

# The Vine

## **From Pastor Doug...**

This year during Advent, which actually begins on November 29, we will be sharing in a sermon series using Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol*. We will be looking at the sins of Ebenezer Scrooge, the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present, the ghost of Christmas yet to come, and the transformation that can come to us. Our Christmas Eve Services will be at 7:00 and 11:00 PM. The early service is a family service and the later service is a quieter communion service. This year, since we have begun Open Door Ministries, there are other options as well. New Sharon will have a 7:00 PM service and Wenonah and Barnsboro will have a service at 8:30 PM.

On Sunday, December 27, we will have one worship service at 10 AM and all of the churches from Open Door Ministries will be joining together as we celebrate Christmas.

I hope you will join us as we share together in worship this Advent and Christmas Season.

### ***Under Wraps—The Gift We Never Expected***

That's the theme of our Advent Bible Study that will begin on Monday Night November 30 at 7:00 PM. We will meet at the church in the Something in Common Room. Pastor Joyce will be leading us in the study. Join us as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

### **For those feeling blue around the holidays**

The holidays can be difficult for those dealing with pain, loss, illness, and grief. There will be a Blue Christmas service at **Barnsboro United Methodist at 7pm on Sunday, Dec. 20th**. This service is an opportunity to honor one another's hardships and remind ourselves of the hope born in the manger that first Christmas morning. Please take the opportunity to invite those you know who are having a hard time.

Peace,  
Pastor John

### ***LifeGroup Meetings***

Small Group meets on  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
at The Miller's and on  
Wednesdays 7:00 pm  
at the Histan's  
Come see what it's all about!

New LifeGroup beginning in January—This group will be led by Pastor Joyce, please pray about being a part of it and if you have any questions or are interested, please contact Pastor Doug or Greg Miller.

***Sunday Night Life***  
December 13  
6:00 pm  
At The UMC of Mantua





# Zumba with Paula

Bring Yoga Mat/Hand Weights

\$5 per class

Monday December 14 & December 21 at 7-8 pm

## BEFORE YOU BUY:

As you may know, our current budget is in the red, so if your group needs supplies for the kitchen, please check with Nancy Overton (856-478-0741) about your needs before you make any purchases. We have quite a stockpile of items (for example: there are currently more than 2,500 plastic spoons in the kitchen! As well as MANY styrofoam bowls, and an assortment of paper plates.). If you DO end up buying supplies, please label them with your group name if you want to save them for a future event. Otherwise, they will be up for grabs! Your cooperation will not only be appreciated, but will save money and storage space as well. Thank you.

### *The Corinthian Cupboard is in Need of the Following Items*

Cereal	Syrup	Beef Stew
Cake Mix	Pancake Mix	Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Potatoes	Boxed & Canned Soups	Spiral, Elbow & Bowtie
Canned Meats	Macaroni & Cheese	Pasta
Canned Pasta	Jell-O	Instant Seasoned
Canned Chili	Pudding	Noodles & Rice
Canned Fruit	Rice	

## MTV Painless Fundraiser

Buy Shop Rite (\$20) Cards \* The Church receives 5% \* You receive gift cards dollar for dollar  
**It costs you nothing!**



**ShopRite**

*Where does the money go?*

*It pays for some of the equipment needs of MTV.*

*In addition, contributions have been made to UMC Mission Trips and The Waterproofing Fund.*

**Goal:** We have a goal of **\$1,000 per week**. This is easily achievable! If we only had 50 families that shop at Shop Rite and each family bought one card per week, that would be \$1,000. The church would earn **\$2,600 per year**. **When we meet this goal, MTV would not only be mostly self-supporting, we would also be able to make larger contributions for other church needs.**

**Action:** LET'S DO IT! Exchange your cash or check for Shop Rite gift cards and go food shopping for your family or donate cards to The Corinthian Cupboard or Family Promise! It costs nothing but reaps great rewards!

### Average Gift Card Purchases -Keep up the Good Work

2015 1st Quarter  
 \$455 per week

2015 2nd Quarter  
 \$337 per week

2015 3rd Quarter  
 \$434 per week

**Thank you for your continued support!**  
**Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer**

# POINSETTIAS

The SALT Class is taking orders for Poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary on December 23rd.

Orders may be given to: Terri Smith or call 468-3697. Orders will be collected after worship in the narthex on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please include payment with order.

Please make checks payable to The SALT Class.

