

Sunset Rays  
*The "Son" still shines at Sunset Church*  
**January 2018**

**Newsletter for: SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy**

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**"Arise, Shine for Our Light Has Come!"**

The angels sang, the shepherds gathered, and the Wise Men came from the East to see what the Lord God had done. In the words of Ronald A. Klug in his hymn, "Rise, Shine, You People," he declares:

Rise , shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story;  
God in him is centered. Christ comes to us, by death  
and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.  
Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling, your  
songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story of  
Jesus' glory.

"This is the Season of Epiphany across the Christian Church. It is the celebration of the universal revelation of Jesus Christ-of his being "shown forth," manifested," epiphanized" as the Savior of all people. Traditionally observed are his "manifestations" to the Wise Men, in his baptism, and in the first miracle which he wrought in Cana Galilee.

The emphasis of Epiphany is redemptive revelation. Consequently, it is the season of especial attention to the church as *mission*, so that the missionary work of the church is seen as a continuation of the revelation of our Lord as Savior of all people. It also is well for the season of Epiphany to be a time when the church deals seriously with problems of reason and faith - the relevance of the revealed gospel to people of today whose thought time and thought forms are so very different for those in which the gospel was first set in the midst of humanity."

(from The Celebration of the Gospel by Hardin, Quillian, Jr. &White)

The Season after Epiphany (from January 7 to February 11) is a season of Ordinary Time according to the Christian Liturgical Calendar. It is ordinary because it stands between the two great cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. The first Sunday focuses on the Baptism of Christ and the Last Sunday on the early ministry of Christ.

"O come let us adore Him, born the King of angels!" Let's God revelation in human flesh be to us out hope, our peace, our joy!

*Happy New Year to All*

# Upcoming Church Events



- **Intergenerational Sunday School Class:** We will be offering a new Sunday School class beginning January 7, 2018. This class is for our youth as well as parents, young adults, and anyone interested in exploring the Bible more deeply. This class does not take the place of any of our existing adult Sunday School classes, but will be offered as an alternative for anyone wishing to attend. Zack Roberts will be leading the intergenerational class that will meet in the fellowship hall from 9:00 – 9:45 on Sunday mornings. We are excited about this added opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship! Sandy Cupp, Spiritual Development / Nurture Chair
- **Transition Team** will meet on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 1pm to 3pm. We supply the yarn, needles, and lessons. New members are welcome.
- **Bible Study** will meeting on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 pm. We will continue studying the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15. All are Welcome!!
- The **Adult Choir** will have practice on Wednesday, Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.
- **UMM Community Breakfast** on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30am to 9am. Meal includes- Turner ham, bacon, pancakes, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, hot and cold drinks. Donations to be used for United Methodist Men's projects. The breakfast is opened to the community, so spread the word.
- **Administrative Council Meeting** on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **Worship Team** will meet on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **Sunset Drive Ladies** will meet on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
- **February 2018 Newsletter Deadline:** Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please have all information to church office.
- **Sunset Ladies Lunch** will be on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 am Please bring a covered dish to share in some wonderful fellowship.

## Inclement Weather and Cancellation Notice

Should it become necessary to cancel Sunday services or other activities during the week due to winter weather conditions, a cancellation notice will be posted through the following media: WHSV TV-3, the church website and the church Facebook



## Thank you

- We thank Beverly Thompson for the gift of Seasonal Banners given to Sunset Church in honor of Woody and Teenie Hoover. The banners will enhance our worship as we pass through each liturgical season of each year. May God bless these gifts and us as we lift up God in music, word, and fellowship.

## Congratulations

- **Congratulations** to Wesley and Chasity Allen on the birth of their daughter Amelia Rae, born on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> weighing 7lbs 3.4ozs. Everyone is doing well.

## Sympathy

- **We extend Christian sympathy** and prayers to **The Murphy Family**. Pastor Tom and Dreanna's grandson Mathew Jason Murphy passed away on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Pictures for the Advent Season

Children's Christmas Program



Garrett Turner performing at VMRC

It doesn't seem possible that Christmas is over and a new year is less than a week away. We want to thank everyone at our church for the support you give to our youth group at Sunset Drive UMC. From prayers, to monetary donations, to supporting us in our works and ministries, we cannot thank you enough. The year 2017 was a quite an eventful year. We continued the monthly Backpack Program, Stop Hunger Now at JMU, volunteered and worked at both JCMES AND J Frank, served at the local food pantry, donated food to local families, visited local shut ins, and gave 6 young children a Christmas just to name a few. In 2018, we plan to do more outreach in the community as well as the schools. Next year, we will help head Valley Christian Athletes at the local middle school lead by some of our very own members.

