

# Silver Foxes Winter Schedule

Silver Foxes will meet on **January 31, 2012** at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Doris Douglass will present a program on her trip to Russia. Bring a sandwich and beverage and dessert will be provided.

February's meeting will be a change of date. It will be **February 21** (instead of February 28) with a program by Mary and Ed Jones on their recent time in Germany. Note your calendars now and plan to be there for the great fellowship and these very interesting programs.



## Help Defray Our Mailing Costs & Save a Tree

You can read the church newsletter, "The TeleGraham," online. Go to [www.GrahamRoadChurch.org](http://www.GrahamRoadChurch.org), click "Newsletters" and you'll see the most current newsletter as well as back issues for 6-8 months.

Mailing costs can be cut and trees saved if you make the online version your way of keeping up. If you would like to switch to the online only newsletter, please let Julie in the church office know by calling 703-573-4444 x201 or emailing her at [grumc@juno.com](mailto:grumc@juno.com). If you give us your email we can even remind you when the newsletter is ready for viewing!

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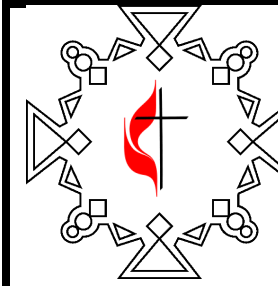
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# The TeleGraham

January/February 2012

## A NEW COMMITMENT FOR A NEW YEAR!

Are you ready to make a commitment to join our church family as an official member? Listed below are several ways to become a member. If you are interested, please contact the Pastor or the church office and we can get the information you need to complete the process. Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

### BY BAPTISM AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

*If you have not been baptized, the pastor will be happy to discuss the meaning of the sacrament with you and set a date for your baptism during a Sunday morning worship service.*

### BY CONFIRMATION

*If you have been baptized but have never joined a church, the pastor will be happy to discuss the meaning of membership with you. After studying with the pastor in a group or individually, you will be ready to be received into the church family on profession of faith.*

### BY TRANSFER OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

*Your baptism and membership is accepted. You can transfer your membership from another United Methodist Church or another Christian denomination. The membership secretary will write for your membership.*

### BY RENEWAL OF VOWS

*If you have been a member of a church but feel the need to reaffirm your membership vows as you transfer your membership. Talk with the pastor and you and the pastor will set a date for you to renew your membership vows in a service of worship. The membership secretary will write your former church.*

### HOW TO "JOIN" AND KEEP YOUR PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

*Our church offers two special forms of membership for those who come to an area for a "year or two" and plan to return to a "home" church. If you are a United Methodist, you can join as an Affiliate Member. This grants you the full rights of membership in Graham Road United Methodist Church. You will not be added to our roll, however, for you will remain a member of your "home" church. Members from other Christian denominations may become Associate Members in the same manner. The pastor will write your "home church" informing the pastor. Set up an appointment with the pastor to discuss such membership.*



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Deadline for the  
March/April 2011  
Newsletter is  
Wednesday,  
February 15, 2012



# A Note from the Pastor

Dear Graham Road UMC Church Family,

I am sure that if you were able to attend just one of our special services this Christmas season you will agree with me that we had a rich and inspiring celebration of our Lord's birth in 2011. I am still thinking about that as I write this letter that will be published in the New Year.

You may have heard that we had a special service on Christmas Eve for families with children. One incident from that service has stayed on my mind. During this service I led the children around to different parts of the sanctuary that have special meaning during Christmas. At each place we sang or talked about scripture and at all of them I gave them an object to remember that place by. After going to the Chrismon Tree, the Advent wreath, the piano, the manger scene (i.e. "Bethlehem") and we had arrived at the final stop: the "Giving

Tree." We talked about gifts and how giving gifts came to be associated with the birth of Jesus. Since this was the last stop the children were tired and distracted. Taking in all I was telling them about the Wise Men bringing gifts and that we not only receive gifts but give them was a challenge at best. In spite of that the smallest and youngest boy there seemed to get the idea of giving because he held out his hand towards me and I could see that there was something in it he wanted to give me. It turns out that his gift was the baby Jesus from my olive-wood manger scene that came straight from Bethlehem. Saying a prayer of thanksgiving that he actually handed it to me instead of putting it in his pocket, I immediately returned it to the manger beautifully situated in our Bethlehem stop. He seemed O.K. with that and the lesson on giving proceeded.

