

Today in the fellowship hall join us as we continue our sermon series, "Under Wraps: *The Gift We Never Expected.*" Today's sermon is "God Is Faithful."

Matthew 1:18-21 from the New International Version (NIV):

¹⁸ *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁹ *Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

²⁰ *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."* ²¹ *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

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You will find the words and responses on the screens during the Contemporary worship service. The general order we follow each Sunday is:

- Gathering:** Praise Songs and Greeting
- Gratitude:** Offering and Prayer
- God's Word:** Scripture and Sermon
- Going:** Praise Song and Sending



- Songs in Today's Service:**
- How Great Thou Art* by Paul Baloche
 - Go Tell It On the Mountain*
 - The First Noel*
 - Christmas Time Is Here*
 - Amen*

These and other praise songs can be found on PER 90.5 FM. Listening will improve your week.

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Today the Bennett Family lights our Advent candle.

Sunday 12/18

- Regular Worship Schedule
- Praise Team Rehearsal (FH) 9:30-10:30 am
- 3rd Sunday Youth Worship/Lunch (Off Campus) 12:00 noon
- Rhapsody Recitals (Chapel Bldg.) 1:00-6:00 pm
- Girl Scout Troop 3007 (EB 202) 5:00-6:30 pm
- Under Wraps* Dinner (FH) 5:15-5:45 pm
- Under Wraps* Children Study (EB 105/106) 5:45-6:30 pm
- Under Wraps* Youth Large Group Study (FH/DOG House) 5:45-6:30 pm
- Under Wraps* Adult Study (FH) 5:45-6:30 pm
- Youth Ice Skating (West Broad Village) 7:00-8:30 pm

Monday 12/19

- The Center's Elves Workshops (Chapel Bldg.) 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Finance Committee Meeting (Library) 6:30-8:00 pm

Tuesday 12/20

- The Center's Elves Workshops (Chapel Bldg.) 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Staff Meeting (Church Office) 10:00-11:30 am
- Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting (Library) 6:30-7:30 pm
- Short Pump Ruritans Christmas Meeting (FH) 7:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday 12/21

- The Center's Elves Workshops (Chapel Bldg.) 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Rehearsals (Sanctuary) 4:00-7:00 pm
- Disciple I (EB 205) 6:00-8:00 pm
- Disciple III (EB 207) 6:15-7:30 pm
- Disciple Fast Track (EB 203) 6:15-7:15 pm
- Connection Group (EB 206) 6:15-7:15 pm
- Praise Team Rehearsal (FH) 7:15-8:15 pm
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:15-8:45 pm

Thursday 12/22

- UMM Bible Study (DOG House) 6:45-7:45 am
- The Center's Elves Workshops (Chapel Bldg.) 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Boy Scouts - Troop 735 (FH) 7:00-9:00 pm

Friday 12/23

- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED AT 1:00 PM
- The Center's Elves Workshops (Chapel Bldg.) 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Girl Scout Troop 408 (EB 106) 2:40-4:00 pm
- Relay Foods (Front Parking Lot) 3:00-6:30 pm

Saturday 12/24

- Christmas Eve Services
 - Children & Families (Sanctuary) 3:00 pm
 - Children & Families (Sanctuary) 5:00 pm
 - Candlelight Contemporary Communion (FH) 7:00 pm
 - Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm
 - Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary) 9:00 pm
 - Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary) 11:00pm

Sunday 12/25

- Christmas Day Service (Sanctuary) 11:00 am-12:00 noon
- HeBrews is CLOSED



Sunday, December 18, 2016

THIS WEEK AT SHADY GROVE

Shady Grove United Methodist Church Short Pump

4825 Pouncey Tract Road
Glen Allen VA 23059
804.360.2600
www.shadygroveumc.net

Regular Sunday Schedule

- 8:15 am
Traditional Worship Sanctuary
- 9:00-11:00 am
HeBrews Coffee Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 am
Informal Traditional Worship Sanctuary
Nursery Faith Care (infants-age 2) *Education Building*
3 Years-5th Grade Sunday School *Education Building*
Youth Sunday School Chapel Building
Adult Sunday School Chapel Building
- 11:00 am
Informal Traditional Worship Sanctuary
Contemporary Worship Fellowship Hall
Nursery Faith Care (infants-age 2) *Education Building*
Children's Own Worship Chapel

Last Sunday's Stewardship Report on 12/11/2016 (37 weeks)

2016 Fiscal Year is April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Will you be loyal to Shady Grove United Methodist Church and uphold your church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

ATTENDANCE						
12/10	8:15	9:30	11:00	Cont.	Total	SS COW
175	30	285	257	50	622	101 17

OPERATING FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Amount received to date in 2016 Fiscal Year	\$ 636,530
Expenses to date for 2016 Fiscal Year	\$ 689,715
Pledge amount for 2016-17 Fiscal Year Operating Fund	\$ 807,587
Pledge cards received	237

BUILDING FUND – (Mortgage Payments)

Amount received to date in 2016 Fiscal Year	\$ 60,761
Principal & Interest paid in 2016 Fiscal Year	\$ 97,944
Pledge amount for 2016-17 Fiscal Year Building Fund	\$ 87,405
Pledge cards received	104

The Building Fund is used to serve our \$ 837,228 debt obligation from 2002-2004 construction of the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and education building, as well as the 2007 acquisition of the adjacent properties on Shady Grove Road. This loan is currently being paid down at a 20-year amortization rate.

