



*Our traditional  
service of*  
**Nine Lessons  
& Carols**

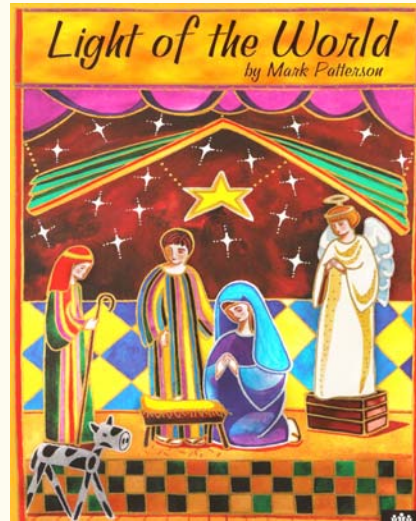
*will be*  
**Sunday, December 16**  
*at 3:00 p.m.*

*The service will feature  
Mount Vernon's Aldersgate Choir,  
Epworth Choir, Aldersgate Ringers,  
Wesley Ringers,  
and community brass players.*

*A holiday reception  
will follow in the fellowship hall.*

*Come and join us  
in this festive worship experience!*

**Children's Christmas  
Musical Pageant**



**Wednesday, December 19**  
**6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Following the Wednesday dinner  
at 6:00 p.m.

Please call the church office  
to make a dinner reservation  
by December 17.



**Christmas  
Eve  
Service**

**5:30 p.m.**

Nursery  
provided.



## Brunswick Stew Sale

Saturday, December 8

\$5/quart

11:15 a.m - Church parking lot

Purchase tickets in the church office to reserve your stew.

— Proceeds benefit the youth summer mission trip —

January							February							March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31																			

**Looking Toward 2013 ...**

<b>Monday, Jan. 7</b>	<b>CHURCH COUNCIL meets</b>
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 9</b>	<b>Wednesday dinners and programs resume</b>
<b>Saturday, Jan. 12</b>	<b>LEADERSHIP DAY</b>
<b>Saturday, Jan. 26</b>	<b>BRUNSWICK STEW: Last sale of the season</b>
<b>Friday, Saturday, &amp; Sunday, Feb. 22-24</b>	<b>LENTEN FESTIVAL OF UNITY</b>
<b>Sunday, February 24</b>	<b>STOP HUNGER NOW</b>



## Growing Voices

You may have noticed the choir loft filling up a little more on some Sundays this fall. We have been rebuilding the choir, and there has been a great response. Our choir is doing a wonderful job leading the congregation in music during our worship services.

If you have ever thought about singing in a choir, I can promise you will find this to be a loving group of people, accepting of everyone. Come join our growing choir and experience worship from the loft.

— Tim Navis

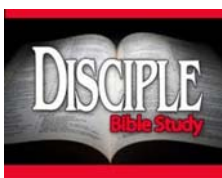
## Introducing the Zimbelstern

Have you noticed a different sound from the organ in recent weeks? In September, our organ builder installed a zimbelstern, a feature that, when activated by the organist, spins and rings a random bell pattern over and over. The organist can also change the speed at which the bells are rung. I have used it during some preludes and hymns, and will use it for other things to come. If you look closely at the top of the organ chamber, you might see it in motion.

— Tim



## Short-Term Disciple Bible Study



A short-term version of Disciple Bible Study will be offered during Lent (in addition to the full study currently underway on Sunday afternoons). Through this study, participants will be invited to listen

afresh to the witness of the Old Testament to hear God's call and purpose for their own lives and to respond to that call. Tentative plans are to have the study on Monday mornings, 9:30-11:00, February 4-March 25. A nursery will be provided, as needed. Please contact Beth Bauman (bbauman@comcast.net) if you are interested in being part of the class.



## Coats, Hats, and Bus Drivers Needed for the Community Christmas Dinner

A box is in the hallway to the Education wing for coats and hats, to be distributed at the Community Christmas Dinner. No other clothing, please.

Also needed: a church bus driver and assistant for a pick-up route on Christmas morning and a take-home route after the dinner. Please contact Tobias Lutz for details.





## Yoga, Anyone?

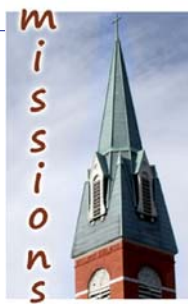
When Wednesday night dinners resume on January 9, one of our options will be yoga lessons. Dave Shivetts will be the leader. Many of us know Dave because he was an adult volunteer on one of our summer youth mission trips to Project Crossroads.



