

The CHIMES

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NOVEMBER

A publication of Franconia United Methodist Church, Alexandria, VA

Sunday, November 23

Second Annual Free Turkey Dinner

Our annual free turkey dinner returns! Join us for "pre-Thanksgiving" with all the trimmings!

For many, Thanksgiving is a meal with family, friends, and loved ones. We enjoyed greeting friends and neighbors from the greater Franconia community at last year's dinner, so we're doing it again this year. Please come and bring a friend!

Franconia United Methodist Church is honored to once again invite the entire community to share a meal with us at its Second Annual Free Turkey Dinner. The church will provide the turkey and all the rest on Sunday, November 23, from 5pm-7pm in the social hall of the church.

Please come and bring nothing but yourself, your friends and family, and a very big appetite!

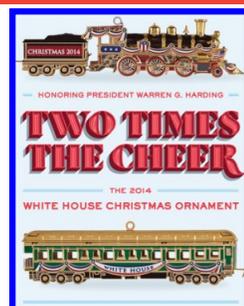
If you'd like to bring a favorite holiday dish to share, you are welcome to do so, but don't feel obligated.

The Turkey Dinner is simply a free community event, no strings attached.

The event is free and open to all.



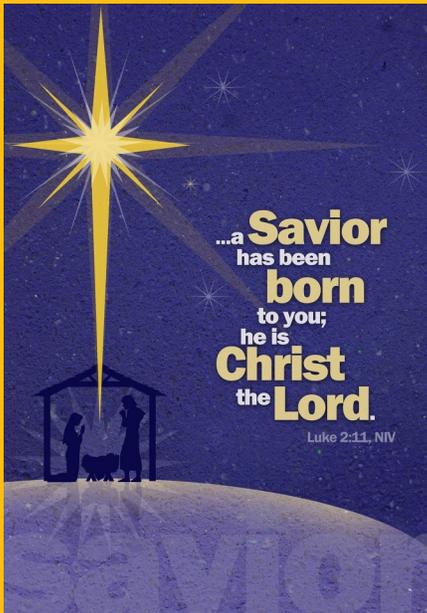
Thanksgiving Dinner



White House Ornament

The Youth Group is selling the 2014 **White House Ornaments** to raise funds for 2015 Mission Trip. The ornament is the 33rd annual piece in the White House series and is the first ornament to be comprised of two pieces (locomotive that pulled the Presidential Special; and the Superb, the president's private Pullman car), which can be hung as two separate ornaments or linked together. **2014 Ornament: \$20**

A Night in Bethlehem



**Saturday, December 6
5:30 PM—7:30 PM**

Are you ready to take your family back in time? Would you like to make some family memories you'll treasure? Then please reserve Saturday, December 6th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for A Night in Bethlehem! As soon as you arrive, your family will travel back to ancient Bethlehem. You'll taste, see, and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born.

During A Night in Bethlehem, your family will have an unforgettable experience exploring the busy marketplace in Bethlehem. Each experience will help draw us closer to the reason we celebrate Christmas! The highlight of the evening is visiting Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. And the animals will be with them just as they were on the first Christmas Day.

Also, be praying for an unconnected family you could invite to join you as we all experience A Night in Bethlehem.



Cindy Langan, Finance Chair

As of September 30, 2014, Franconia UMC is essentially at break even on budgeted offerings and budgeted expenditures. This is a drop from the surplus of \$12,428 as of August 31. As was explained last month, the surplus was created by the receipt of tuition before the school year of All God's Children began. It was expected that with the beginning of school that surplus would disappear. While break even is not a bad place to be heading in to the holiday season, if All God's Children's income and expenses were removed we would be in a deficit position. Our budgeted offerings are almost \$12,800 less than last year at this time. Our Reserve Funds are holding steady at \$22,500 and are Capital Fund has increased to \$9,036, up from \$7,138 in August 31. Offerings for the month of October through 19th are \$20,487.