We have sent out several emails as well as reminders in the bulletin about a new Sunday school class starting January 7th, 2018. This class is open to anyone from 7th grade to adults. Our goal is to get families to join us on Sunday morning to strengthen our faith as well as have a better understanding of the Bible. We will begin promptly at 9 every Sunday. (On the 7th, we will serve a small buffet style breakfast starting at 8:40.) Each Sunday we will have light breakfast snacks, drinks and coffee. Our doors are open to anyone who wants to learn about and accept a Christ, so please bring a friend. \*\*The only thing needed for the class is a Bible. The church have several as well. Again, we thank you for your support and we look forward to a great 2018!

## *Here is the Youth January Schedule*

*January 3rd*- Youth 6:30-7:30 \*Go over a lesson "Truth4youth" and then play games to win some cool stuff!

*January 7th*- Come join our new Sunday school class starting at 9! Breakfast served at 8:40. This class is for any age from 7th grade to adults.

*January 10th*- Youth 6:00-7:45 Meet at the church at 6 for a lesson and then we will head to *January* Gobbler Grill to eat dinner. Pick up at Gobbler Grill.

*January 14th*- Sunday school 9 (light snacks and drinks)

*January 17th* Youth 6:30-7:15 BACKPACK PROGRAM night \*Drop off at JCMES to pack and pick up around 7:15.

*January 21st*- Sunday school at 9 Youth to go ice skating in Bridgewater from 2-4:30. More info to come.

*January 24th*- Youth 6:30-7:30 Lesson and snacks \*Will discuss upcoming mission days.

*January 28th*- Sunday school 9 am

*January 31st*- Youth group 6:30-7:30 TBA

# Finance Committee

submitted by Dennis Turner

## Approved Budget for 2018

Sunset Drive's 2018 Budget approved and adopted by Church Council and Charge Conference is provided below for you to examine. The 2018 budget is 8.7% higher than 2017 and will challenge us as we Live Each Day as a Steward.

As you review our new budget, you will notice several large budgeting swings – large increases and large decreases – from 2017's budget. These are due to Pastor Murphy's status as a retired Intentional Interim Pastor for two years during which we have not incurred housing and retirement expenses and lower health charges. During this period of lower compensation expenses we have begun fully funding from the general fund our mission, children, youth, VBS, and music ministries instead of those ministries relying on restricted gifts from individuals that earmarked, on the memo line, their check for those purposes. Additionally, we doubled the Repairs Maintenance budget in 2017 to cover backlogged maintenance items such as parking lot lighting, steeple painting, and hot water in the upstairs restrooms. We also set aside \$12,000 for audio-visual enhancements in the sanctuary and social hall that will be made in 2018, this cash has been accrued in a Special Study Projects account.

Pastor Murphy's two year appointment will be up in June, 2018 so the budget recognizes housing and retirement expenses for a permanent pastor in the second-half of 2018. For the first-half of 2018, we are accruing equivalent amounts monthly in a Contingency Fund.

Many years ago your Administrative Council chose to set aside \$2600 each year into a restricted Repairs Reserve Fund. The balance in this Fund will exceed \$20,000 at year-end which Council feels is adequate for large scale emergencies such as heating/air conditioning failure. At the same time Council recognized that Sunset Drive does not have a similar account for the purchase of new equipment (such as the recently purchased \$3900 copier) and so voted to end accruals to the Repairs Reserve Fund and initiate monthly accruals to a New Equipment Fund.

Finally, our obligation for Conference and District Apportionments are lower because 1) health care is handled differently for retired pastors and 2) our lower 2016 church expenses make our percentage of Conference Expenses smaller. Our Conference Apportionments will return to more normal amounts in future years.

