

Year in Review:

gram, we have fed over 539 people through our ministry to the homeless and other outreach events. We had an estimated 1020 involved in fundraising events which benefited organizations like the fellowship of reconciliation, the youth mission trip, and our clothing closet ministry. We had social events in the community or for the community that impacted the lives of 920 people ranging from our Wave of Light service in the prayer garden to Primitive Camping trip and Trunk or Treat event. And we had almost 200 people engaged in hands on ministry to others as they packaged meals with Rise

- Rev. Rachel Gilmore



409 First Colonial Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

September 2017 EDITION

The Courier

RECONNECTING WITH GOD, OURSELVES, OTHERS, AND CREATION

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DECEMBER 2017 EDITION



Bobbie Wilcox

***Traditional Worship Leader
& Choir Director***

Advent is the season right before Christmas. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. It is a time of excitement, for adults and children as we count down to Christmas Morning. But when the Prophet Isaiah first prophesied of the coming Messiah, it was a time of great

despair for the Jews. Although the prophecy was full of hope and joy, it was delivered to the Jews against a backdrop of war and destruction. But even so, Isaiah prophesied of a great light coming to save them all. Isaiah 9:2 states

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

Just like the Jews in Isaiah's time, sometimes we may go

through periods of darkness in our own lives. Illness, death, losing a job or relationship problems are all things that can cause darkness to fall over our spirits. It can be very hard to see the light when things seem so dim. But remember, just like the Jews of old, the light is dawning. Our longings of the Messiah, of his love, forgiveness and constant grace were fulfilled when Jesus Christ was born that Christmas so long ago. Isaiah 9:6

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states ‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.’”

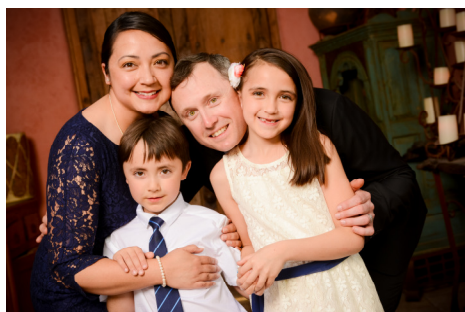
There are so many wonderful hymns in our United Methodist Hymnal that I love to sing during Advent. One of my favorite is “I want to walk as a child of the light”. For the chorus we sing, “In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus”. The light is coming, the light has been born. As we prepare for Advent, let the light of Christ fill your heart with love, peace and hope.

- *Bobbie Wilcox*

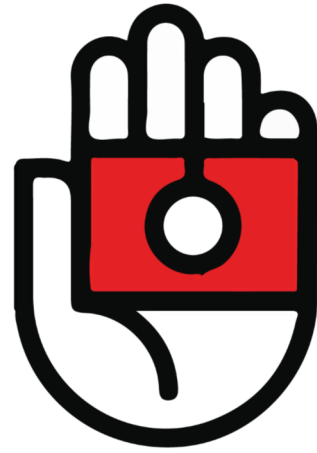
Welcome Jason Houser! Director of Youth & Sports Ministry

New staff member!

We are excited to welcome Jason Houser as our Director of Youth and Sports Ministry. Jason has a Masters in Education and has worked as a paid and volunteer youth director in the past. He is an officer in the Navy and his family has been active at the church for 8 years. His daughter, Mya, is in middle school and his son, Owen is a 4th grader at Salem Elementary School. Jason's wife, Rhiannon sings in the choir and the band and is an elementary school teacher in Norfolk. Jason's position will help us strengthen our sports outreach and will help us provide more spiritual discipleship for our growing teenage program at the church. We are excited to have him on staff!



*Jason Houser and
his family:
Wife – Rhiannon,
Children – Mya &
Owen*



HELP-PORTRAIT

Volunteers Needed

Saturday, December 2, 8 am - 12 pm

Join the Scott's Sisters as they serve with the mission project **Help Portrait**. We will be doing hair, makeup, and styling for low-income families and persons experiencing homelessness so that they have printed Christmas photos to send to loved ones this year. **We looking for donations of mirrors & hangers. We are in need volunteers in the following areas:**

- Food- cookies, fruit, (finger foods)
- Hair/ Make-up
- Photography- Help in the shooting stations
- Set-up (night before)/ Clean-up
- Registration
- Kitchen help
- Hosts for the event
- Run computer/ print photos

Contact **Monica Martin** to volunteer or for more info, monica@cocoabeanphoto.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS ♥ Remembering in Prayer

Church Family

Agatha Sigley	Jill Moore
Betty Wise	Joe Wise
Carla Morrisette	Mike Petrillo
Chris Ramsey & Family	Naomi Mitchell
George Schimmel	
Harriet VanBlarcom	
Jackie GinnJanie Yamrick	

Friends & Relatives

Al Reil, brother of of Barney Reil
Bill Carroll
Chad Stokely, (son of Herk & Lennie Stokely)
Charlotte Biggs
Donald Hall (nephew of Betty & Barney Reil, kidney failure)
Dwayne Einsphar
Elizabeth & Betty Rehpelz
Gene Sipe
Janet Deham
John Hendriksen
Larry Caffee
Sandy Vickers, Starke, FL
Vernon Gilbert, Son of Mary Gilbert

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain has been active for over 25 years. Anyone who wishes the Prayer Chain to be activated for them or for someone else (upon their request) should call: call **Cheryl McClenney, 431-4405** or **Pastor Rachel, 802-2282** to activate the Prayer Chain.

When we receive notice to activate the Prayer Chain, the information is passed to our callers who notify others of the request. If you would like to be apart of us and be notified of the Prayer Chain calls, please contact **Cheryl McClenney, 431-4405**.