## Thank you!

To Raywood Landscape Center for making the exterior of our church look great ... to Verla Wall, Tim Navis, and all who helped with our sanctuary Chrismon tree ... to Peggy Wright and all who made wreaths ... and to all who helped with the Hanging of the Greens!

**The Community Thanksgiving Service offering of \$587.00 was given to the Community Christmas Dinner.**



Thank you, Mount Vernon, for your generosity that allowed us to deliver **133 pounds of food and toiletries to God's Storehouse** on October 1. And a special thank you for **helping Henry Fork Service Center obtain the 1.6 million Campbell's Soup labels** needed to redeem a minivan.

We are so proud that our nomination for the Charlotte Seegars Mission Award was given to the Briggs Bauman family (*see below*). Nine Mount Vernonites attended the awards banquet.

The Missions Committee approved \$200 to help with the costs incurred by volunteers at the **Community Christmas dinner**.

We collected **19 Operation Christmas Child boxes and \$194 in donations**.

Please bring gloves, hats, scarves, and school supplies to the Mitten Tree, outside the fellowship hall. **December 10 is the Mitten Tree deadline.**

The missions we are supporting this year with the **Advent Offering** are **Habitat for Humanity** (Danville applicants), **Henry Fork Service Center**, and **Heifer International**.

**Stop Hunger Now: Coming Feb. 24!** — Mary Franks



Congratulations to the **Briggs Bauman Family**, who received the **2012 Charlotte Seegars Mission Award** (Seegars was the founder of Henry Fork Service Center). Briggs, Beth, Catherine, and Carter all amply meet the award criteria as persons who give "wholeheartedly and faithfully to others through personal mission and the missions of the church, locally, nationally and throughout the world."

**Briggs** is a member in The Danville Lions Club and works with eye care for children, and he has traveled to Honduras with a Friends of Barnabas medical team.

**Beth** has been to Haiti on mission teams several times, most recently in 2010 with a team from the Danville District, after the earthquake. She has spearheaded the enrollment of a Haitian student now at Averett University. She was instrumental in creating the Danville CROP Hunger Walk (now in its fifth year) and bringing an annual SERRV Sale to Mount Vernon. She began Mount Vernon's summer youth mission trips with Appalachian Service Project and Project Crossroads – eleven consecutive years of assisting elderly, disabled, and low-income homeowners in the Appalachian area with home repairs. She currently serves on the board of God's Storehouse.



*Henry Fork Director Lisa Nichols presents a Charlotte Seegars Mission Award to Briggs and Beth Bauman at a banquet at Brosville UMC on November 11.*

**Catherine**, a graduate of the University of Virginia and the Graduate Institute, Geneva, spent a year teaching in French Guiana and is currently in Burundi (East Africa) as Education Director of Village Health Works.

**Carter**, an Emory and Henry College student, spent the summer of 2011 in a village in Tanzania at the Gombe School of Environment and Society and is now working an intern with Habitat for Humanity in Milwaukee, WI.



## Wednesday Dinners and Programs

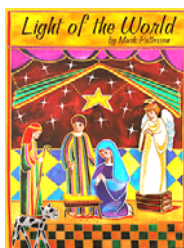
6:00 p.m., Dinner    6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., Programs

Adults: \$6. Children under 13, no charge

### Menu

### Programs

<b>December 5</b>	Covered Dish (No charge; bring something good to share.)	<i>In the Fellowship Hall: "John Bell-lona Community"; children's pageant rehearsal</i>
<b>December 12</b>	Christmas Breakfast for Dinner: eggs, grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, cinnamon rolls	<i>FH: "Carol Sing"; pageant rehearsal</i>
<b>December 19</b>	Suzanne Miller cooking	Children's Christmas Pageant



**No dinners on December 26 and January 2. Dinners and programs will resume on January 9.**

*To Our Mount Vernon Family:*

*The two simple words, "thank you," will never fully express the gratitude we feel for your outpouring of concern, love, and the multiple acts of kindness through what has proven to be a most challenging summer and fall. Your words of encouragement and support, your visits, your prayers, and the meals you prepared to help lighten the load for us were very much appreciated and will never be forgotten.*