Franconia UMC is growing and thriving with new members, new programs and plans that God has for us. While our financial position is solid, it is not thriving to the extent our programs and vision are. Please

prayerfully consider increasing your giving, so that we can be financially ready to move forward with God's vision for us.

Franconia UMC is truly blessed to have such a generous congregation. Please continue to support us financially and with your prayers, presence, service and witness so we can continue to move forward in the direction that God is leading us to make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world!



**SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, December 14th**



The following became members of Franconia UMC on October 26, 2014:

- H. Eugene Oliver III
- Cody Oliver
- Robert A. Hall
- Elizabeth Palena Hall
- Susan M. Brooke



By: Pastor Catharine Guest

Living Thanks –

When I was growing up, we had a tradition that I carried on into the family I have raised; maybe you have the same one in your family as well. On Thanksgiving Day, usually at least ten and never less than six of us sit around a table adorned with flickering candles, bone china, crystal, silverware, lace tablecloths and linen napkins. We feel special. We feel blessed. We join hands to give thanks for our blessing of the 24-lb turkey, the dressing, the multiple vegetable dishes, the sweet potato casserole, the cranberry bread and fruit salad. We can't wait to dig in to all the blessings we are about to receive. Then, the tradition – the tradition that delays the feast. We pose the question: *What are you thankful for this year?* And silence...sitting at that heavy, beautiful table – surrounded by family and friends....we rack our brains to find answers.....oh, we think of things – getting into college, having the money to pay off the mortgage, getting that awesome iPhone6 plus (the iPhone 6 was just not enough), and on and on – thankful for the things that have made our lives even better this year than the year before.

The irony is that the true things to be thankful for are right in front of us – the fellowship we find in each other. The people at our table representing all the challenges we have weathered together, all the successes we have shared, all the times we have

resolved our interpersonal conflicts and our relationships have deepened. All the blessings that have flowed through us and into the lives of each other. For this we are truly to be thankful. But, wait – is there still more?

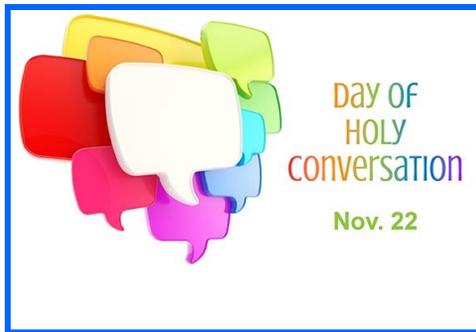
Of course, not – you knew it was coming, didn't you? As we consider all that we have to be thankful for, if we are truly God's people, this consideration, this awareness of our blessings should serve as catalysts for us to bless others who have little food, little shelter, little of anything in the world to bring them a sense of love and blessedness. But the 'stuff of blessing' as essential as it is, is still not the most important thing.

At Thanksgiving as we consider our community of faith – our families – those who are making the journey of life with us, we are made most aware of those who feel they have nowhere to celebrate; no one with whom to sit at the table. The holidays are so hard for those who are struggling through life alone. All over TV and in the malls, the world is a Hallmark card of relationship – but not for them. Oh, sure, these beloved of God are given food – but they eat alone. They are given clothes – cast offs from families that have purchased something new. They are given beds – in a room full of strangers. They need more – they need us! They need to belong – they are just waiting to be invited. They need to feel loved but they don't know how to ask for a hug. They need to feel that there is someone they can call who will walk through the dark valley of life with them. And we, as a church are making wonderful inroads in that regard: our work with Franconia Elementary School, the Community

Thanksgiving Dinner, the Compassionate Care ministry, and emerging ministries to caregivers and the homebound, just to cite a few. We are inviting all to join us in the journey as we include everyone in our family of God – making room for all at our table of fellowship and in times of celebration. We are going out and bringing in – and we know, sure as it is going to get *really* cold this winter, that the more we include others, the more people there will be for us to include. God is gracious like that – and trusts us to make more room – share more of His love. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, to be sure!