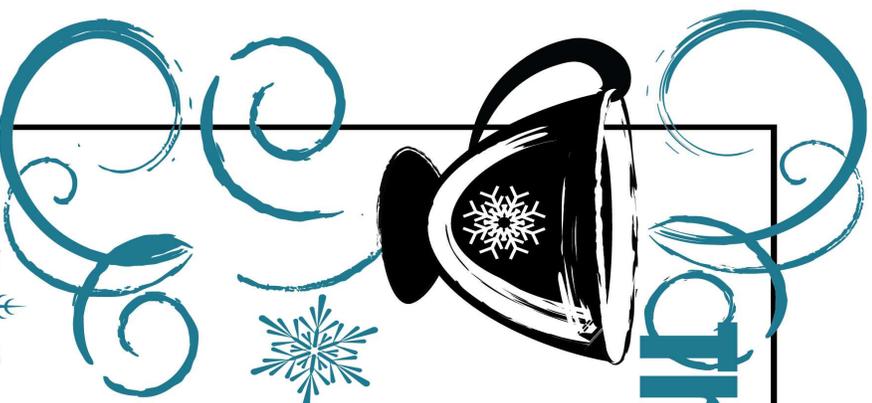
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

How Many: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid By: Ck./Cash

PLEASE PRINT and CIRCLE: Memory -OR- Honor below!

Memory OR Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Coffee House at Mantua UMC

There is no coffee house in December. Please enjoy the Christmas season and the celebration of our Savior's birth. Here are our upcoming coffee house dates:

**Josue Velez**  
Friday, Jan. 15th

**Eric Rapp**  
Friday, Feb. 19th

**Dave Pettigrew**  
Friday, Mar. 18th

**Waiting for the Flood**  
Friday, Apr. 15th

**The EONS**  
Friday, May 20th

Third Fridays at 7:30pm • Free Admission • Free Coffee, Tea, Baked Goods!



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Check out [www.mantuaumc.org](http://www.mantuaumc.org) for more info or email [mamakreh@gmail.com](mailto:mamakreh@gmail.com).  
Donations of Baked Goods Gratefully Accepted. Call Maria if you can help.

## **December 2015 Mantua Methodist Vine Research Insert**

By William M. Crowley, Educational Research Director

**2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV), "Study to show thyself approved unto GOD..."**

This exciting, unending series researches the KJV Bible with other related sources.

# **MARY'S TRAVEL TO ELIZABETH**

## **THE ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Luke 1:28,"And the angel came in to her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favored, the LORD is with thee: blessed art thou among women." And so it began.**

An astonishing statement from a heavenly being to a teenage girl, of probably limited education, is today viewed by readers as wonderful. Mary---at least was surprised---was alone to receive this magnificent revelation.

Luke 1:29, "And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying..."

Then came the purpose of his mission.

Luke 1:31,"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

Mary was betrothed to Joseph. This was a little too much for the young girl to understand. To whom could she confide? The angel told Mary of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Maybe she would understand.

Luke 1:56, "And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house."

## **THE JOURNEY**

We do not have a record of Mary's parents or guardians. But, Mary knew the social and legal implications of her situation. Indications are this was a hurried trip to the Judean hill country---hurried from excitement or fear? One commentator estimates the journey was from 80 to 100 miles requiring 3 to 4 days---alone?

## **OBSTACLES**

This was King Herod's territory. He ruled as he wished disregarding the law. In Solomon's time a king or one of high rank could abduct young girls found on the roads. There was also the possibility of Roman Soldiers doing the same. Then, of course we have the regular trouble-makers who could have captured a loner. Travel was very risky under controlled conditions---insanity for a lone teenage girl. And there are other little obstacles to overcome.

## **CONDUCT CODES FOR WOMEN**

All young unmarried women were to wear veils when out of the confines of their homes. So in traveling this be required. Mary, now, would desperately need to maintain privacy---she was pregnant.

-A single woman found pregnant, but not married, was subject to stoning.

-Mary's betrothal to Joseph was now in jeopardy. He could refuse her resulting in her stoning .

-A woman who is found, on her wedding night, not to be a virgin could be stoned.

## **LUKE 1:56, "AND MARY ABODE WITH HER ABOUT THREE MONTHS, AND RETURNED TO HER OWN HOUSE."**

Why three months? What discussions did Mary and Elizabeth have? Were there other angelic visits? We shall never know as the Bible is silent on this as it is on the journey. We can only speculate that Mary feared the Judgment of the people. She understood that deaf ears would fail to hear her pleas---as today through our filters of arrogance pretending to know all. Some things never change.

## **Realville Youth Group .....**

Just an update on what we have been doing! Halloween was a busy time for us this year – we were able to collect 2 yard bags full of costumes that we donated to the Angel of God Clothing Closet in Pitman. We came out and helped set up for the Trunk or Treat – it was fun to decorate the dance area! Big Thank You to Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds for letting us decorate their mobile home for this year's Trunk or Treat!!!! It looked really cool decorated as the inside of a 1950's dinner. We handed out candy and fliers to everyone about our Sock Hop fundraiser.