*You are a very special congregational family and we are blessed to be a part of it. As we begin to find our new normal, we look forward to participating more fully in the life of Mount Vernon UMC.*

*Thank you and may God bless all of you,  
Andy and Katie Fitch*

*Dear Friends,*

*Twelve months have gone by since my cancer diagnosis, and here we are, once again, in the Christmas Season. I wanted each one of you to know how deeply I have felt your prayers during my illness... they honestly kept me going on many a difficult day. I am most thankful to be doing well and continuing to get my strength back. I appreciate beyond words your thoughts and acts of kindness. And now, my prayer for you is to feel the wonder and joy of Jesus' birth in the manger, to enjoy the children singing and portraying the scene of that magical night, to hear the beautiful music our choirs will sing to us, to smell the fresh greens in the wreaths all around our church, to smile at the person beside you and to feel Jesus' love in your heart.*

*God's blessings to each of you,  
Beth Payne*

## Services of Worship

**December 9, 2012**

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Luke 12: 32 – 40

Sermon: "Ready for What?"

*The Rev. Barry S. Foster*

**December 16, 2012**

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25

Sermon: "God Finds Us"

*The Rev. Barry S. Foster*

**December 23, 2012**

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1: 1-8, 19-20, 24-28

**December 24, 2012**

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

**5:30 p.m.**

**December 30, 2012**

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Scripture: Luke 2: 13 – 14

Sermon: "...and on Earth, Peace..."

*The Rev. Barry S. Foster*

**January 6, 2012**

### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Scripture: Isaiah 61: 1 – 9

Sermon: "The True Epiphany of Christ"

*The Rev. Barry S. Foster*

## Ferrum College and Local Ministries Receive Donations from Mount Vernon's United Methodist Women

Ferrum College	\$1,000.00
Salvation Army	300.00
God's Storehouse	300.00
Children's House	300.00
Henry Fork Center	100.00
Community	
Christmas Dinner	200.00



– Bonnie Griffith, President, UMW

# Children's Library Book Spotlight

## On Our Wish List

*Images of God for Young Children*, by Marie-Helene Delval

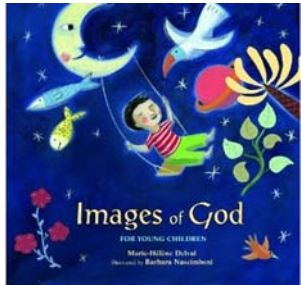
"The Bible describes God in many different ways: God is Light; God is joy; God is wisdom; God is the beauty that fills the earth and the rock we stand on, the promises we live by and the fire that purifies us. This volume offers a collection of these images, presented in simple language that young readers can easily understand. This book's bright artwork and

lyrical text ... explores how, even though we cannot see or touch God, we can still discover him in our world." \*

View our wish list online at [WishList.com/MountVernonUMC](http://WishList.com/MountVernonUMC).

—Angela Longerbeam

\*From a review on amazon.com



Fun at Children's House, two-year-olds class



On November 18, we were pleased to present Bibles to our third graders at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Receiving Bibles were Brendan deAristizabal, Mary Hawkins, Hollyn Milam, Miles Milligan, and Noah Reed.



A gift of \$400.00 in honor of  
**Suzanne Miller**  
has been given to the Haitian Student Fund  
by the Contemporary Adult Sunday School Class.

A gift of \$3,000.00 in honor of  
**Frank Cuthrell**  
has been given to the Carpenter's Project.

A gift in honor of  
**Bonnie Williams**  
has been given to the Children's House  
Scholarship Fund by Mount Vernon staffers  
Beth, Lin, and Shirley.



Ann Hurt shares the story of the Prophet Isaiah with our youth Sunday School class.



## Mount Vernon Feeds the GW Football Team

Thank you to everyone from Mount Vernon who helped make and serve dinner to the George Washington High School football team on November 2!