I keep thinking about that little incident because I wonder of the little boy's actions weren't pro-

phetic in a way. Maybe the baby Jesus *did* more properly belong with the "Giving Tree" where the theme is giving. What better thing could we do as Christians than to take Jesus out of Bethlehem and to share him with others?

It seems like every year in December the subject of gift giving takes a new turn. This year I was surprised that all the car ads suggested that we give cars to each other instead of the more traditional ties, sweaters, and bathrobes. This seemed to me a really over the top suggestion in our current economy. Another unique more on point kind of giving also made the news. It started when a wealthy man decided to pay off Christmas "lay-a-way" balances for hundreds of people at K-Mart. After hearing about that man's generosity the idea seemed to take off and people all over the country were following suit. A conspiracy of goodness, you might say.

Giving is part of our  
*(continued on pg. 4)*

# United Methodist Women

## Thoughts

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Jan. 21 — District UMW Training Day, Korean of Gr. Wash., McLean, 9:00 a.m.-noon (snow date -- Jan. 28)
- Jan. 29 — UMW Sunday (Ann Heath Circle)
- Feb. 2 — UMW Day at General Assembly, Richmond
- May 4-6 — Conference Spiritual Life Retreat, VUMAC, Blackstone
- June 9 — UMW Day at Ferrum College
- June 21-24 — VA Annual Conference, Roanoke
- July 27-Aug. 1 — School of Christian Missions, VUMAC, Blackstone

- Some people grow up and spread cheer....Others just grow up and spread.
- Remember: Each of us can decrease the suffering of the world by adding to its joy.

### "The Umbrella" (Oct. 2011 Response)

In 1972 United Methodist Women founded Southside Community Center in San Marcos, Texas, to provide services and programs for the disadvantaged. There are 5 services that gather under the Center's "umbrella":

- 1) Youth services focus on an after-school program for at-risk youth from 11-17 years old. They are encouraged to volunteer in the community to build their resumes for both college and work.
- 2) The homeless shelter meals program enlists the aid of the local area food bank to provide groceries for feeding 20-40 or more people per night at the shelter, which also offers free laundry and shower facilities.
- 3) Financial assistance is given to those who cannot pay utility or other bills.
- 4) During the Summer 400-600 junior high and high school students from several states come to San Marcos for a work camp to renovate homes for individuals who cannot afford to pay for repairs.
- 5) The Sunrise Village Retirement Community is made up of one-bedroom homes. The Village is self-sustaining except for a meals program. Activities are provided and a van is used to transport seniors to medical appointments and for shopping.

### UMW Reading Program Books

By the time you read this TeleGraham, all the books which were ordered from the Reading Program list will have arrived and been put on the bookshelf in the Charlotte Knutson Room. For those who like to read, we have many good books on the shelves. Please stop by the room and see what books may interest you. To "check out" a book, take out the index card from the book and write your name and date of sign-out on it and put it in the metal index box. When you put the book back on the shelf in its designated year place, put the index card back in the book.



## So, When *is* Easter This Year?



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our church Lenten season. For 2012,

Ash Wednesday is on February 22nd, thus placing our Easter celebration of the Risen Lord on Sunday, April 8th.



Watch your bulletin for the dates for the Lenten Luncheons and special services coming up during the celebration of Lent!

# “The Scoop” from the

President’s Corner Doris Douglass



## A CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL—2012

Prayer and giving have long been vital to women’s organizations in the church. One way that United Methodist Women members combine prayer and giving is during the time of Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. Information technology plays a vital role in communication and learning in today’s world. In 2012 the offering will assist national and overseas institutions to help the marginalized, the poor, the physically challenged, especially women, children and youth to have access to information technology that will improve their quality of life. Projects such as computer literacy, information technology training, ESL classes, career enhancement and job seeking skills will be supported.