So this year when you sit around the table when you offer what you are thankful for this year, how about this? Let's be thankful for the blessings God has given us – the relationships we currently have – but be particularly thankful for the blessings God will cause to flow through us to others in the coming year; the increase in relationships that will surround our table; for the opportunities that will come into our lives as more and more of us make the journey together. Now that's truly a reason to be thankful. So now, could someone please pass the Tofurky?

What
ARE You
Thankful?
for?



Day of Holy Conversation

At the beginning of most charge conferences this fall, I have been pausing to remind us that “conferencing” is a means of grace for United Methodists. Being intentional to meet together, pray together, and enter into conversation with one another about God’s work among us ... this is a way that God draws near to us. We have recognized this since John Wesley claimed Christian conferencing as a means of grace.

I invite all who are interested to participate in the **Virginia Conference’s Day of Holy Conversation on Saturday, November 22**, as a means of grace. Surely we need God to draw near to us and give us wisdom and guidance as we seek to discern how we can move forward in mission and ministry together in light of pressures that seek to divide us around the issue of human sexuality. Please pray daily and fervently for God to open up a way for us to proceed into the future that will be faithful and fruitful in building for God’s Kingdom.

The day of conversation is designed to help us gain a better perspective, both on the differences we face and on the possibilities of living with those differences. The bishop will set the tone for the day, as we seek to hear and to speak with Christian love in the midst of significant disagreements. There are biblical foundations for a variety of perspectives, as well as biblical precedent for the Christian community moving forward in the face of “no small dissension and debate” (Acts 15:2). By participating in this day, we may come to a better understanding of the hearts and minds of our sisters and brothers who see this issue very differently from us. I invite us to enter into the day with a goal of trying to love one another, to put ourselves in the shoes of those who hold different opinions, and to pray that God will help us to find a way forward that will glorify God.

In our Alexandria District, I have met persons who have strong convictions on many sides of this issue – traditional, progressive, centrist, and varying degrees

of each. Many would hope that the issue simply go away and we could move on without this difficult discussion. But it seems like every week, another development makes this conversation even more urgent. One week, the U.S. Supreme Court allows same-sex marriage to be legal in Virginia. The next week, Vatican documents are released, encouraging a more understanding approach toward homosexual couples. The following week, the United Methodist Judicial Council rules on a clergy case that has ramifications for our denomination’s handling of trials for pastors who do not honor the Disciplinary restrictions.

All of this is propelling us to seek diligently for the mind of Christ among us. Not only among those with whom we agree, but among all of us. For we are coming together as sisters and brothers in Christ, as Christians differing with Christians. I can remember in my lifetime strong differences of opinions about divorced persons in church, leading the church, among the clergy; strong differences over the issue of abortion. In earlier generations, the ordination of women and the granting of full clergy membership in the annual conference to women were topics for heated debates. These examples, along with many more, have not been easy to navigate. But, with God’s help, we have somehow found the way to move ahead in spite of our differences because the love of Christ is strong enough to hold us together to bear witness to God’s love in and for the world. I am convinced that the love of Christ is the strongest power in the cosmos, and is stronger than the differences we now face. Please, as we come to this day of holy conversation, draw near, drink deeply, and be filled with that steadfast love that endures through the struggles of every generation of the faithful.

Please come to experience, as well as to be, a means of grace.

Jeff Mickle, District Superintendent
Alexandria District

In response to Bishop Young Jin Cho's request that the Virginia Conference Common Table for Church Vitality facilitate discussions around the conference on the subject of human sexuality, the Common Table will hold "A Day of Holy Conversation on Sexuality and The United Methodist Church" on **Saturday, November 22**, at Woodlake UMC, 15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield. The day of conversation will also be live streamed to 12 additional sites across the conference. All Virginia Conference clergy and laity are invited to participate at one of the sites.

The Day of Holy Conversation will include a message from Bishop Cho, remarks by a convener, morning and afternoon presentations and designated times for conversations among participants that will be guided by the convener or a selected facilitator.

For registration go to the Conference website www.vaumc.org.

Deadline to register is noon on Monday, November 17.

