



# Light From The Hill

DECEMBER, 2017...The Pastor's Corner...Rev. Norman L. Ramsey, III

Dear Laurel Hill:

I received an email from the district office letting me know it's that time of year again. No, they don't send a Christmas card. They send a notice to schedule a meeting to talk about and review my appointment.

This year, we also have a set of questions to help us in that review. One of those I want to share with each of you. "If you return to your current appointment, what is your number one goal?"

My answer: Be a part of God's ongoing work of grace to develop our members into mature and fruitful disciples who know how to share the work of God in their lives, are equipped to raise up the next generation of believers, and are active in serving the Lord in real and impactful ways.

Now, in order for that answer to become reality we all need to share in growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We all have to practice sharing the work of God with others. This begins in our own devotional time as we confess and praise God for who He is.

We need to make sure we know the names of the children who come up for Children's Time and who participate in Children's Church. We need to pray for them and their parents. We are the body of Christ and we can watch over one another in love.

We can serve the Lord on the lookout for those who need help, encouragement, and deliverance. If our schedule permits, we can be involved in feeding the homeless, providing help to the widows and visiting the shut-ins. We can be ready to pray in faith for one another. How? Practice thanking God for His faithfulness and then repeat that practice when you're with others.

The season of Advent and Christmas reminds us "God so loved, He gave". Let this season also be a reminder to us of how we can give ourselves in service to the Lord. I am thankful we can celebrate "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

We receive and move in the power and Spirit of the Great King. We walk in peace with the Savior. I pray you will be free of all other detours, deceits, and distractions as you enjoy this holiday season!

Love you very much,  
Norman Ramsey

**THE ADVENT LUNCHEON** at Varina Episcopal will be Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M. All the ladies of Laurel Hill are invited. Just come that day and bring nothing but yourself. This is a wonderful opportunity fellowship with the ladies of our community. Don't miss this very special event. It will make your season merry and bright.

*Have a blessed Christmas and New Year, 2018*

## LAY MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER, 2017

**Praise & Worship: 8:45 A.M.-Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.-Worship: 11:00 A.M.**

### OUR USHERS

December 3 Kirby Miller, Joe Corley, Randy Welch

December 10 Stuart Walton, Raymond Stevenson, Buddy Whitlow

December 17 Bill Robinson, Gene Russell, George Kaloski

December 24 Craig Pollard, Phil Deane, Ray Alexander

December 24 Christmas Eve Service (Ushers will be volunteers from those attending)

December 31 Peggy & Doug Singlemann and Agnes Knowles and Raymond Stevenson

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

December 3 & 10 Sheree Gestel

December 17 & 24 Stuart & Tricia Walton

December 31 & January 7 Jeremy & Stephanie Rowan

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### OUR ACOLYTES

December 3- Eliana Horne

December 24-TBA

### COMMUNION

December-Nancy Henry

Millie Peterson

Christmas Eve-Keith & Sheree Gestel

### OUR GREETERS

December 3 Craig and Kristen Pollard

December 10 Bud Funk and John Turner

December 17 Pam Wilson and Ann Hechler

December 24 Barbara and Billy Wendel (Christmas Eve Morning)

December 24 Randy and Meade Welch (Christmas Eve Service)

December 31 Jonathan and Phyllis Schmick (New Year's Eve Morning)

### SOUND TECHNICIANS

December 3-Doug Singlemann

December 10 & 17-Bill Robinson

December 24 & 31-Keith Gestel

### TELLERS

December 3 Lois Miller and Pam Wilson

December 10 Susan Nowell and Jenny Nelson

December 17 Phil Deane and Randy Welch

December 24 Chris Ragland and Linda Kinsey

December 31 Lois Miller and Pam Wilson

**BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER:** Kathie Whitlow, John Brockman, Bronson Stoneman, Bobby Holmes, Julie Olgers, Drew Corley, Arie Brandon, Barry Deal, Keith Gestel, Dot Gay, Mildred Peterson, Nancy Bergemann, Dennis Blanton and Anne Corley