## THREE WOMEN WIN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The winners were Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 73, the first woman in the history of Africa to be elected head of state and the woman responsible for ushering peace into the country after a brutal 14 year civil war; Leyman Gbowee, 39, founder of the Ghana based Women, Peace and Security Network Africa, known for organizing a “sex strike” in Liberia in 2002 until hostilities ended and for leading a woman’s protest women in 2003; and Tawakkol Karman, a 32 year old Yemeni journalist known as the “Mother of the Revolution” who for months lived out of a blue tent in a protest camp in Sana, Yemen, and founded the advocacy group Women Journalist Without Chains.



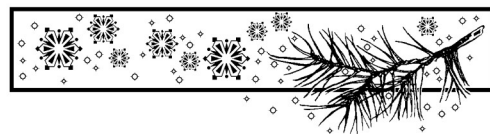
When we hear about the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) we think “gleaning.” Gleaning has been performed for centuries.

The Old Testament recommends it, read Ruth chapter 2.

Since 1983, SoSA has saved and distributed 628.9 million pounds of fresh food to America’s hungry. Almost 2 billion servings of food has been distributed by the 30,000 volunteers nationwide. SoSA is a great steward. The overhead is 4.4% with a cost per serving of a little over 2 cents.

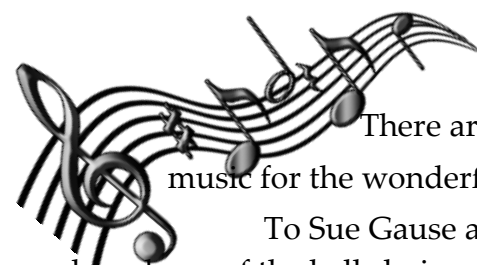
Each year 96 billion pounds of food goes to waste in the United States. Let’s do our share to reduce this waste. We may not be able to glean, but we can continue to support Falls Church Food Bank at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Thank you all for the donations of food during the Thanksgiving food drive. With your help we were able to fill around 100 bags with food to give to those needing it during the holidays.



★ Thank You! ★  
★ THANK YOU! ★

Many, many thanks to all the people who helped to make the 2011 Nov. 13 Souper Sunday and the Dec. 11 Christmas Potluck Lunch a success. Whether you helped setup/cleanup, made or bought food, made coffee, or washed dishes, your efforts were greatly appreciated.



## 60TH ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

There are not words to express my thanks to all who worked so hard on the music for the wonderful 60th Anniversary service. However, I have to try.

To Sue Gause and the bells—wonderful and well rung. This is the first time I have heard one of the bell choirs and I was very impressed. I will admit, I wish I could have seen the bells and the players— that is part of the fun of having bells. But great job all around. Thank you for your hard work in such a short period of time since your first rehearsal this year.

To Sue and Lee Gause— anytime you want to play—just move me out of the way. It was exciting and very joyful! I so much enjoyed having Lee play on the hymns so anytime either or both of you want to play—let me know. I don’t want to overuse you— but I do want to use you as much as you want to be used. Thank you for helping.

Lisa & Logan George— the feeling you put into such a well known tune was very moving. It is great to know I have us of not only 1 but 2 very well qualified flute players and I will be using both of you whenever I can and whenever you are available. Thank you so much!

To Terry Elliott, my rock in so many things—thank you for stepping up to do the verses on the opening hymn. I think more people in the congregation knew the verses than I thought would and would of helped you out—but I know I can always count on you to help me out.

To Sandra Elliott—one of the best renditions of that song I have heard in a long time. And under pressure of having to sing through the emotions of having lost your best friend. It was a great tribute to your mother, and to your ability to continue on in her memory—even through the emotion. Thank you and congratulations.

To Kim Ayres—such a beautiful piece of music and so well received. The perfect piece to help focus the thoughts of the congregation on the bottom line reason we go to church anyway. The mercy of our God and the love of his Son. Thank you for such a beautiful rendition of such a beautiful piece.

To Doris Douglass—for helping to make sure I and the new members of the choir had robes that fit, were clean and that we looked our best as we did our best.

