



## *St. Georges United Methodist Church*

*Worship. Grow. Serve. Share.*

**December 2018**

Good morning St. Georges!

Well, it's over. You made it. The holidays have passed and you can finally relax, grab a cup of coffee, sit by the fire, read a good book, and wait for spring. Ahhhhhh. Wait....hmmm? I'm being told this is not the January Newsletter. It's still December. We still have all of advent, shopping, wrapping, caroling, office parties, cookie parties, kid's Christmas parties, family Christmas parties, neighborhood Christmas parties, baking for the neighbors, baking for the family, Christmas cards to write, the kids Christmas concerts, family Christmas letters to write, decorating the outside of the house, decorating the inside of the house, buying the tree, decorating the tree. I think that's about it. As the great Jack Harmon would say, "Nothin' left but the doin'!" Easy. Christmas used to be fun. What happened? When did it become so loaded with "stuff"?

I swear every year I'm going to do less, take time to recognize the holiday, the glory that is Jesus coming, the mystery of the incarnation. The notion that God Almighty, creator of the universe, and is so huge, so holy, so other than us would choose to become one of us. Become fully human, in every way that makes us human. The God of the universe walked among us. That should overwhelm us every year at this time. But I find I spend more time worrying about what to buy my mother in-law (who is SUPER hard to shop for by the way). Every year I promise to slow down, and every year I fail. Something inside me aches for relief. Something in my soul yearns to seek out something deeper than mindless

materialism. And something tells me that this yearning is my need for God. Maybe one year I will give into it. Maybe one year I'll rest in the joy, the mystery, the glory of it all. I hope I can this year.

I'll tell ya what, I'll try if you do. Deal? If nothing else, let's promise to not take everything as a mandatory list item. Let's let some things drop off our list, undone, because there is no joy found in simply doing more. Because let's be honest, some things are just fluff. Maybe you don't need to decorate the outside of the house this year. Maybe Aunt Dolores will make it through the year without your famous lemon loaf. Cut the fat, slow down, and make room to breathe a little. I dunno. Maybe I'm just romantic. Maybe I'll try it next year.

In the name of the guy whose birthday is the reason for all of this,

Dave Ingalls

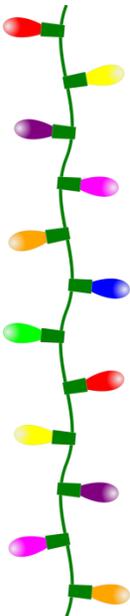


## Donna Goes Walk About....

Well I hope that your November was a little bit better than mine. Oh it started out just fine but early in the morning of Monday the 5<sup>th</sup>, my world was turned upside down. That's when I woke to the news that Willey Farms was engulfed in flames and there was no saving her. Nearly a month later, it's still hard to believe but the giant concrete slab where the market used to be and the tiny, cramped temporary office is a constant reminder. And so we



mourned. Like the loss of a loved one. But soon there were decisions to be made. Time to suck it up and move on. With the help of our awesome customers and an incredible local business support system, we are putting one foot in front of the other are doing just that. And the whole



experience has taught me another life lesson. Be prepared for anything, and given the chance, people will step up and do amazing things for their neighbor. Most of my co-workers jobs disappeared overnight. Mine, as Marketing Coordinator, was a bit more vague. But you know what? I showed up for work the next day and found ways to be useful. Some things ended up being marketing stuff and sometimes I was just digging thru the rubble. You do what you need to do and trust that God will see you through. And I must say, I have not been stressed out about my situation since the fire. Not happy...but not stressed either. I've been down this road before and I survived! I do appreciate the prayers and I hope you continue to keep me and my Willey Farms family in your thoughts.

And now it's time to get ready for Christmas! So many activities at church, with friends, and with family. A group of us enjoyed a nice evening out at Winterthur recently. We took the Yuletide tour through the mansion and then enjoyed jazz and



some snacks. I remind myself each year to enjoy and remember. Enjoy the special times with special people and remember why we celebrate. Hope you have a wonderful holiday!

That's all for now so I'll see you on Sunday!



Donna



## Methodist Women

The Methodist Women's group along with the men's group will be having their Christmas Dinner on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 pm. Bring a covered dish (the women will provide the ham), and your secret pal gift. We will meet in the church social hall.

Our next meeting will be January 10th at 7 pm in the church social hall. All women of the church are welcome. We will be making plans for our February Soup Sale, which will be held on Sunday, February 3 after church.



## Friendship Star Quilters

We delivered another 13 quilts last month to "Quilts for Comfort" and we have another dozen to work on this month. We will meet Tuesday, December 4th from 9:30 am to 4 pm. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Lunch will be served. Next month since the first Tuesday will be New Year's day, we will meet the second Tuesday for this month which will be Tuesday, January 8th.