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION...**

**TO MY LAUREL HILL CHURCH FAMILY:** I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to you for all of your kind words, thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, and visits during my recent hospitalization and recovery from surgery. In addition, I was honored in a very special way in receiving a beautiful handmade quilt from the Laurel Quilters on Sunday November 12. It is a real blessing to be cared for in such a gracious manner by the Body of Christ, and I am truly thankful for it. Sincerely, Phil Deane

**FISH NEWS-We are collecting Applesauce for the month of December. Also, a trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania in April, 2018, to see "The Life of Jesus" is in the planning stages. Contact Kirby or Pam if you are interested.**



**Thursdays at 4:15 – 4:45 PM ▶ Laurel Hill Singers**

WE'RE INTRODUCING ONLINE GIVING TO LAUREL HILL



LOOK AND LISTEN FOR DETAILS EACH SUNDAY  
DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

“O Lord, You championed my cause, You redeemed my life.” Lamentations 3:58

December is the month designated by the Virginia Annual Conf. to remember UMFS with donations. There are nine locations around the state that help at risk children and youth. These locations offer adoption, in-home family services, mentoring, counseling and residential treatment. There are schools at the Richmond and Edinburg locations that teach students who are unable to fit in their local school systems. There are 5,330 foster care children in Virginia. UMFS serves these children and youth with special needs at its nine locations. At the Richmond and Centerville locations students live on campus while getting special help. These are called Child and Family Healing Centers. A Special offering at the Christmas Eve service at Laurel Hill is designated to the work of UMFS. If you are unable to attend then, special offering enveloped will be available for you. This is a gift that help children for a lifetime. What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior? Merry Christmas.



## CHRISTMAS COOKIES WANTED!

For several years, I have helped our Weekday School ministry with refreshments after its Christmas program. Many of our guests, and especially the children, enjoy the cheese, crackers, and fresh fruits and vegetables that are emphasized as a healthy choice for snacks. But it was the look in the eyes of a few fathers and grandfathers that caught my attention." "Where are the **homemade** Christmas cookies?" they asked.

Well, the Laurel Hill church family has come through for several years now with the most awesome mixture of traditional, homemade Christmas cookies!

SO! If you would like to bake your **special recipe** of "not-so-good-for-you" Christmas cookies and provide a dozen (or more) to be included with the healthy choices for refreshments after the Weekday School Christmas Program on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, please drop them off at the kitchen on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. (**Due to food allergies this year, please use recipes that do not include nuts.**) If you have any questions, please contact me at (804) 795-9077. Let's give them some help and *pizzazz!* SUSAN NOWELL



## **OUR DECEMBER CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday School children will present their Christmas Play during the 11:00 Worship Service.

On Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. our Weekday students and staff will present their Christmas Play with refreshments and a special guest to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, our Laurel Hill Children's Choir will sing during the 11:00 Worship Service.

On Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M. we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. **The offering we receive during this service goes to the ministry of the United Methodist Family Services.**



8:45am – Praise & Worship  
9:45am – Sunday School  
11:00am – Traditional Worship

**December 3, 2017:** Behold, the Lord Comes (Jude 1: 14 – 25 NKJV)  
*(Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM, Luncheon after 11:00 AM Service)*

**December 10, 2017:** Watch and Pray (Luke 21: 36)  
*(Children's Program during the 11:00 AM Service)*

**December 17, 2017:** That I May Rejoice in that Day, (Philippians 2: 16)  
*(Laurel Hill Singers-Children)*

**December 24, 2017:** Prepare the Road (Isaiah 57: 14 - 21)

**December 24, 2017:** The Time Has Come (Luke 2)

**December 31, 2017:** Making Holy Resolutions (Luke 2: 23, Exodus 13)