We also wish to advise you of changes in the administration of the Back Pack Program. Sunset Drive UMC has had a strong commitment to the John C. Myers Back Pack Program through the physical efforts of the Youth Group and the financial efforts of individuals in our congregation. That commitment will continue, but in a different form. For many years, Lacey Roberts and the Youth Group, as well as other churches, purchased food supplies and then met at the school to prepare the backpacks. Members of our congregation and the Broadway-Timberville Ruritan Club made restricted (ear-marked) donations to SDUMC to support the purchase of food supplies. Beginning this school year, Truth and Grace Ministries will purchase all supplies for the Back Pack Program and have them available for volunteers to pack the backpacks; SDUMC Youth are stuffing backpacks one week each month. Recognizing this structural change, Administrative Council directed the remaining balance in the restricted Back Pack Fund be paid

to Truth and Grace Ministries at the rate of \$100 per month until depleted. Thereafter, our 2018 Budget includes funds to continue a donation of \$100 per month from the General Fund to the Back Pack Program. Therefore, offerings of all congregants will support the Back Pack Program as part of the Budget; ear-marked, restricted donations to SDUMC are no longer needed.

Please, if you wish to support the Back Pack Program with additional donations, make ear-marked donations to Truth and Grace Ministries, Attn: Pastor Tim Martin, 414 Gold Drive, Broadway, VA 22815 with Back Pack Fund on the memo line.

Here is our 2018 Budget as posted on the hallway Bulletin Board. If you have questions or comments, please contact Dennis Turner, Finance Chair, at 333-6410.

**Sunset Drive United Methodist  
Annual Budget Approved by Administrative Council for Charge Conference**

Account	Description	2017		2,018	Change from 2017
		9-months Actual	Budget	Budget	
<b>01</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>				
4030	tithes and offerings	141,038	191,000	<b>206,692</b>	15,692
4035	Offset Vanco fees	0	12	<b>12</b>	0
4040	Sunday School	809	960	<b>1,080</b>	120
4050	Memorials	5,085	2,500	<b>3,000</b>	500
4066	Chicken BBQ	8,794	7,500	<b>8,700</b>	1,200
4070	Other	0	12	<b>12</b>	0
4510	Banking Interest	96	84	<b>120</b>	36
4520	Investment Interest	0	12	<b>108</b>	96
	<b>Income Totals:</b>	<b>155,822</b>	<b>202,080</b>	<b>219,724</b>	17,644
<b>01</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND EXPENSE</b>				
5061-001	SP Salary	37,500	50,000	<b>55,000</b>	5,000
5062-002	SP Housing	0	1	<b>7,800</b>	* 7,799
5063-003	SP Retirement	0	1	<b>5,789</b>	* 5,788
5068	Accountable Reimbursement	3,777	5,000	<b>6,000</b>	1,000
5091-001	YD Salary	7,880	10,506	<b>10,716</b>	210
5155	Office Admin	5,267	7,032	<b>7,173</b>	141
5185	Custodian	7,882	10,712	<b>10,926</b>	214
5305	Payroll Taxes	1,609	2,112	<b>2,112</b>	0
5310	Workers Comp Insurance	377	800	<b>760</b>	-40
5320	Moving fund transfer	300	400	<b>400</b>	0
5420	Bank Charges	0	1	<b>0</b>	-1
5421	Vanco discount fee	312	240	<b>480</b>	240
5422	Vanco transaction fee	179	120	<b>240</b>	120
5423	Vanco Monthly Fee	360	480	<b>480</b>	0
5430	Office Supplies	1,442	1,920	<b>1,980</b>	60
5440	Postage	688	960	<b>960</b>	0
5480	Comprehensive Insurance	2,265	4,600	<b>4,600</b>	0
5517	Church Phones/Internet	3,096	2,640	<b>3,840</b>	1,200

