

Whether you are a Christian or not December is a time of waiting...not something I'm very good at some days. I heard in church last Sunday that we spend a total of approximately 3 years of life just waiting. That's an incredibly long time; think about all of the things you have accomplished or have had happen in your life during any three year period! December is a time of year that we wait on many things. We wait in lines at the store (even the grocery store), we wait to find parking spaces, we wait for company to arrive, and sometimes we wait for the Christmas season to pass quickly depending upon what has happened in our lives.

As a Christian waiting is not a really bad thing at Christmas; think for what we are waiting!! We are eagerly anticipating the most incredible gift ever given!! We are waiting for God's gift to His people, the birth of Jesus Christ; certainly this is something well worth the wait! Strange as it may sound waiting is the purpose of Advent. This period of waiting gives to us time to spiritually prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. During this time of prayer and anticipation we are filled with hope, joy, and expectation.

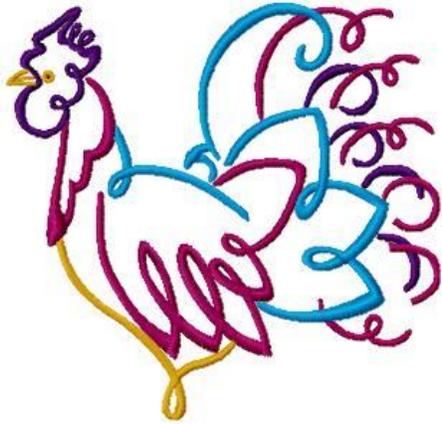
The Advent period begins one of the most powerful seasons in the Christian calendar and is one of preparation, anticipation, and penance. It is a time for us to do a spiritual inventory so to speak, to evaluate ourselves and to look inside and find out where we are on our journey with God. It is a time to explore which areas of our spiritual life might need attention and a time for us to begin finding ways to strengthen them. Between the wrapping, the Christmas programs at church and school, and the hundreds of other things that "have to happen" at this time of year

pause and reflect on the many ways you have been the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Let us walk together as a community and as individuals and accept the challenge to continue to make Christ the center of our life keeping our focus on Him and what we can do to serve Him. Let us continue to be an example for others of His love and mercy by our words and deeds as we forgive each other and share His love with the world.



One last "school story" as the year comes to a close...we recently had a child that was removed from the home because of severe physical abuse. Being a child who does not take change well this was very emotionally traumatic. As the child was carried from school to the car there was much crying, screaming, kicking and hitting. The foster home in which the child was placed had a wonderfully supportive foster mom who allowed this child to email their teacher that night. The email consisted of only 4 words but spoke volumes about who we are as people. The email simply said, "Hi, she (meaning the foster mom) likes me." As Christ's people we have an obligation to share that unconditional love and acceptance He gives so freely to us so that when people leave our presence, even though they may not even be aware that we are Christ's hands and feet, they too can experience that love and say "She/He likes me!" That forgiving, saving grace that we have experienced is a gift that you can give the world anytime of the year because as Christians everyday is a celebration of Christ's birth.

DeColores--Lynn



Spring Walk Dates

Men's Walk: April 15th - 18th

Women's Walk: April 29th - May 2nd



**Boys and Girls Chrysalis Flights
January 16 - 18, 2010**

**Caterpillar Applications are still
being accepted for the Boys.**

**Candlelight will be at 9:00 on Sunday, January 17
Closing will be at 4:30 on Monday, January 18
at Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake, VA**

**Agape is needed for both Flights
Please be in prayer for the Teams and Caterpillars**

**Please contact Linda Hewitt (taxaffair@cox.net)
to sign up for the Prayer Vigil**

Board News

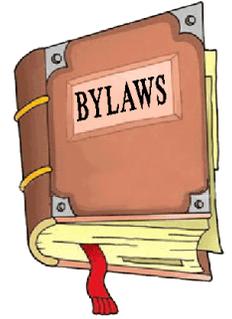


As this year draws to a close it is time once again for board members to “roll off” and be replaced by those who were elected at

the November meeting. Please join the remaining board members in welcoming Christy Kapko, Marybeth Grambo, Alan Foster, Stan Best, and Arnie Lindblad. As well please join in saying good-bye (just from the board, not from the community!) to the following board members who have served the community the past three years in various positions: Jeff Albert, Don Argus, Rosemary Ralston, Lynn Hollandsworth, and James Hall. Additionally, to bring the board in line with the proposed bylaw changes three additional board members have volunteered to “roll off” prior to the end of their three year term: Bob Williams, Jean Lederle, and Mickey Rosenfeld. We would also like to say good bye and THANK YOU to two spiritual directors Pastor Bob Pihlcrantz and Pastor Bob Cooper. Thanks to both of them for their time and talents.

