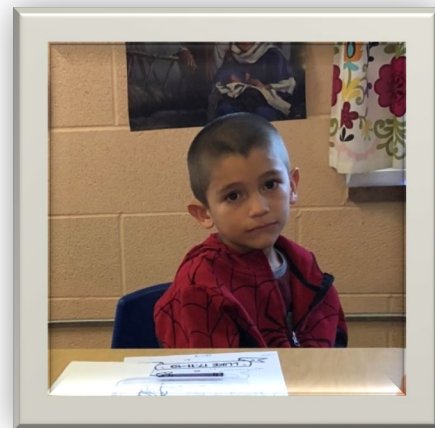


What a blessing we all received at CBS

on Sunday, November 11th. There were 10 children present and 6 adults who heard the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers as told by our puppets Pink and Tigger. Following that they completed the bulletin board about thankful hearts then painted over a secret message from God.

Our next event will be a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS** party on Sunday, December 2 from 3:30-5:00 in the youth lounge.



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS



DONOR

Loretta Wilson
Irene Turner
Irene Turner
Irene Turner
Irene Turner
Betty Parks

FUND

Health & Welfare
UMCOR
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Kid's Junction

IN MEMORY OF

Dale Chappell
Kathy Nunn
Kenneth Schaeffer
Mary Waddell
Dale Chappell
Dale Chappell



BIRTHDAYS



Jaime Butler	12/01	Babette Nuckolls	12/18	Skip Boyer Jr.	12/26
Nancy Westmoreland	12/6	Betty Butler	12/19	Helen Morton	12/28
Derek DeZern	12/7	Morgan Tompkins	12/20	Don Houk	12/31
Edsel Rudy	12/12	Bill Brannon	12/24		
Rubie Larowe	12/17	Janet Reeves	12/24		



ANNIVERSARIES



Shirley and Ken Rosenbaum 12/26
Judy and Richard Farmer 12/29

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec 2—Advent (Christian Year Begins)
Dec. 3 and 17—Kid's Junction
Dec 5 and 12—Wednesday Bible Study
Dec 16—Choral Cantata during Worship
Dec 24—Candlelit Christmas Eve Communion at 6 p.m.

KID JUNCTION NEWS

Kid Junction is still alive and fulfilling our mission!!!

For October and November we have assisted 14 families and 25 children.


A huge thanks to our volunteers: Janis Kurtz, Glenna McFadden, Nancy Westmoreland, Irene Turner and Elsie Davis.

Each of you is an integral part in making this local mission successful.

To God be the glory!!!

"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Hebrews 13:16 (NKJV)



The HIGHLAND CAMERATA
sings of

**YULETIDE
GLADNESS**

featuring
Benjamin Britten's
A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

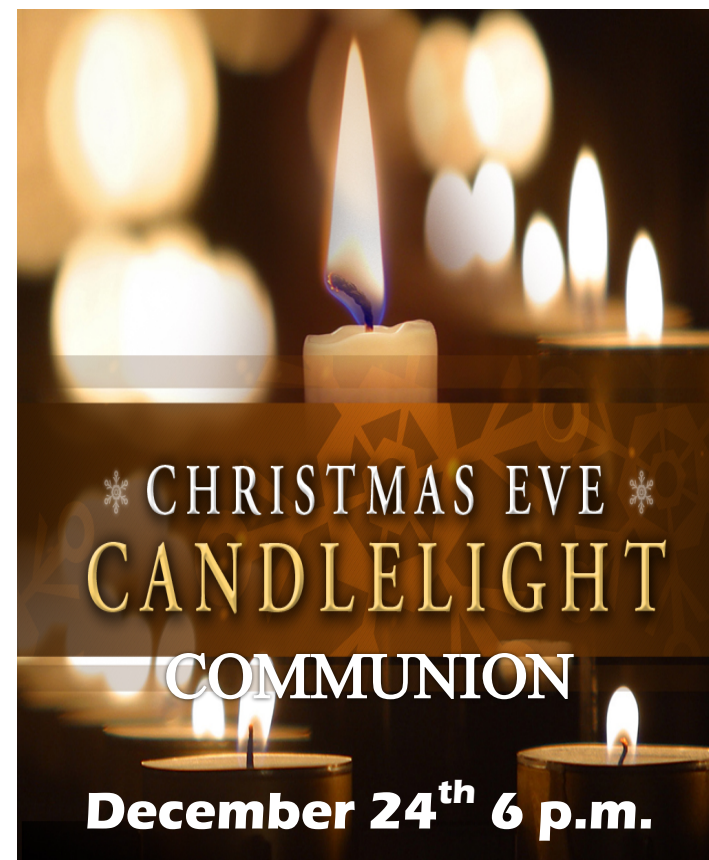
Please join us at one of our THREE concerts!

Friday, Dec. 7, 7:30 P.M.
The Historic 1908 Courthouse Independence, VA

Sunday, Dec. 9, 3:30 P.M.
First Christian Church Galax, VA

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 P.M.
First Baptist Church Sparta, NC

Find us on the Web: hcam.org ** Follow us on Facebook: Highland Camerata



CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
COMMUNION

December 24th 6 p.m.



THE VINE NEWSLETTER



December 2018

"I am the vine...you are the branches"

VOL. 62 – ISSUE 12

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – 306 W. Center St. (P.O. Box 445) – Galax, VA 24333

Phone: 236-9937 E-mail: fumcgalax1@gmail.com Web Page: www.fumcgalax.org

VISION STATEMENT: *Jesus calls us to be a community of loving and growing Christians committed to spreading the Good News while serving God and our neighbors.*

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Welcome to December! It is a month in which we not only anticipate the celebration of God becoming human in Jesus of Nazareth, it is also the time in which we anticipate family get-togethers, special meals, and a time to renew old acquaintances. It is also a time of dread. I personally dread it becoming dark so early. It can be 6:30 p.m. and it seems to be 9 p.m.!

It can also be a month of sadness and nostalgia as we remember our loved ones not with us, and we miss their presence. This is my second Christmas with neither my mom nor dad. I feel their absence as I am sure they felt an absence with my grandparents passed. This season of festivity is a season to spend with those we love and those who love us: Family and friends. May we cherish it and not take it for granted.

May we remember those that have few friends and little family in this season of family and friendship. If the opportunity presents itself, become family and a friend to someone who has neither. Christ himself was born into a family as you and I were. His mother was Mary and his supposed father was Joseph. Among his brothers was James, an early leader in Christ's Church. Jesus was surrounded by family and friends. Jesus was surrounded by his "tribe."

Nevertheless, his tribe and family did not prevent him from reaching out to those not of his tribe and family. His particular social situation did not limit those with whom interacted. He healed the daughter of a Gentile Syrophenician woman after she pointed out to him that God looks after everyone. He healed the daughter of a Gentile Roman Centurion. He conversed with a Gentile Samaritan woman of dubious reputation. He embraced the lame and blind and overcame their supposed uncleanness.

The good that Jesus did was not limited to his family and friends, but it certainly included them. May this be an example to us as we celebrate with family and friends for as John says: "God so love the WORLD...." When we see anyone in distress or dire straits, may we ignore the politicians, political pundits, and voices of the world; rather, may we listen to the Holy Spirit who leads us in the way of Christ!

Pastor Mark McFadden