GROUNDING IN FAITH, GROWING TO SERVE CAMPAIGN

Amount received to date	\$ 361,274
Pledge amount for 3 years Capital Campaign	\$1,576,545
Pledge cards received	130

Advent Offering	\$ 620
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SERMON NOTES

Matthew 1:21

1. Just about everyone knows what it feels like to be _____.
2. Throughout the Old Testament we read of God being _____ to his people even when they weren't _____ in return.
3. We don't know a lot about Joseph's and Mary's life story but I can promise you that they had people in their past who had betrayed their _____.
4. Let us with Joseph and Mary _____ our faith and put our trust in the one who came to give us _____.



Announcements for December 18, 2016

We are glad you are here. It is our hope that you will find our worship meaningful and life-giving. If you are searching for a church home or are interested in learning more about Shady Grove UMC, we invite you to attend our next "Lunch with the Pastors" on Sunday, January 22, at 12:00 noon. To RSVP for lunch, please call the church office at 360-2600 or email plugin@shadygroveumc.net.

TODAY

Under Wraps Advent Study with Dinner concludes this evening, 5:15 to 6:30 pm. Questions? Contact Lauren Adkins, ladkins@shadygroveumc.net.

The **Missions Committee** is pleased to offer you several ways to give to others in need this Christmas:

- **Support the Caring Clothes Closet** by picking ornaments off the Giving Trees in the sanctuary and fellowship hall during Advent. Shop for the listed items and return the gifts back under the tree or purchase a gift cards from Youth Ministry. Trees will be up through **December 25**.
- **Make an Advent offering.** This year the Advent offering will benefit the scholarship fund for mission trips (both youth and adult), SGUMC's Samaritan Fund which provides emergency funds for families in our community, and the global mission fund used to sponsor several missionary families serving around the world. Please write "Advent Offering" in the memo of your check through **December 31**.

Want to serve your church in the new year? Immediate opening for week one Sanctuary set up team, first Thursday of each month (but flexible on day). Prepare and restock the pews for worship. Time commitment about an hour — bring a friend, fellowship while serving makes it joyful! Training and all supplies provided. Thank you to Ruth Duncan and Jean Howard, for many years of faithful service. Contact Dana Kelley at 360-2600 or musicadmin@shadygroveumc.net.

The 2017 Altar flower calendar sign up is up and active. Please sign up for dates that are special to you; in honor, remembrance, or in celebration. Questions? Contact Dana Kelley at musicadmin@shadygroveumc.net or 360-2600.

Year End Contributions – IRS Code 10170A-1(b) states that only funds received or postmarked by December 31 may be counted as 2016 contributions. The date of receipt or the postmark is the key to determining the year of receipt. This also applies to stock transfers. Please be sure to submit your contributions for the calendar year to the church office **by December 31, 2016**. Questions? Contact Elena Komarov at 360-3907, ext. 23 or email ekomarov@shadygroveumc.net.

THIS WEEK

The Elves Workshops at The Center for Creative Arts – December 19-23. Children ages 6+ enjoy mornings filled with the Christmas spirit as they create unique gifts for their family. Winter Wonderland Art Workshops for children ages 5-12 inspire young artists during the week between Christmas and New Year's. See the details at www.center4creativearts.org. The Center offers a broad array of classes for children and teens including art, chess, and private music instruction for all ages. Learn about our programs at www.center4creativearts.org or email center4creativearts@comcast.net to register.

Christmas Eve Services – On this holy night, we will have six worship services. The services at 3:00 and 5:00 pm are especially child-friendly with a special visitor who will share the Christmas story. The 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 pm services in the sanctuary will offer Holy Communion and candle lighting with music led by the Sanctuary Choir, other ensembles, and soloists. The 7:00 pm service in the fellowship hall will feature Holy Communion and candle lighting with music led by our contemporary Praise Team. Nursery childcare available for children age 0-3 at the 3:00 and 5:00 pm services.

Office Hours for December 23-30 – Please note church office hours for the end of December: Friday, December 23, the office will be open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; Monday December 26, the office will be closed; Tuesday through Friday, December 27 through 30 the office will be open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

COMING UP

Christmas Day Service – We will have one service on Sunday, December 25, at 11:00 am in the sanctuary.

HeBrews will be closed on Sunday, December 25, and on Sunday, January 1.