Our Sock Hop on 11/7/15 was not well attended, but the group that came out had fun. We ate fabulous food, played a game or two, a couple contest and we danced the night away. Thank you to everyone that came out... the set up crew, the wonderful cooks and kitchen staff, and the cleanup crew.. you are all amazing!

Upcoming events: The Craft Fair is coming up on 11/28, from 9 am to 3 pm. We are trying to get a table so we can hold a Bake Sale. MidWinter Advance is coming up fast – paperwork and deposit is due now – talk to me about forms!! We are planning on going January 22 – 24, 2016 - \$35.00 deposit to be made out to Realville Youth. Total for the weekend is \$120.00 – please talk to me if you will have an issue sending your youth.

Thank you again for the opportunity to spend time with your youth!!

Sincerely

Penny Kirkbride – Youth Director



*I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Night of Music that was held on Sunday, October 25th. It was a lot of fun doing this event with all of you.*

*Another thank you to all of you who came out to the event that night. With your help we raised \$1,427 for our church!! That is just awesome! We have an amazing church family. Please remember to continue to give in your weekly offerings and to continue to pray for our church and its financial situation.*

*Blessings to all of you,  
Maria Kreh*

We invite you to join us for the.....

## Happy Birthday Jesus Party



Pizza, birthday  
cake, crafts,

Fun!

*As a gift to baby Jesus, each family please bring an unwrapped new toy. We will be donating them to children who are staying at CHOP over Christmas in memory and honor of children from our church who have stayed there.*

**Sunday Evening, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

**Celebration will be held in the**

**McConnell Hall**

Here are some Toy Donation Wish List Items for CHOP patients.

(Toys made of fabric and wood are discouraged as they cannot be cleaned or used repeatedly by patients)

### **Infant Items (Birth to 12 months):**

- Fisher Price, Lamaze and Sassy brand crib toys (i.e. crib mirrors, toys, mobiles, aquariums, etc.)
- Busy boxes/pop-up toys
- Electronic light-up/musical toys
- Stacking/nesting toys/infant links
- Board Books
- Rattles/teething rings
- Bath toys
- Activity gyms and play mats

### **Toddler Items (1 to 3 years):**

- Little Tikes & Fisher Price toys, especially Little People items
- Musical instruments
- Push/pull toys
- Plastic/Durable dramatic play toys (i.e., pirate ship, garage, doll house, etc.)
- Kitchen sets and plastic play food
- Tool sets
- Board books
- Sound-making books
- V-Tech toys
- Leap Frog brand items

### **Adolescent Items:**

- Gift Cards/Certificates (\$25 or less; please include gift receipts!)
- Electronics Store (Best Buy, Gamestop)
- Old Navy, Gap, Target, Wal-Mart, Kmart, American Eagle, etc
- iTunes
- Starbucks/Mawa
- American Express/Visa
- Advanced model kits (e.g. car, airplane)
- Gift Sets: Bath & body, manicure, make-up
- Jewelry sets, watches and accessories
- Advanced art kits
- Cookbooks (Food Network)
- Scrapbook kits (albums, decorative paper, stickers)
- Digital picture frame
- SD/Memory cards
- MP3 Players
- Ear buds
- MP3 player cases
- Docking station

Sports team clothing, professional or collegiate

(jerseys, sweatshirts, t-shirts and hats in men's and women's sizes)

Sports memorabilia, pro or collegiate (i.e. bobbleheads, figurines, decals/decorations)

### **Art Supplies:**

- Sculpey, Fimo or self-hardening clay
- Magazines (child and adolescent content, multicultural or catalogs)
- Oil pastels
- Masks, boxes (blank for decorating)
- Tile (for mosaic – various shapes, colors, glass, ceramic) and grout
- Bead Kits
- Wikki Stix (wax sticks)
- Lap desks, tabletop easels
- Arts and Crafts kits (preschool age to youth adult)

### **Electronics**

- Digital Camera and SD Memory Cards
  - Portable DVD players
  - DVD's (Rated G, PG, PG-13)
  - Video Games Rated "E" for everyone or "T" for teen-please, no "M" for mature for the following systems:
    - PSP, Playstation 2 & 3, Wii, Xbox 360 and Nintendo DS
    - Wii controllers (Wii Remote & Nunchuks)
    - XBOX 360 Controllers
    - Nintendo DSi/XL systems
    - Nooks or Kindles
- Other Needs:**
- Viewmasters and Viewmaster Reels
  - 1 Spy and Look and Find Books
  - Playing Cards
  - Uno Cards
  - Fisher Price Doctor's Kits
  - Baby Dolls (made completely of plastic, no stuffed or soft body parts)
  - Gazillion brand bubbles