Last but definitely not least— I do not have the words to express my thanks to the choir. I know I have only been here since August, and I have expected so much out of you. All the new music and new hymns in only 6 rehearsals—you have reason to be very proud of yourselves. I know I am. I expected a lot out of you and you rose to the occasion. I am so very proud of you and humble that you trusted me enough to follow down a very hard path. I am looking forward to the rest of the year and the music we will work together on for Advent, Christmas and beyond. Again, thank you so very much for trusting and following me. I love each and every one of you.

To Marable, our Pastor and to the congregation—your encouragement and words of appreciation are so helpful in keeping me and the choir coming back each week. We love being able to present a message in song to you each week and we pray that in some way, we have touched your lives and your hearts. Thank you again for your appreciation. We love you.

Music Director, Cindy Elliott

## Witness/Outreach Updates & Opportunities



The Falls Church Winter Emergency Shelter Operates with the assistance of churches

and organizations in our area. The shelter can accommodate 14 people at a time during the winter months. Graham Road UMC assisted the shelter with donations last winter and will help again this winter for the week of January 14-20, 2012. In addition, a hot meal will be provided on the evening of January 14 when the food items are delivered.

Items needed are listed below. **Please leave donations by Friday, January 13, in the box in Fellowship Hall.**

### Food Items Needed

juice, cereals, fruit cups, Pop Tarts, peanut butter, granola bars, jelly, popcorn, tea, cocoa, lemonade, sandwich bread, pudding cups, bananas, apples, and oranges

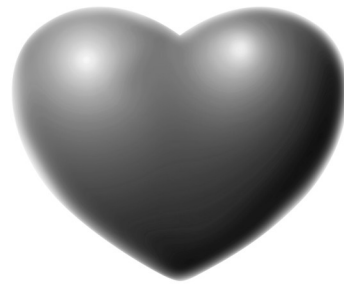
**(do not bring fruit before Jan. 13)**

Monetary donations will be accepted. Make checks payable to "Graham Road UMC" with the memo "Winter Shelter," or put it in an envelope marked as such.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the hot meal and to deliver the food items on Saturday, January 14 at 5:45 pm. Contact Mary Anne Bray at 703-573-2482.



Help for Those  
in Need



## A Note from the Pastor (continued from pg. 2)

DNA as United Methodists. When we join the church we promise to give in four different but connected ways. We promise to support our church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. All of these are vital components to every congregation. It is not easy to give in all these ways at once, but this is something we love to do – for Jesus, for each other and to support our many ministries. On Epiphany Sunday, January 8, we will celebrate the coming of the Wise Men by bringing our own gifts – our pledge cards - to the Lord's Table. What better way to start the New Year than to invest in our church? For Jesus did not remain in Bethlehem but grew up to become a man who gave the greatest gift of all – our salvation! Happy New Year!

*Pastor Marable*



## Preschool & Child Care Center

Happy New Year to everyone! We want 2012 to be the best year ever for the Child Care and Preschool. All the children are important to us.

The preschool had their Christmas Celebration on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with refreshments served in the fellowship hall. They sang lots of Christmas songs for their parents.

On Wednesday, December 15 at 4:30 p.m. the child care presented a program telling the story of the birth of Jesus with Joseph & Mary, angels, shepherds and wise men. The children looked so cute. Following the program refreshments were served in the fellowship hall. The children and their parents enjoyed this Christmas celebration.

St. Nicholas (Rev. Michael Southall-Vess) came to visit on December 6. The children really enjoyed his visit. This year Pastor Marable used the Godly Play program for chapel. It has been a big success. The children are really learning.



Once again we participated in the Marine's Toys for Tots campaign. The children of the child care and preschool brought toys for the children and enjoyed putting the toys in the sleigh.

Post Office Day is February 9. The child care and preschool children make Valentines. After making the Valentines and buying the stamp, the children put their Valentines in a box going to the Post Office. The postal person tells them about how the mail goes to their homes. Afterwards, the children are read a Valentine story. They enjoy watching for their Valentine Card.

The fire puppets will be here in March. After the puppet show, the fire truck will be here if they are not on a fire call. They will show us the many interesting things on the truck. The children look forward to the fire puppet's visit each year.



## Member Info

Our prayers are with the families of these members who have gone on to join the Church Triumphant.

### Deaths:

Michael Anderson: 11-23-11  
Betty Sue Locke: 12-10-11

