

NEWS FROM HOME

A Newsletter from Rich Valley Presbyterian Church
~ Winter 2007 ~

WRVP Radio Presents "A Down-Home Christmas"

Our Christmas play is now in rehearsal! WRVP Radio Presents "A Down-Home Christmas" will be performed by Rich Valley Presbyterian Church and friends at Northwood Middle School on Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00pm. An encore presentation will be performed on Sunday, December 23 at 5:00pm.

This promises to be a fun-for-all evening with a very inspiring message. This is a dinner theatre presentation so come hungry! Everyone is invited!



Marys and Marthas: Christmas Activities

The Marys and Marthas (M&Ms) have been almost as busy as Santa's elves! The ladies group is making new Crismons for the church Christmas Tree. The new ones will be featured in our Hanging of the Greens service on November 29th.

The M&Ms will also be meeting on December 11 to make fruit baskets for residents of Valley Healthcare Center. Members should bring apples, grapes or bananas. Other suggestions include small boxes of tissues or snack crackers.

The next night, December 12, M&Ms (along with Valley Grass) will go to the

Healthcare Center to deliver them.

We want to welcome all ladies of the community to join the M&M group. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm. The group participates in new activities each month, chosen by our members. We hope to see you there!



Community Choir Cantata

A first for RVPC will be on December 2 at 6:00pm when the Community Choir, under the direction of Mr. Michael Colston, accompanied by Mrs. Linda Blair, will perform the Christmas Cantata "Birthday of a King." Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served following in the church fellowship hall.

2008 Session Members Nominated

Two new members for the 2008 Session for Rich Valley Presbyterian Church have been chosen by the Nominating Committee. Lib Burress and Lynn Campbell will be joining current members: Sherry Jones, Heather Gillespie, David Buchanan and Champ Clark.

The new Session members will begin serving in January 2008. The church would like to thank Hal Campbell and Raymond Campbell for their service and dedication to the Session.

Sunday School for Teens Kickoff

A Sunday School class for Teenagers and Young Adults will kick off on Sunday January 6th at 10am. Plan on coming hungry because breakfast burritos will be served. And don't forget to bring a friend!



Calendar of Events:

- **November 29, 6:30pm**
Hanging of the Greens
- **December 2, 6:00pm**
Community Choir Cantata
- **December 11, 7:00pm**
Marys and Marthas (M&Ms)
- **December 12, 7:00pm**
M&Ms—Delivery of Fruit Baskets to Valley Healthcare
- **December 19, 7:00pm**
RVPC Christmas Play: A Dinner Theatre performed at Northwood Middle School
- **December 23, 5:00pm**
RVPC Christmas Play Encore: A Dinner Theatre performed at Northwood Middle School
- **December 25, 11:00am**
Lighting of the Christ Candle
- **January 2008**
New Bible Study—Stay Tuned!



*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and
the government shall be
upon his shoulder: and his
name shall be called Wonderful,
Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

- Isaiah 9:6



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Habitat for Humanity

Rich Valley and Locust Cove Churches answered the call this fall to join other Presbyterians in building a beautiful 3 bedroom home for Fred Canter and Kimberly Roberts and their 2 children. Thanks to the organization, Habitat for Humanity, thousands of homes across the globe have been constructed by volunteers helping the working poor achieve modest and safe home ownership through a non-interest mortgage. Fred and Kimberly participated in the building of their home and several other homes, by fulfilling their obligation to 500 hours of labor.

Studies show that children living in homeless shelters or unsafe neighborhoods have difficulty focusing in school. All of us



know the importance and value of a secure home. Our personal safety, emotional security and social and spiritual grounding are nurtured in the fabric of home and hearth. Thanks for your time and commitment to reaching out in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Chrismon Tree

The traditional Christmas tree is transformed into a Chrismon tree by the addition of white and gold symbols of the Christian faith. The term Chrismon is a compound of Christ and monogram. You can consider Chrismons a "Monogram of Christ."

Chrismons provide the "sign language of our faith". These meaningful ornaments were the inspiration of Mrs. Harry W. Spencer of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, VA. The idea has spread to over 10,000 churches of all denominations. All of the ornaments are historic symbols of our faith. You will recognize many, i.e., the fish, the ark, the star of Bethlehem, the dove, the butterfly



and various crosses.

Chrismons celebrate the nativity of our Lord in this season of love and generosity. May these Chrismons deepen your spiritual life this Advent season. Many thanks to the Marys and Marthas (M & M's) of Rich Valley P. C. for their time and creativity in updating our Chrismon tree.

On Thanksgiving: A Pastor's Column

Thanksgiving was for me a "nuclear family" kind of holiday when I was growing up in Fresno, CA. Sometimes a friend or neighbor might be over when I was a child, but that was not common. In my adolescent years a nephew of my father often came up from Burbank. My Cousin Bill worked in television with famous people and was in and of himself awfully good fun. Sometimes he would bring an interesting guest as well. Thanksgivings were great! His parents moved to southern California after a time. Sometimes they came up, and sometimes we went down. Thanksgivings got even better.

And then came the army. And then came Fort Polk, LA, and the 60th Army Band. And then came my first major holiday away from family. While I planned to be home for Christmas, Thanksgiving promised to be a lonely event.

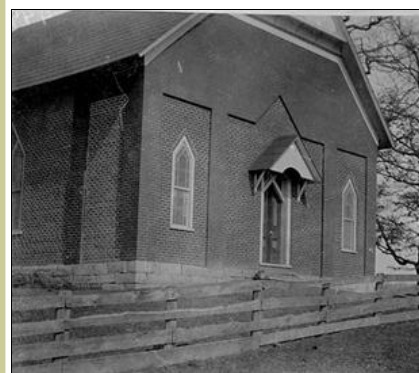
Not so! One of the Louisiana members of the band invited a couple of us for Thanksgiving dinner. (And if he hadn't, someone else would have, we found out later.) His home was a simple trailer, but by the standards of a city boy the fare was not simple. I've forgotten what the side dishes were, but the main course was a stew including dove, squirrel, and rabbit. There may have been still other animals included, but I've forgotten some the details. (Some of the details in life are best forgotten, actually.) Although a little nervous I dug right in. This was Thanksgiving, after all!

To this day I remember the Thanksgiving of 1971--in part for the food and in greater part to the thoughtfulness and generosity of another G. I., one who knew that a lonely holiday is no holiday at all. Thanksgiving is now past us, but how can we alleviate loneliness on into the holiday season? Let's find out.

Peace,
Pastor Bill

New Hymnals

The session has authorized the purchase of new hymnals and welcome the support of the congregation in their purchase. The goal is to purchase a total of 80. Their individual cost (including shipping) is \$15. Persons wishing to donate a hymnal "in honor of" or "in memory of" one or more individuals should specify that in their giving. The giving of multiple hymnals-- as well as the honoring or memorializing of multiple persons -- will be most welcome. December 31st 2007 is the deadline for hymnal orders. Please call Pastor Bill at (276) 624-3377 for more info.



This photograph was taken around 1880. You can find out more about this picture on our website at www.richvalleyipc.org