Sites where the event will be live streamed include Burke UMC (Alexandria District) and Korean UMC of Greater Washington (Arlington District). In addition, live streaming of the event will be available through the Virginia Conference website.

The Story of the Chrismon Tree

Each year we place the Chrismon Tree at the front of the church.

The word Chrismon is made up from the first letters of "Christ" and "Monogram." They are monograms of and symbols for Jesus Christ, telling us who He is, what He is like and what He did. Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold – white to denote our Lord's purity and perfection; gold to His majesty and glory. The Chrismons are placed on an evergreen tree, symbolizing eternal life, with a background of tiny white lights.

Chrismons are never made to be sold. Each one is created as a means of an individual using their own talents for the glory of God. The first Chrismons on our tree were created by members of the church in 1973 – forty years ago - with others added later.



A volunteer is needed to assist with the **Phoenix Rising ministry** at Franconia United Methodist Church. If you want to participate in this ministry, but don't like driving at night, prefer to work alone or with one or two others, and are available during the day, you may find this opportunity of interest.

Some who created these beautiful articles that we enjoy each Advent season are:

- ◆ Dorothy Eastman (wife of former pastor, Rev. Eastman)
- ◆ Nell Harmon
- ◆ Faye Frierson
- ◆ Jan Campbell
- ◆ Eleanor Markle
- ◆ Grace Wright
- ◆ Bea Calhoun
- ◆ Joan Veroche
- ◆ Levora Windom

We gratefully acknowledge Rheba and Warren Richard and Mary and Tom Thomas, who put up and decorate the Chrismon Tree each year.



The work is to be accomplished during church office hours before the Wednesday preceding the fourth Friday.

The task involves preparation of printed materials to be inserted in the meal sacks:

- ◆ Inventory the meal sack inserts stored in Cokesbury Hall
- ◆ Make photocopies
- ◆ Fold and cut, as required
- ◆ Place in storage
- ◆ Prepare new Bible verses and poems as needed

Training will be provided.

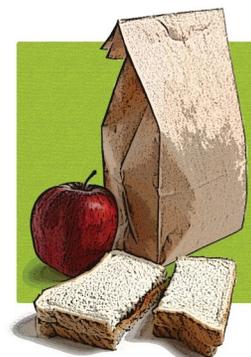
If God is calling you to serve in this role, please contact Cindy Langan or Vikki Beaty at PhoenixRising@FranconiaUMC.org.

Phoenix Rising

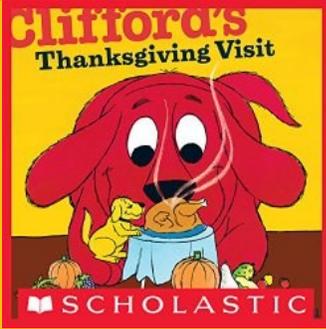
Since 2001, Franconia United Methodist Church has participated in the Route One Shalom Cooperative program, Phoenix Rising Food Ministry,

Franconia's Phoenix Rising team is responsible for meal packaging and delivery for the 4th Friday of each month, so on the Thursday before the 4th Friday at 6:30 PM, Franconia volunteers meet in our social hall and large kitchen to make 200 sandwiches and put together the meal items for delivery.

Every Friday night at 6 PM, assigned teams from local churches and organizations set out with sandwiches and pre-packed food items, making several stops along the Route One corridor from the beltway to the Fairfax County Parkway, south of Ft. Belvoir, Alexandria. The nutritious, bagged meals are delivered to those who are homeless and living in tents, vehicles, and in motels. These meals provide nourishment to those who may not otherwise have something to eat that weekend, filling their stomachs and touching their hearts, as well as nourish those of us doing the serving.



More on Phoenix Rising on Page 10.



November 11: Young Readers Day



The reading specialist at Franconia Elementary School, Carol Wooster, is offering a training hour at noon on Tuesday, November 18th at the school for anyone interested in helping a child in the lower elementary classes with reading – either reading to the child or listening to the child. She would like to cover just a few points

and has asked to do that in one or two sessions rather than person by person.