*Gifts in memory of  
**Nancy Barker**  
have been received from  
Ely and Jerry Foster  
and H. Graham Knott, Jr.*

*Gifts in memory of  
**Margaret Leggett**  
(Tom Leggett's mother)  
have been received from  
Frank Grogan, Jr.,  
Shirley and Stuart Bray,  
and Ely and Jerry Foster.*

*A gift in memory of  
**Donald Moore**  
has been received from  
Danville Redevelopment and  
Housing Authority.*

*A gift in memory of  
**Virginia Farley**  
has been received from  
Shirley and Stuart Bray.*

*A gift in memory of  
**Billy Arrington**  
has been received from  
Harry and Margaret Milam.*

*A gift in memory of  
**John Hines Travis, Jr.**  
(nephew of Rosalind Morton),  
has been received from Harry  
and Margaret Milam.*

*A gift in memory of  
**Albert Maurakis**  
has been received from  
Frank Grogan, Jr.*



## My Run for Red Bird

On November 17 I toed the line at the Second Annual Crooked Road 24-Hour Ultra in Rocky Mount, VA. I intended to run 100 miles during the event, and to raise money to support the Christmas ministries of the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY. These programs provide gifts for hundreds of children in the impoverished region of Appalachian Kentucky. I'm excited to report that I met my goal, and through the

generosity of Mount Vernon members and others in the community, over \$1,100 was sent to the Mission. Thanks so much to everyone who aided in this ministry through their gifts and prayers!

Lots of people have had questions about the event, so it was suggested I create a Frequently Asked Questions sheet (below) about my experience. — Tobias Lutz



**Why would you want to run 100 miles?** Since I hadn't done more than 40 miles at once before, I suppose the first answer would be just to see if I could. As far as ultra running in general, the answer is a little more abstract. Ultra running refers to foot races that are over marathon distance (26.2 miles) in length. While runners have different motivations for tackling these events, I enjoy them because I find them very cathartic. In a world that wears me out with work, school, and other tasks that are frequently beyond my control, it is nice to be completely exhausted on terms that I have dictated myself. It is also very meditative. I don't run with music and I find the peace and quiet as the miles roll by to be very relaxing.

**Did you run for the entire 24 hours?** No. I completed my 100 miles in 20 hours and 38 minutes. Having met my goal, I decided to sit out the rest of the event by the bonfire. That said, I moved continuously during the time I was clicking off my mileage. I stopped twice to change shoes, and a few times to use the restroom, but other than that I ran non-stop except when I walked to eat.

**What do you eat during one of these runs?** Whatever you can keep down. The first twelve hours of the race I was able to stomach pizza, crackers, bananas, Little Debbie cakes, and raisins. By the last eight hours, only grapes and ginger snaps, washed down with flat ginger ale and cold coffee.

**Does it get boring?** Yes, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. While it seems odd at first to not have to worry about doing anything but putting one foot in front of the other, after a while you appreciate the break from modern mental overload. I sent texts to my wife each hour to update her of my progress, and occasionally I talked to other runners in passing, but for the most part it was a mini vacation from the world.

**Were you exhausted? Did it hurt?** I was spent to the world, and even mentally and emotionally exhausted for about 48 hours afterward. There is obviously some muscle soreness, but I was up and walking around the next day, and even jogged a little on Thanksgiving morning (four days later).

**What was your favorite part?** I have two: I enjoyed the prayer at the starting line. The gentleman who led it spoke about the value of suffering and it reminded me of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (in spirit only, as I'm certainly not comparing running to martyrdom). The second was when I reached the 100-mile marker on my 106<sup>th</sup> lap. I just threw myself down in the grass. It was a little before 5 in the morning and I turned my headlamp off and took in the moment and the stars shining in the cloudless sky. In one sense I wish my wife had been there to celebrate it with me, but at the same time it was nice to share it exclusively with the God that I know made it possible.

**Would you do it again?** I'm already scheduling my next 100 miler for spring. I plan to pick a more challenging event to raise funds for next Christmas at Red Bird. Everyone will hear more about that next fall.



*Our Deepest Sympathy to  
Andy and Katie Fitch  
in the death of Katie's mother, Joanne Pilkington,  
on November 17.*

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers . . .

