he sit alone in silence, sometimes pondering, sometimes feeling overwhelmed? When does hope stir inside him?

Luke doesn't tell us these things. We're only told that, in time, when John indeed is born, Zechariah at last bursts not just into words but into song! He declares that God is on the near horizon, bringing something even bigger to life!

This wonderful story, recalled nearly every Advent season, has me wondering what our place is with Zechariah. How is his story our story? Where do we, or ought we, connect with his experience, in this season?

For some, Advent has become less a holy time of patient preparation to receive God's gift, and more a hectic time of running about in a consumer stupor. Maybe we've stuffed so many details into December that we've crowded out our capacity to recognize and respond to the sheer magnitude of the good news that God comes to save the world.

If so, spending some extended time in silence, like Zechariah, might be a helpful prescription for our shrunken belief and distorted souls. Okay, maybe not nine months of silence. But, how about trying a half-day of silence some time in December, or an hour of silent reflection each day until Christmas? Who knows what God will do with that time, or do with you and me in that time? Zechariah was shaped for new priorities and new possibilities. So may we be.

There are others, of course, who are in a different place personally this Advent. Some, instead of frantic, are forlorn. Some folks feel blue, feel a different kind of overwhelm. Sitting silently may seem like all one can do.

If this is someone you know, please be willing to sit silently with him or her for a time. There do not have to be words, certainly not an accusing "What's wrong with you?" No one is to be written off as a Scrooge. Be a tangible reminder that we are not alone.

If you are the one who is sitting in a blue silence, please invite God in there. Please hold open the possibility that hope will stir again inside. And, when you at last have some words to get out, invite one of us to listen. We are here.

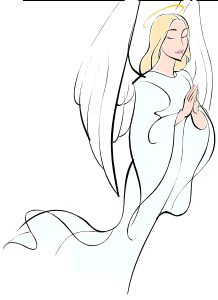
God is on the near horizon, bringing something more beautiful to life. Even when we can't see it yet. Even when we can't yet believe it. Even we don't have words to express our vulnerable hope that it might be so. God comes to save. God's promise is sure, and so is your place in it. May a song return to each one's spirit.

May Advent and Christmas blessings reach and renew you, in Christ our hope,
Patrick

NOTE: The church office will be closed December 26-30 and January 2, and Pastor Patrick also will be on vacation from December 27-30. For caregiving needs during this time, please contact our deacons.

Prayer List Policy: Due to limited newsletter space, we clear the prayer list at the end of each month. If you wish to have your prayer request continue, please contact the church office to have it placed on the list for the next month. Thank you!

Remember These As You Pray: Ruth Joshua and all the abducted Nigerian girls and families.



Elda Alls
Bowman Family
Luther Deel
Pam Ford & Zach
James Hill
Glenn & Mary Naff
Audry Rogers
Ray Young

John Baker
Doris Jean Brannen
Margaret Fleshman
Geraldene Garvey
Arnold Humphreys
Carole Reavis
Dot Stanley

Ruth Bishop
Thelma Byrd
Norman Flora
Dottie Hale
Robert & Janet Murray
Ginger Roberts
Betty Walker

Blaine Arnold (Shawna Burkhardt's father) - cancer diagnosis
Charlese Auginbough - surgery
Buddy Gibson (friend of Doris Kent) stomach cancer
Dawna Jennison (Patricia Jennison's daughter) prayers for strength and peace
Wyatt Maguire (Sue Crumpacker's grandson) heart condition
Pam Mayo (Carolyn Heath's daughter) car accident
Thomas Perdue (friend of Doris Kent) - non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Cora Sosebee (Dot Stanley's great granddaughter) seizures

*We remember the life, celebrate the faith, and pray for the loved ones of **Shane Jones**. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

District Prayer Calendar

December 4, 2016 -

Pray for ***Jenna Stacy***, a member of the Melvin Hill Church of the Brethren in North Carolina, who begins as Program Coordinator at Camp Bethel on January 1, 2017. Let us pray that the ministries of Camp Bethel will be enhanced and multiplied for the glory of God.

December 11, 2016 -

Pray for ***Matt Gynn***, who serves as Program Director - Nonviolent Social Change for On Earth Peace. Let us remember that every person who serves the Body of Christ is important and that those parts which seem to be weaker are indispensable.

December 18, 2016 -

Pray for every individual whose life is changed, endangered or lost by acts of violence, hatred and war. Let us manifest acts of healing, compassion and reconciliation in our daily lives with all whom we encounter.

December 25, 2016 -

Pray for ***the mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren***; our members, congregations, fellowships, and mission organizations, during the coming year. Let us use all of our being and substance to witness to the fullness of God in Jesus Christ in the midst of the great challenges and wonderful opportunities which are before us!