If you feel called to participate in the lives of these children in this way, please let Pat Hobbs know. Also let her know if you can attend the training session, so she can let Carol Wooster know how many to expect and can give Carol the individual names of those attending.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Rising Hope

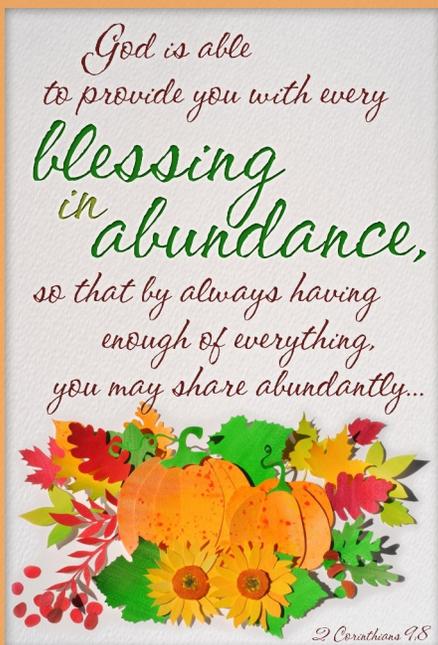
The Mission Team at Franconia United Methodist is once again going over to serve Thanksgiving luncheon to the homeless and nearly homeless at Rising Hope UMC in Alexandria. The luncheon is on Sunday, November 16th (third Sunday), which is the week *before* the Community Thanksgiving Dinner that at Franconia UMC for the members of our community.

If you'd like to sign up online, go to the Signup Genius for the event. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0544a5a62ca64-rising> (If you sign up on the bulletin board, you don't need to sign up again.)

If you have questions or if you'd like to volunteer to go to Rising Hope, contact Suzanne Ackley at sackley@biakelsey.com or on her cell phone at 703-980-3708.

Volunteers are needed to drive to Rising Hope, help carry food and goods, set up for the luncheon, serve the meal and/or clean up. Sign-up sheets for food items are on the bulletin board in Cokesbury Hall.

All food needs to be delivered to the kitchen in Cokesbury Hall no later than 9:45 AM on Sunday, November 16th.



The end of October found **All God's Children** celebrating the beauty of Fall and the excitement of Halloween. The children enjoyed special activities in the classrooms, and at the end of the day participated in a costume parade. In November the learning focus will be about farms, food, giving thanks, and that Jesus is our provider. On Tuesday November 25 at 11:00 am, a special service will be held in the sanctuary followed by lunch. Family and friends are invited.

This month time will be spent talking about giving thanks to the Lord for all that He has given us and about helping those who are in need. Every year we support Koinonia by

Continued on page 11



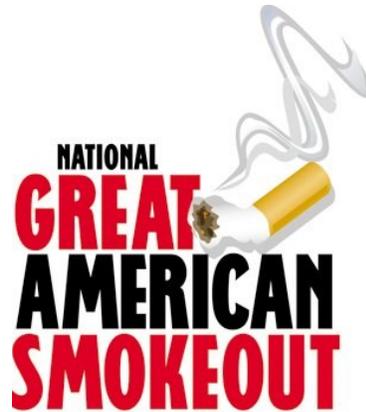
The Great American Smokeout: Your Quit Day

If you are a smoker, quitting is the single most important step you can take to protect your health and the health of your loved ones. Smoking causes immediate damage to your body, and it threatens your future with increased risks for cancer, heart attack, lung disease, and early death. Many people have probably urged you to quit smoking already, but we all know that quitting can be hard.

That's where the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout can help. This event takes place on November 20 and encourages smokers to quit or to use the day to make a quit plan. Free help is available at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) and at 1-855-DÉJELO-YA (1-855-335-3569) (for Spanish

speakers).

When you quit smoking during the Great American Smokeout, you have the support of many other people across the nation. And you're taking an important step towards a healthier life.



Accomplishments 2014

The trustees have been busy this year as can be expected for maintaining buildings and grounds that are over 50 years old.