Proposed By-Law Changes

The current board has proposed some changes to the by-laws which bring them more into line with how our community operates.



Many of the board and community positions listed in our by-laws have not existed for a very long time. These changes are posted on the TWE website and are available for your reading. Our by-laws state that they must be available for a prescribed period of time, 4 months, and can be voted on at the Gathering during their fourth month after posting. This vote will take place at the March Gathering. Only those community members present will have their votes counted as stated in the current by-laws.



Gathering
Saturday,
January 16th
6:30 pm
Wesley
Memorial UMC

Train Talk Dec 09

As we rapidly approach the most wonderful of Christian holidays, my family and I extend wishes for you and yours beyond comprehension. As Christ was born to us so many years ago, let us all be re-born in Him not only during this festive occasion but throughout the year. Let us remember that we are His legacy and it is our responsibility to give Him as gift to everyone we see.

DeColores

Jack

Training 101

Assistant Lay Directors (ALD)

As we gear up for TW-90 and TW-91, I thought I would share some information about the many tasks assigned to the ALDs. Many of us realize there are ALDs on the walks, but how many who haven't served in that capacity understand the range of responsibilities associated with these positions. Hopefully the next few paragraphs will provide some enlightenment.

Assistant Lay Directors' Responsibilities

The three ALDs are the workhorses of the team. Their primary responsibility is to help the Weekend Lay Director (WLD) prepare the team prior to the Emmaus event and make sure the event itself runs smoothly and on schedule. ALDs free the WLD of concern for details as much as possible so he or she can pay attention to teams, pilgrims, and overall progress of the Walk. The ALDs serve as the timekeepers for the three days and anticipate preparation for each aspect of the Walk. In the Tidewater Emmaus Community, we designate one of the ALDs as ALD for Logistics (ALDL).

Prior to Walk

Prior to the Walk, ALDs meet with the WLD as well as other key members of the Team in order to plan for a seamless transition for both the team and pilgrims.

1. The ALDs meet with the WLD to
 - a. Review responsibilities and discuss how the ALDs can be most helpful to the WLD.
 - b. Begin to work out the duties for each ALD during team formation and the Walk.
 - c. Plan the orientation meeting for team and Table Leader (TL)/Assistant Table Leader (ATL) training.
2. Prepare the ALD talks for preview which are: **Priority** and **Fourth Day** talks.
 - a. The Priority Talk is usually the first previewed so as to serve as a model for follow-on talk previews.
 - b. The Fourth Day talk should accurately and authentically represent the Community's emphasis placed upon the Fourth Day.
3. ALDs assist the WLD in leading team meeting by
 - a. Keeping the preview session on schedule as agreed upon with the WLD, which will provide an excellent mock-up of the Walk.
 - b. Assisting speakers with visual aids
 - c. Escorting speakers out of the room following their preview and remain with them during discussion time.
 - d. Arriving early to set up the meeting room, ensure routing supplies such as nametags are on hand for each meeting.

4. ALDs will help build community by
 - a. Getting to know all team members
 - b. Being available to team members, especially first timers, to help with talks, offer support, share ideas, etc.
 - c. Encouraging agape and prayer by example.
 - d. Being a servant at all times to others on the team.
5. Meet with the WLD and the Music Director (MD) to cover all aspects of the three-day schedule
 - a. Provide input to the WLD on TL and ATL assignments
 - b. Ensure responsibilities and personnel designations for the three days are clear and concise.
 - c. Ensure all disparities are addressed and resolved prior to commencement of the Walk.

During Walk

During the walk, ALDs carry out daily assignments according to the WLD's guidance. Many WLDs rotate ALDs daily responsibilities in order to enhance their learning and experience.

1. ALD Talk room responsibilities
 - a. Work the talk room as timekeeper
 - b. Share talk introductions with WLD
 - c. Keep the conference room process in order
2. ALD speaker responsibilities
 - a. Notify speakers when to get dressed and accompanying them to the chapel
 - b. Join others to pray for speakers
 - c. Return to the chapel with speakers after their talk for additional prayer.
3. ALD general responsibilities
 - a. Helps present general agape letters.
 - b. Run errands, find stragglers and in charge of taking table groups to the chapel for prayer on Saturday.
 - c. Give Priority and Fourth Day talks
 - d. Follow the detailed ALD checklist in *the Walk to Emmaus Lay Director's Manual* or *The Walk to Emmaus Team Manual*.
 - e. Follow the three-day schedule closely while being flexible for special needs and a sense of natural flow.

After the Walk

The ALDs participate in the Fourth Day meeting held during the Day of Deeper Understanding (DODU). They also participate in the team evaluation meeting.

The above list of ALD roles and responsibilities only touches the surface, but it does provide a more in-depth understanding than many of us had.