At home: <b>Bill Hardy, Zane Kinn, Margaret Powell</b>	At Stratford House: <b>Marjorie Hood, May Bergman, Becky Farthing, Paul and Helen Stanfield</b>
At Roman Eagle: <b>Lucy Scarce, Sylvia Gibbs Zula Callahan, Barbara Dyer</b>	At Stratford House Rehab: <b>Mildred Ferrell</b>
At Riverside Healthcare: <b>Greg Read</b>	At Our Lady of Hope (Richmond): <b>Alyce Roach</b>
In Raleigh: <b>Vitula Porter</b>	

### December

1 Emma Tatum Rich 2 Betty Ann Berry Bill Fuller 3 Brad Hodges 5 Kate Newell 6 June Thomas 8 Suzanne Fisher Al Hill Tom Leggett Sam Swanson, Jr.	25 Mary Hawkins Catharine Meador Whit Williamson 27 John Cornett 28 Fran Ashby Zan Womack 29 Neil Allen Thomas Booker Mark Milam Ann Stuart Ray
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### January

13 Robin Crews Kathy Fowler Jim Moyer 14 Eric Bucklew Christine Ethington Clinton Wickers Joe Cornett 16 Jan Sutherland 17 Michael Chandler Lucia Waters 20 Margaret Scott 21 May Carter Bergman 22 Christian Clifton Kate Wickers 23 Marilyn East 24 Sue Lea Ashley Marley Ann Williamson	1 Bernard Thomas 2 Catherine Adkins 4 Paige Johnson 6 Kathryn Baer Mike Beasley Bill Griffith Cheryl Sule Amy Echols 7 Ruth Callahan Bonnie Griffith Andrew Long 8 Karen Miller 9 Betty Leggett 10 Ann Hurt 12 Sue Wickers
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### Stewardship Report

114 Pledges So Far for 2013	\$322,276
Estimated Non-pledge Giving	35,000
Estimated Gift from the Mount Vernon Foundation	50,000
<b>Estimated Total Giving, 2013</b>	<b>\$407,276</b>

**Our estimate of expenses for 2013 is \$465,000.**

That means we are \$57,724 short of our goal.

Last year (2012) we had 124 pledges.

*If you haven't sent in your pledge card for 2013,  
please consider mailing one to the church  
as soon as possible. Thank you!*

### Attendance, Tithes, Gifts

<u>Week of</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
Nov. 4	35	122	\$8,806
Nov. 11	39	201	7,210
Nov. 21	28	153	3,470
Nov. 28	18	165	5,276

### Our Worship Assistants

**December 9 - 8:30:** John Morris, Tom Savastano,  
Darrell Williamson, Bill Booker *(alt.)*

**11:00:** Frank Grogan J. G. Hurt, Budge Kent, Gene  
Saunders, John Ranson, Coleman Hylton *(alt.)*

**December 16 - 8:30:** Fred Duncan, James Bucklew,  
Tom Booker, John Morris *(alt.)*

**11:00:** Tom Leggett, Andrew Farley, David Fuquay,  
Tommy Hodges, Bill Smith, Frank Grogan *(alt.)*

**December 23 - 8:30:** Bill Booker, Darrell Williamson,  
Tom Booker, Tom Savastano *(alt.)*

**11:00:** Tom Leggett, J. G. Hurt, Bill Smith, Charles  
Sampson, Tom Underwood, John Ranson *(alt.)*

**December 30 - 8:30:** Tom Booker, James Bucklew,  
Darrell Williamson, John Morris *(alt.)*

**11:00:** Sam Newell, Lindsay Payne, Tafton Coleman,  
Melanie Reed, Coleman Hylton, Elizabeth Hylton

**January 6 - 8:30:** Fred Duncan, James Bucklew, Tom  
Booker, John Morris *(alt.)*

**11:00:** Bill Griffith, David Fuquay, Tommy Hodges,  
Tom Leggett, Tom Underwood *(alt.)*

### DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Libby Spainhour, Tommie Blackmon, Jan Sutherland

## Children's LiveArt Workshop, November 11

In preparation for Children's Sabbath, our children explored the theme, "Who Is My Neighbor?" When asked this question, Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our children worked on art projects to explore the concept of "neighbor" – people who live near us and far from us, people who look like us and different from us, people who agree with us and disagree with us. They worked together on a beautiful footprint banner which stated, "PEACE – when all of them are us," multimedia pictures of neighbors, and a skit to share in worship.



## Children's Sabbath, November 29

Faith communities all around the world gather once a year to highlight the needs of children, especially those living in poverty. Our Mount Vernon children led us at the 11 a.m. service with drama, music, and art and as readers as we remembered our biblical call to justice for children everywhere and in every station of life. We were blessed to have our District Superintendent, Janine Howard, to share the prophetic message of the morning. A beautiful reception, coordinated by Susan Davis, was enjoyed by all after the service.