# Happy December Birthday!

- 1 Brianna Baylor
- 2 Kristen Lisle  
John Sfaelos  
Taylor Ann Williams
- 3 Greg Miller
- 4 Danielle Kraft
- 5 Laurie Kruithof
- 7 Ian Gorman  
Harry Litle
- 8 Anthony Carelli  
Kim Kraft
- 9 Julia Lisle
- 10 Donna Hanahan
- 11 Esther Fuchs
- 14 Janet Davis
- 15 Robert Smith III

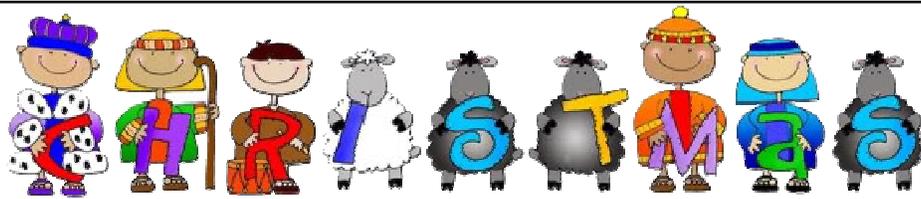


- 16 Aaron Reynolds  
Carl Reynolds  
Helena Reynolds
- 17 Joseph DiSalvio
- 20 Michelle Liloia
- 21 Jim Brickner Jr.  
Reese Spencer  
Alex Vincent
- 23 Kim Wagner  
Ryan Weiner
- 24 Madeleine Lisle
- 27 Erik Heiss
- 28 Elda Barger  
Erin Fuchs
- 29 Ed Covert  
Chris Schaeckel
- 31 Sarah Jennings

## *Happy December Anniversary*



- 2 Richard & Debbie Sullivan
- 7 Tom & Lorraine Beckett
- 8 Doug & Jenise Fraser
- 30 Adam & Talia Eubanks  
Frank & Laurie Rohrman



## ***Christmas Pageant***

We find ourselves entering the wonderfully joyous time of the year in which we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. The Children's Christmas Pageant remains as one of the very special ways we do this at The United Methodist Church of Mantua. The Sunday School Team will be working with Terry Grabert to support this much-loved ministry.

The pageant will be presented on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** at both the 9:15 and 11:00 services. Following the 11:00 pageant, the children will return to their Sunday School classrooms.

We reach out with hope and expectation that most, if not all, of our children will play a role. Please encourage your children to join in both pageant shows, so that our whole church family can enjoy this adored program! Please watch your bulletin for details and sign-ups.

**The Christmas Card Mailbox** will be placed in the Narthex to gather Christmas Greetings for your Church Family December 6th through December 20th. Please do not forget to check to see if you have received mail each Sunday. Thank you to the Pairs & Spares class for continuing this wonderful tradition!



## ***Angel Tree***

It is Angel Tree time again! Gifts will be going to needy families that have been provided to us through the Gloucester County Division of Social Services. The families are all from Mantua and Wenonah. Those who wish to participate should follow these directions.

Take an angel from the tree. **PRINT** your name and phone number on the color tag and place it back on the tree. Take the white tag with you.

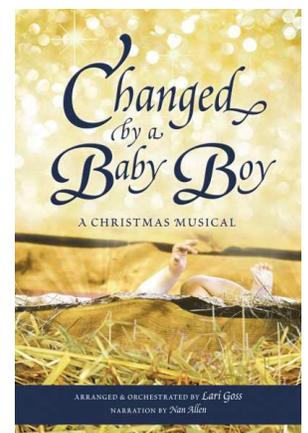
Purchase your gift and return it **WRAPPED** with the white tag attached.

Members of the SALT Class can assist you and answer any questions. Thank you in advance for your anticipated participation and cooperation.



## ***Changed by a Baby Boy***

Please join our choirs and drama group on Sunday evening, December 6, at 7:00 pm as we share how we have all been changed by a Baby Boy— Jesus!



**Teddy Bear Delivery** Each year we walk the halls of the hospital singing Christmas Carols and delivering teddy bears to those in the hospital over the holiday season. Everyone is invited to come December 20th immediately following 11:00 am Worship Service. Teddy Bear donations will continue to be received through December.



## Become a Member of UMC Market!

1. Signup at [UMCMarket.org](http://UMCMarket.org)
2. Enter the name of your UMC church or organization (search for Mantua)
3. Browse through all our categories and choose to shop from our hundreds of stores. Every time you shop the stores will donate a portion of your purchase back to your selected UMC church or organization. Make sure to log in before going to the stores and to have an empty shopping cart before you start to shop. Also, you need to complete your purchase within 24 hours to be eligible for a donation.

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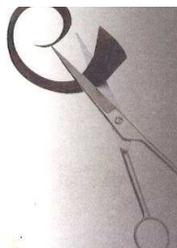
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