Completed projects this year are:

1. Trustee members have designed and installed new landscaping around the new sign with new plants thanks to Nalls Nursery.
2. After a lightning strike destroyed the chimes speakers in the steeple, the trustee members installed a new ground wire and new speakers. (Saved over \$3000 by Trustees

- doing it.)
3. New ceiling speakers were installed by trustee members over the choir loft to help choir members hear the sermon.
4. Thanks to the music director father dad working with the Trustees, the were organ speakers restored to new condition.
5. In the parsonage broken central AC unit was replaced and a new gas fireplace logs set was added.
6. In the church's rental property all the windows were replaced with double pain UV gas filled windows to improve heating and AC efficiency. The new windows also greatly reduce the sound from Franconia Road.
7. Third floor bathrooms were repaired and painted. The vanity-sink and toilet were replaced in the men's room on the first floor
8. Steeple and portico were painted and the cement landing covered

Five Ways to Get Ready to Quit Smoking

Quitting smoking can be hard, so a good plan can help you get past symptoms of withdrawal. These five steps can help.

1. **Set a quit date.** Choose the Great American Smokeout or (November 20) or another quit day within the next 2 weeks.
2. **Tell your family and friends you plan to quit.** Share your quit date with the important people in your life and ask for support. A daily e-mail, text message, or phone call can help you stay on course and provide moral support. Plan a smokefree lunch date or game night to distract yourself. Or gather your family in the kitchen to cook a special meal together.

Continued on page 8

with brick.

9. After the supply water pipe to Koinonia ruptured, a new 200' underground copper line was installed. .

Plans for Rest of 2014

1. Overhaul and repair sanctuary heating system
2. Replace office computer
3. Continue exterior wood trim painting
4. Evaluate and propose new exterior door security system
5. Evaluate use and look of church building interior spaces.



Get Ready to Quit Smoking

Continued from page 7

3. **Anticipate and plan for challenges.** The urge to smoke is short—usually only 3 to 5 minutes. Surprised? Those moments can feel intense. Before your quit day, write down healthy ways to cope. Even one puff can feed a craving and make it stronger. Healthy choices include:

- Drinking water
- Taking a walk or climbing the stairs
- Listening to a favorite song or playing a game
- Calling or texting a friend

4. **Remove cigarettes and other tobacco from your home, car, and workplace.** Throw away your cigarettes, matches, lighters, and ashtrays. Clean and freshen your car, home, and workplace. Old cigarette odors can cause cravings.

5. **Talk to your pharmacist, doctor, or quitline coach about quit options.** Nicotine patches, gum, or other approved quit medicines may help with cravings.



**Sunday, January 25, 2015
All Church Birthday Party**



**Harvesting Best Practices from Local Talent
Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:15 AM—3:45 PM
Floris UMC, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon, VA**

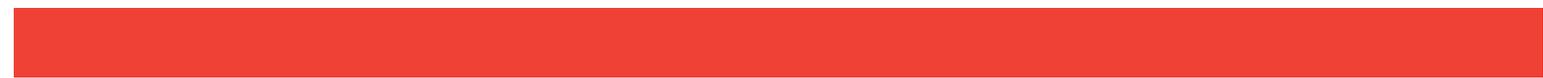
**Training Day—The Alexandria & Arlington Districts
The United Methodist Church in Northern Virginia**

Come and experience a full day of ministry training, growth ideas, and spiritual nourishment—all from locally-grown sources.

Reverend Tom Berlin, Senior Pastor of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, VA, and Reverend Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership and Director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, will provide perspective on “Bearing Fruit Where You Are,” based on their book *Bearing Fruit*, in the

Plenary Session Keynote. They will discuss the tools needed to assess the fruit your ministry bears in the lives of the congregations, communities, and the world. Each of the authors will facilitate workshops based on the other two books that they have co-authored—*High Yield* and *Overflow: Increase Worship Attendance and Bear More Fruit*.

For more information on workshops and to register, go to www.novaumc.org.