Preschool Open House – You are invited to an open house at Shady Grove UMC Preschool, our half day Christian preschool for children age 1 through Pre-K, on **Wednesday, January 4**, at 9:30 am. Contact Leigh Pierce, Director, at 360-3533 or lpierce@shadygroveumc.net. Learn more at www.shadygroveumcpreschool.org.

The Betty Fairbanks Circle invites all women of the church to their program on **Monday, January 9**, at 1:00 pm in the education building, room 201. Dottie Chilton, representative from the SGUMC Missions Committee, will give updates on our church-wide missions. Contact is Nancy Lowe, nancylowe10@comcast.net or 716-0517.

Gideon's Call, a men's vocal ensemble, will be singing in worship Sunday, February 5. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:15 pm January 18 and 25, and are held in the education building, room 204. The final rehearsal is February 1 from 6:30 to 7:15 pm and will be held in the sanctuary. Boys in grades 8-12 and interested men are encouraged to join us and participate in this ministry opportunity. Contact Sylvia Cooper at scooper@shadygroveumc.net for more information.

Adult Mission Opportunities – Save the date for a one day work project on Trenika's home in Waverly, VA on **Saturday, January 14**. Adults are invited to be part of the mission opportunity **May 14-19** — Appalachia Service Project in Guyan Valley, WV, \$425. Questions or for more information contact Bob Payne at rpayne60@comcast.net or 305-8763.

Massanutten Tubing Trip – The Children's Council is planning a family tubing trip to Massanutten Resort on **Saturday, February 11**. Cost is \$26 per person. We will carpool and leave church parking lot at 9:00 am. Questions? Contact Beanie Kelly at bkelly@shadygroveumc.net.

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of December 18, 2016

Matthew 1:18-21

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion. Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

1. Have you ever felt what it is like to be forgotten? If so, talk about the experience.
2. Can negative relationships with others affect our relationship with God? If so, how?
3. How could growing up in a setting where your primary role models are not trustworthy cause you to develop issues with trust? How could that distrust spill over into how you perceive God?
4. Left to our own devices in dealing with our sins can isolate us from God and others. Discuss.
5. Throughout the Old Testament we read of God being faithful to his people even when they weren't faithful in return. How can we be sure God can be trusted to be faithful even when we aren't?
6. Do you think God ever gives up on us? Discuss the ways in which he reveals he can be trusted.
7. In baptism we celebrate God's consistent faithfulness through the symbols we use as we participate in this sacrament. Discuss the meaning of symbols of faithfulness of God in this sacrament and discuss why they are used. What in the service of baptism points to humanity's unfaithfulness?
8. Read our scripture text, Matthew 1:18-21. What does this passage tell us about God's intentions for his people? Can God save us even if we don't choose to participate with him?
9. Andrew Lester, in his book *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling*, says, "If you have a dysfunctional story, your future is not likely to turn out well. If it is negative or unrealistic, you are bound for difficulty. And if you have no hope, no healthy sense of the future being better than the present, you get stuck, you even get sick." What do you think he means? How can God being always faithful help us to change this outlook?

PRAYER CONCERNS

Tori Anderson, Vic Anderson (father of Vicky Oliver), Jim Bonnell, Amy Carroll (sister of Sara Fender), Gil Chilton, Bonnie Dellinger (mother of Jill Early), Kim Dodson (mother of Shana Miller), Pat Edwards, Hugh Elwood, Betty Finley, Cheryl Fitzgerald (sister of Donna Noble), William Foster, Ann Gooch (mother of Anita Schrunk), Kathy Graeber, Ann Gussett (mother of Laura Ann Kump), Laura Harkonen-missionary in Congo, Tommy Harris, Ryan Hartsook (son-in-law of Mike and Ruth Powell), Don Herrick (father of Anne Hurst and Sarah Metzgar), Peggy Hill, Terry Hoover (father of Haylee Douglas), Preston Hudak, Betsy Katko, Susie Kottcamp, Jane Mackey (mother of Roger Mackey), Wallace Martin, Willis McCauley, Pam Melton (daughter of Sylvia Chartier), Diane Morrison, Mary Muse (sister of Mae Ruth Roberts), Samantha Muse (niece of Mae Ruth Roberts), Caiden Purkey (grandson of Bob and Lisa Jones), Cindy Russo, Amira Safwat, Jim Schmidt, Lois Ann Sessoms (mother of Rachel Smith), Margaret Shaw, Steve Stokes, Sara Walker

Homebound

Aleida Bultman, Mike Powell-Our Lady of Hope, Beverly Robertson (mother of Martha Anne Martin)-Our Lady of Hope, Shirley Ronquest-Crump Manor, Linda Stone-Our Lady of Hope

Global Missionaries

Heather and James-location undisclosed, Nico Chantel-Europe, Fishers 4 Him-Dominican Republic, Eva and Lindsay Gilliam-U! Laura and Timo Harkonen-Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liz Jackson-Philippines, Quynh-Hoa Nguyen-Vietnam

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Jacque Flint and family upon the death of her brother, Andy Farmer.