Our world, our country, & our leaders

Misplaced refugees throughout the world

Missionaries

Kate & David O'Donnell
Vladi & Nadia Todorov
Reyes Family
Emil & Katiya Markov



Scott's Sisters Christmas Party & Ornament Exchange

Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 am – 2 pm
@ 409 First Colonial Rd.

Join for a potluck brunch as we will wrap presents for children in need in our community that have been donated by church members. Please bring an ornament if you would like to participate in the ornament exchange. Childcare provided



Do you remember a time when someone helped you, stood by your side, or went out of their way on your behalf? During this holiday season share small acts of kindness by giving back to others and take time to be thankful for your blessings. Here are some activities the Gathering at Scott Memorial is participating in during the holiday season. **Consider picking 1 or 2 activities to participate in with your family & friends.** Giving back can make a difference in the life of another while nourishing your spirit well past the holiday season.

- ♦ **Nov. 1 - 30** - Women's hygiene products for PIN Ministries
- ♦ **Nov. 12 - Dec. 15** - Cooke Elementary School Angel Tree
- ♦ **Nov. 23** - 99 for the 1 Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- ♦ **Nov. 27 - Dec. 1** - Meals on Wheels
- ♦ **Dec 1 - 25** - Mittens for Love
- ♦ **Dec. 2** - Help Portrait
- ♦ **Dec. 3** - 1st Sunday of Advent
- ♦ **Dec. 9** - Feed the Homeless @ PIN Ministries
- ♦ **Dec. 21** - Feed the hungry @ the JCOC
- ♦ **Dec. 21** - The Longest Night Homeless Vigil
- ♦ **Dec. 25** - Feed the hungry @ the JCOC
- ♦ **Every Wed.** - Clothing Locker
- ♦ **Every Wed.** - Fresh Food Wednesdays
- ♦ **2nd & 3rd Tues.** - Food Pantry

Christmas Eve services

Family friendly • Childcare provided

10: 15 AM | 5 PM | 7 PM

Please join us as we celebrate how God came to earth in an extraordinary way.



Cooke Elementary School Holiday Connection

The Gathering at Scott Memorial partners with W.T. Cooke Elementary School. The Angel Tree reaches out to students and their families who are in need during the holiday season. Please choose a tag from the Angel tree (some tags will have a toy interest and some will not) and return the tag attached to the UN-WRAPPED gift to the church no later than FRIDAY, DEC. 15. All gifts will be wrapped at the Scott's Sisters Christmas Party on Saturday-Dec. 16. For more info contact Robby, office@gatheratscott.com

New Worship Service Schedule for the winter Starts January 7, 2018

- **9 am:** Traditional service in the Sanctuary
- **9:15 am:** Experiential service in fellowship hall
- **10 am:** Sunday school/chapel - style service in the Pearsall Sunday School classroom
- **10:15 am:** Experiential service in sanctuary

Church office hours:

Mon. — Thurs. 9 am - 1 pm

www.gatheratscott.com
admin@gatheratscott.com
757.428.3720

Find us on Facebook-
The Gathering at Scott Memorial

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 23** - Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- **Nov. 27 - Dec. 1** - Meals on Wheels
- **Dec. 2** - Help Portrait
- **Dec. 3** - 1st Sunday of Advent
- **Dec. 9** - Feed the Homeless @ PIN Ministries
- **Dec. 16** - Scott's Sisters Ornament Exchange
- **Dec. 17** - Christmas Cantata 9 am & 10:15 am
- **Dec. 17** - Santa's Workshop
- **Dec. 17** - Youth Group Christmas Party
- **Dec. 21** - Feed the hungry @ the JCOC
- **Dec. 21** - The Longest Night Homeless Vigil
- **Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Services 10:15 am, 5 pm, 7 pm
- **Dec. 25** - Feed the hungry @ the JCOC
- **Jan. 1** - Registration opens for Upward Soccer
- **Jan. 7** - New service times begin



Do you know where your money goes?

Thanks to your generous giving every Sunday we were able to buy 10,000 meals for just under \$3000 to ship to people living in other countries. On Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017 men, women, and children at The Gathering at Scott Memorial united to package 10,000 meals to be shipped overseas to people in need. Thanks to everyone from the church and to the Boy Scouts who came out to participate in the event.

Rise Against Hunger's meal packaging program is a volunteer-based initiative that coordinates the assembly-line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. The program was created to give dedicated individuals and organizations — from businesses to civic clubs — the opportunity to participate in a hands-on international hunger relief program and to become educated, engaged advocates for the world's hungry. The events also give volunteers hands-on experience in leadership development, team-building, relationship-building, creative problem-solving, and goal-setting and achievement.

Since the inception of the meal packaging program in December 2005, these packaged meals have been used primarily to support school feeding programs in developing countries. Hunger is the common thread among the world's most challenging issues. Targeting hunger — specifically by supporting school feeding programs — leverages support to other causes including poverty, disease, education, and the welfare of women and children. Tanzania, and Cameroon. Thank you so much for your support."



Rise Against Hunger Event held on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC

Crafters

at The Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC

Crafters Group - Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Gathering at Scott Memorial crafters started a prayer shawl ministry and meet on Tuesday mornings from 10am - 12:30pm in the craft room near the office. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Our prayer shawls are always blessed before given away and are given in love to those who are in need of comfort. Prayer shawls can never be bought.

If you are unable to come out on Tues., but can work from home, contact us for directions and patterns. Contact: Jean Schimmel, Diane Thiele, Dot Belile or Gloria Holman.



Crafters Group's with Pastor Rachel after praying over the handmade prayer shawls.



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Custodian

**WE BELIEVE IN
INCARNATIONAL
MISSIONS - BRINGING CHRIST'S
LOVE TO BEAR ON A HURTING
WORLD WITH OUR HEARTS & HANDS.**