What is Advent?

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Celebrating Advent typically involves a season of prayer, fasting and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope and joy.

Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit.

Watch for more about Advent in the December issue of The Chimes.

Food Baskets for Koinonia

The holiday season is fast upon us and we are now collecting food for 10 Koinonia Food Baskets (5 for Thanksgiving and 5 for Christmas.) Any donation you make will be greatly appreciated as without help from you, a family in your community might not be able to enjoy that special holiday meal.

Food needed is listed below and sign-up sheets are on the Missions Table in Cokesbury - or if you prefer, send an email to mcsutton123@gmail.com

Donations are due by November 16.

Contents of each Koinonia Holiday Food Basket:

- ◆ \$20 Grocery Store Gift Card
- ◆ 2 Cans Each: Green Beans, Peas, and Corn
- ◆ 2 Cans of Fruit
- ◆ 2 Cans/Boxes/Packages of Turkey Gravy (No Glass)
- ◆ 1 Box of Stuffing
- ◆ 2 Boxes of Potatoes
- ◆ 1 Can of Sweet Potatoes
- ◆ 1 Box of Dessert Mix (Brownies, Cake)
- ◆ 1 Can of Broth
- ◆ 2 Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese
- ◆ 2 Cans of Soup
- ◆ 1 Box of Cheerios or Oatmeal



FOOD BASKETS

Monetary donations to help cover the cost of any additional needed items are gratefully accepted. Please write "Koinonia Food Baskets" on your check or envelope and place it in the offering plate. Any funds and/or food left after the holidays will be donated to Koinonia.

Food donations can be left in designated bins in Cokesbury Hall.



November is:

- ◆ Aviation History Month
- ◆ National Diabetes Month
- ◆ Military Family Month
- ◆ Georgia Pecan Month
- ◆ Native American Heritage Month
- ◆ Peanut Butter Lover Month
- ◆ Vegan Awareness Month
- ◆ Sleep Comfort Month

All Saint's Day	November 1
Sandwich Day	November 3
King Tut Day	November 4
Saxophone Day	November 6
United States Marine Corps Birthday (1775)	November 10
Veteran's Day (U.S. - End of WWI - 1918)	November 11
Young Reader's Day	November 11
World Kindness Day	November 13
Accountant's Day	November 13
America Recycles Day	November 15
Fast For World Harvest Day	November 20
Great American Smokeout	November 20
National Philanthropy Day	November 15
American Education Week	November 16—22
Leonid Meteor Shower	November 17—18
Anniversary of Gettysburg Address (1863)	November 19
International Children's Day	November 20
World Hello Day	November 21
Stop The Violence Day	November 22
Boris Karloff's Birthday	November 23
Thanksgiving (U.S.)	November 27
Red Planet Day	November 28



Christmas Workshop/Advent Wreath Making

The annual Christmas craft workshop will be combined with the Advent Wreath making event, to be followed immediately by the Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary at 5 PM. Please note: The event is geared to families—no longer an event where children are dropped off. (Alison and Eric Plessinger are coordinating the event.)

DATE: Sunday 11/30/2014 2 PM—6 PM **LOCATION:** Cokesbury Hall
 To sign up, go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4CAFA723A1FB6-



Phoenix Rising:

Meals prepared on Tuesdays (rather than on Thursdays) before Thanksgiving and Christmas:

Tuesday, November 25
Tuesday, December 23

Bagged meals will be delivered on the Friday following each holiday.

Friday, November 27
Friday, December 26

Phoenix Rising – Help Needed for the Holidays!

Holidays are always a busy time, but the Phoenix Rising Meal preparation and delivery must go on! The people that receive these meals are especially grateful to receive during the holidays and know that somebody cares enough to take time to deliver to them during the holiday season.

Franconia UMC has the fourth Friday of each month which means we deliver the day after Thanksgiving and

the day after Christmas. We will prepare the bagged meals on the Tuesday before each holiday 11/25 and 12/23 respectively. Please mark your calendars and set aside some time to help those less fortunate and share God’s love with them.