5572	New Equipment	0	1	1	0
5583	Copier Lease	2,187	1,200	2,600	1,400
5635	Electricity	7,109	10,200	9,720	-480
5645	Water & Sewer	528	750	750	0
5655	Gas	2,326	2,400	3,120	720
5710	Janitorial Supplies	322	450	450	0
5740	Repairs/Maintenance	3,179	12,000	6,000	-6,000
5760	Repairs Reserve Transfer	1,950	2,600	1	-2,599
5830	Grounds Supplies	0	150	25	-125
6015	Missions	350	2,000	2,000	0
6115	Conference Apportionments	22,502	30,003	24,207	-5,796
6120	District Apportionments	3,692	4,923	3,909	-1,014
6205	Children's Ministries	0	400	500	100
6206	Children's Literature	1,466	1,500	1,600	100
6210	Youth Ministries	1,659	3,500	4,300	800
6215	Adult Sunday School	1,728	2,000	2,400	400
6220	VBS	770	1,000	1,200	200
6225	Camp Registration Assistance	0	1,000	250	-750
6230	Confirmation Classes	0	600	600	0
6235	Kitchen Supplies	613	1,200	1,200	0
6236	Safe Sanctuary	139	200	200	0
6250	Books & Literature	1,046	500	1,200	700
6260	Fellowship Meals	87	100	200	100
6285	Music Supplies	50	1,375	1,340	-35
6287	Copyright Licensing	485	391	400	9
6292	Worship Supplies	265	552	1,200	648
6296	Speaker expense	425	500	500	0
6297	Substitute Organist/Pianist	225	2,400	2,400	0
6325	Newspaper Advertising	0	630	630	0
6330	Other Advertising	53	220	324	104
6335	Website	147	16	192	176
6400	Evangelism	0	500	500	0
6450	Stewardship	0	200	200	0
6570	Annual Conference Expense	831	1,000	1,000	0
6580	Minister Continuing Education	1,051	500	700	200
6610	BBQ Expense	5,183	4,800	5,310	510
6720	Miscellaneous expenses	159	1,200	1,200	0
6742	Special Study Projects	9,000	12,000	0	-12,000
6745	Special Events	0	100	100	0
New Account	ICM - Industrial Commercial Ministry		0	600	600
New Account	24 To Double		0	1,000	1,000
New Account	Backpack Program		0	250	250
New Account	New Equipment Transfer		0	2,600	2,600
New Account	Contingency Fund Transfer		0	13,589	13,589
	<b>Expense Totals:</b>	<b>142,461</b>	<b>202,586</b>	<b>219,724</b>	<b>17,138</b>

**GENERAL FUND NET      13,361      -506      0**

**\* Second-half 2018 SP Housing and SP Retirement**

**\*\* Represents SP Housing and SP Retirement EQUIVALENT for first-half 2018**

## Ready for the challenge?

Bishop Lewis has charged the conference to read the Bible all the way through 2018 chronologically. You can find the whole year's schedule at the link: <https://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-lewis/2018biblechallenge>. Copies are available on the bulletin board.

## VBS

VBS is tentatively planned for Sunday, July 22 through Thursday, July 26. VBS will be taking place from 6:30 - 8:30. Like last year we will be creating our own. It looks like we will be doing "Stories of Faith, Courage and Hope". This year we are going to again try something new. We plan to feed those helping and the children attending VBS beginning at 5:45. We are hoping that this will help families out. Thursday night I would still like to feed the entire family like we have done in the past.

## Happy Birthday

### January Birthdays

- 1 Amy Shirkey
- 2 Sandy Cupp, Whitney Johnson
- 3 Ronald Harpine
- 4 Quinton Thomas
- 5 Malinda Smith
- 6 Jerry Arbogast
- 7 Ann Grandle, Rosemary Mumaw, Trent Bowman,
- 10 Cole Clarke
- 12 Janet Hadley
- 13 Jeff Deavers, Steve Phillips
- 14 Kirk Hollar, Chris Bean,
- 17 Susan Olson, Max Gentry
- 19 Desiree' Hollar
- 20 Mary Lee Barb, Susan Mathias
- 21 Cole Turner, Michele Moore
- 22 Tanner Craig, Heather Wilt
- 23 Becky Halterman, John Sellers, Doug Wager
- 25 Diana Adams, Rebecca Lee
- 27 Tonya Turner
- 28 John F. Long, Jr, Wayne Turner, Ashby Harpine, J.R. Dove, Tiffany Runion, Wyatt Peele
- 31 Skylar Phillips, Abby Crist



## Happy Anniversary

### January Anniversaries

- 28 Zach and Lacey Roberts

*Happy Anniversary*