## Troop 123 Update

The Scouts are preparing for their Klondike camping trip. The older Scouts are showing the younger Scouts how to use a z-rig system. This gives the ability to raise equipment or patients up inclines.



## Mission Update



This Thanksgiving St. Georges renewed a tradition with our "Ingathering" meal. Many years ago, the Ingathering meant to gather in food for the needy as our congregation celebrated Thanksgiving with a meal after church.

As a response to renewing the meaning of "Ingathering" a large amount of food was collected and donated to the Broken Bread Food Pantry in

Delaware City. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, a great deal of food was donated and helped restock their pantry.

The Broken Bread Food Pantry is a collaborative effort of Christ Episcopal, Delaware City Presbyterian and St. Paul's Catholic churches in Delaware City. Their pantry serves those in need from the local area.

Thank you for your willingness to share your love and food with those in need.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Carole Jaques  
Mission Chair



**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. – Isaiah 43:1**



A group made the annual trip to the Seaman Center recently. We enjoyed wrapping presents and the fellowship of being together. What a joy to know that we helped to make Christmas better for the seaman who pass through the port.



## Decorating for the Christmas Season

The church will look beautiful again this advent season thanks to a group of “elves” who met on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> to decorate. Thanks to the Scouts for their help! Here are some pics of the day!





## Happy Birthday to...

Edith Carroll.....Dec 1  
 Manuel Molina....Dec 8  
 Carole Jaques....Dec 12  
 Sam Tuttle.....Dec 26

Sue Gestwicki.....Dec 7  
 Maryanna Spicer..Dec 10  
 Linda Moore.....Dec 21

## Happy Anniversary to...

Jerry & Dawn Lowe.....Dec 10

Tom & Dorothy Cleaver...Dec 23

## Why Celebrate Advent?

It felt like we had just cleared the Thanksgiving turkey from the table when our 2-year-old started asking, "When is Santa coming, Mommy?" And our 4-year-old chimed in, "How many presents am I getting?" No matter what was asked, their questions had one general theme: *What's in it for me?*



My heart sank. Christ was slipping away from being the focus of our Christmas season. A few weeks later, the holiday hustle and bustle ended just as quickly as it had begun, leaving behind two exhausted parents and a ton of shredded wrapping paper. I felt like nothing was gained.

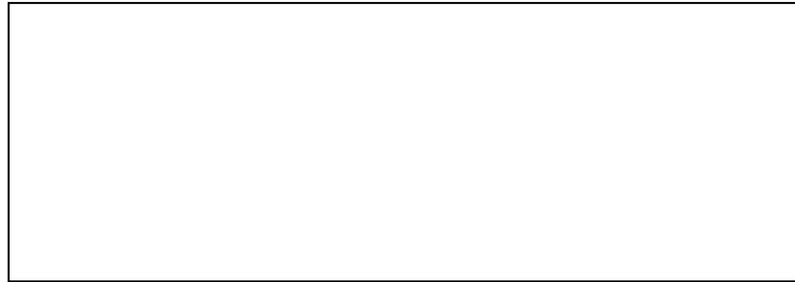
My husband, Kevin, and I wanted more for our two boys. We began to ask ourselves, *When our sons are grown, how will they remember Christmas?* We wanted their memories to hold insights into Jesus, not a blur of insignificant toys and games.

The following autumn, we made deliberate choices about how we would celebrate the season. In the weeks before Christmas, we read the Nativity story together, talked about it and allowed our sons to play with kid-friendly figurines from a Nativity scene. Our daily devotional time was short and simple, but it worked as a countdown to Jesus' birth, and it allowed Kevin and me to be with our children and model what was important to our family. This time together became an opportunity to talk more about Jesus in our home. The change was noticeable. What used to be a time of counting down the days until presents arrived shifted to a celebration of Christ's coming.

—Courtney Roberts



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## Dates to Remember

- Dec 2.....Hanging of the Greens Service 10 am
- Dec 4.....Friendship Star Quilters 9:30a – 4p
- Dec 13.....UMW/UMM Christmas dinner/party 6 pm
- Dec 15.....Christmas Caroling around St. Georges 5 pm
- Dec 24.....Christmas Eve Family service @ 5pm
- Dec 24.....Christmas Eve Candlelight service @ 8pm
- Dec 25.....Merry Christmas! A savior is born!

Traditional worship service every Sunday @ 10 am  
Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9 am  
Visit our website at [www.stgeorgesumc.com](http://www.stgeorgesumc.com)  
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