We always welcome donations of food or money to offset the cost of purchasing food. Please see the Shopping List below.

Phoenix Rising Shopping/Donation List

- Peanut butter
- Jelly (Preferably strawberry, which spreads easier)
- Cookies (single serving size)
- Chips (single serving size)
- Applesauce or fruit cups (single serving size)
- Granola bars
- Juice boxes/Bottled water
- Sandwich-size baggies
- Used Bibles, and inspirational literature
- Travel-size toiletries
- Financial support (To be used to purchase Phoenix Rising supplies)

Join the Leadership Team for Phoenix Rising

An additional person is needed for the leadership team for Phoenix Rising. Since the fourth Friday often falls on holidays, it is not unusual for leaders to be out of town for meal preparation and delivery. We share shopping responsibility, being on hand on Thursday night, and assisting with delivery duties.

Please prayerfully consider if this is something God is calling you to do. It is a great group of people and a wonderful mission. If you would like more information, please contact PhoenixRising@Franconiaumc.org.



New Church Directory

We are creating our own directory, which will be accessible on-line or as a hardcopy. The best part, a photo of your choice will be used! If you have not completed an information card, you can contact Elaine Balducci at 703-922-8468 or send her an email with your last name(s), first names(s), children, address, phone number and email address to churchdirectory@franconiaumc.org.

Numbers at Fall Festival Increase

Thank you to Amy and Ryan Shaffer for coordinating the Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat in October!

Attendance grew in 2014:

- ♥ 53 Children
- ♥ 1 Youth
- ♥ 44 Adult/Parents

Servants who assisted included:

- ♥ 35 Adults
- ♥ 8 Youth
- ♥ 4 Tweens



Preschool News

Continued from page 6

collecting items needed for the food pantry, and each class has the opportunity to take the items they collected to Koininia. This wonderful service project gives the children a chance to do good for others.

One of the things for which AGC is thankful is the support received from Pastor Catharine, the Trustees, the Church Council, the staff and the congregation. We feel so blessed to teach each and every child at AGC, and we know it would not be possible without the support of both present and past members of Franconia United Methodist Church. Thank you.



Children's Church Moves Downstairs

Children's Church has outgrown its space. To have the additional room needed for the Children's Worship—Bible Story, Music, Crafts, and Activities, Children's Church has moved downstairs to the Children's Hall in the Education Building. The classroom will be at the end of the hall (a few doors down from the Nursery).

Parents are to go downstairs immediately after church to sign out their children. Then they can go back upstairs for the social time in Cokesbury. The Servant Volunteers would like to be able to join in the fellowship time in Cokesbury as well.



Franconia United Methodist Church
6037 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
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**A Night in Bethlehem—
December 6**

***An Interactive Family Event—
Activities for All Ages**

***Visit the Marketplace**

***Meet the Holy Family**

***See the live animals**

See page 2 for more information.

The CHIMES

NOVEMBER 2014



Sunday, November 23—5:00-7:00 pm
FREE Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 30
—3:30-5:00 pm Family Advent Wreath
Making/Christmas Workshop
—5:00-6:00 pm Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 6—5:30 -7:00 pm
A Night In Bethlehem - Come in
Costume, if you would like.

Sunday, December 14— 4:00 pm
Choir Christmas Concert

**Wednesday, December 24—4:30 pm,
8 pm, and 11 pm**
Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 31—11 pm
New Year's Eve Watch Night Services



Preparing for the Christmas Season

Advent Dates for 2014

- ♥ **November 30**
First Sunday of Advent
- ♥ **December 7**
Second Sunday of Advent
- ♥ **December 14**
Third Sunday of Advent
- ♥ **December 21 -**
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Franconia United Methodist Church . . . is a multi-generational, Christ-centered community called to reach out to the young adults and families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area. We welcome all and together respond to the challenges of daily life through worship, study, and fellowship. As led by the Holy Spirit, through dynamic and innovative ministries, we will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The CHIMES
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