

MESSENGER

TOM'S CREEK UMC

VOL 18 ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2025

TCUMC mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ with our family, our community, and our world.



A group of Creekers went to Oak Lawn Cemetery in Gettysburg Pa to lay wreaths on the graves of American veterans on December 14, National Wreaths Across America.



Creeker Christmas Pictures are included in this issue of the Messenger!

FEEDING
F.R.I.E.N.D.S

DELIVERING 23 MEALS A WEEK!

Pastor's Pen

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Every year we pray for wisdom and guidance for the year ahead, and the LORD has provided so many wise folks to council us and cheer us on. This New Year's Day, I want to share some wisdom from the late Michael Ramsey, an influential Anglican theologian and writer, who served as the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury (from 1961-1974). First I'll share day one—January 1—from the devotional, *Through The Year with Michael Ramsey* edited by Margaret Duggan. Then check the "Five Helps" he shared as a talk to his clergy one year. Ramsey died in 1988 in Oxford, England, at 83. He had a particular regard for the Eastern Orthodox concept of 'glory', and his favorite book he had written was his 1949 work, *The Glory of God and the Transfiguration of Christ*.



Continued on next page...

Communion Offering

- January - UMCOR for those in North Carolina

Tom's Creek UMC

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You'll find a bit of British spelling, but I hope you are also blessed with the wisdom in both of these as we and Jesus kick off another year together!

THE UNENDING ADVENTURE, January 1:

People sometimes ask me if I have ever felt like losing my faith. No : my faith is always part of me. But faith isn't a state of easy and calm security. It is an adventure of ceaseless battling with troubles: a peace of mind and a serenity indeed, but a costly peace and serenity in the midst of conflict.

After all, our world is a world of conflict, and faith is not an escape from it, but something which—in St. John's words—"over-comes it".

Five Helps for the New Year by Bishop Michael Ramsey

Thank God. Often and always. Thank Him carefully and wonderingly for your continuing privileges and for every experience of His goodness. Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow.

Take care about confession of your sins. As time passes the habit of being critical about people and things grows more than each of us realize

Be ready to accept humiliations. They can hurt terribly but they can help to keep you humble. [Whether trivial or big, accept them, he says.] All these can be so many chances to be a little nearer to our Lord. There is nothing to fear, if you are near to the Lord and in His hands.

Do not worry about status. There is only one status that our Lord bids us be concerned with, and that is our proximity to Him. "If a man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am there also shall my servant be". (John 12:26) That is our status; to be near our Lord wherever He may ask us to go with him.

Use your sense of humour. Laugh at things, laugh at the absurdities of life, laugh at yourself. Through the year people will thank God for you. And let the reason for their thankfulness be not just that you were a person whom they liked or loved, but because you made God real to them.

Happy New Year to each of you Creekers, and God's blessings on your life, your family and friendships, and all of our work for God's glory in 2025.

In Jesus' love,
Pastor Mike Crutley



Parent's Night Out

Submitted Karen Wivell

Parents Night Out was held at Tom's Creek on the evenings of December 13th and 20th. This was something Julie Watkins wanted to offer to the Tom's Creek families because her church offered it when her children were young and Julie really appreciated having the time to do last minute preparations for Christmas.

The children had SO MUCH FUN!!!

There was eating, painting, playing with a ball, watching movies, more eating, story telling, more painting, more playing and just running around having a good time.

And there was SO MUCH LAUGHTER!!!

While the children were enjoying themselves at church, some of the parents attended a Christmas Party, some went shopping and according to one little girl, her mommy and daddy went on a date.

A HUGE thanks to Julie for everything she did to make these two evenings a wonderful time for our children.



Yule Logs

Submitted Butch Colby



In September or early October I was asked if we were going to make candy for the holidays. Well, I am always ready for this task but had to see if we had interest from some of the key people who help make this possible. The answer was a guarded yes if we only did it for maybe three weeks and not too close to the Christmas holidays. Sounds good to me.



Baby Stella Rose attending candy making with her grandma Kimberly (pictured) and her mom Kayla.

YULE LOGS! What a year-ending fundraiser. Over the last 3-4 weeks we made 703 dozen or 8,436 logs. Wow!!! This could not have happened without a tremendous

turn out from all the church volunteers who not only helped make these eggs but also helped to sell them.

Our last week of making logs we made a record during my time of 268 dozen logs. I know this wore out a lot of our log makers. Being the time of the year we were short some key people who have provided great support in making the logs in the past. Will try not to break this mark in the future. We can again thank Roy and Pat who first started this fundraiser for the church in around 2013 maybe before.



I did not keep track of who sold what but some people who went to bingo and the food stores to sell were Roy and Pat Chapman, Debbie White and Vickie Frank.

We have a few logs left to sell so have not got the final



numbers but our goal was to earn \$5,000 and I think we will do this. I would again like to thank everyone who helped in so many ways.

Oldies & Goodies

Submitted Karen Wivell



The Oldies and Goodies celebrated Christmas at their gathering on December 19th. Thanks to Frank and Sandy Negro for providing the main dish, Tastes Like Lasagna soup, and the sourdough bread. Following the meal, Debbie White announced the winners of the door prizes, donated once again by Donna Shriner. Winners were MaryEllen Shuey, Mary Harner, Neil Price, George Porter, John Shuey and Brooke Cantley. Frank and Sandy then led several games. In the 1st one, everyone was asked to place a paper plate on their head and draw a snowman following the instructions read. Winners were 3rd place - Mary Harner, 2nd place - Debbie White and 1st place Donna Shriner. Winners of the Christmas Trivia Game, which included 22 questions, were Linda Kuhn with 14 correct answers and



Marty Miller and Pastor Mike, both with 12 correct answers. Then everyone was asked to sit in a circle to play the left/right game, passing gifts according to instructions read. What a nice afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. Thanks a bunch Frank and Sandy!

Advent 2024

Christmas Eve Services



Left: Mary Springer, her daughter Chris Botker and Pastor Mike provided special music on the 1st Sunday of Advent



Right: Kathy Amoss and her grandson Warren light the 1st Advent candle



Left: George and Beverley Tuggle light the 2nd Advent candle



Right: Pat and Roy Chapman light the 3rd Advent candle and sang special music.



Left: Curtis and Pat (not pictured) Baughman light the 4th Advent candle.



Above: Joe & Judy Coleman (left) light the Christ Candle during the 7pm Christmas Eve Service. The Cantley Family (right) lights the Christ Candle at 11pm Christmas Eve Service.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Above: Spreading the Gospel and some Christmas Cheer to folks living at Lorien.



Christmas CAROLING



Caroling & Visitation

Submitted Karen Wivell

Sunday, June 8, was our annual day to visit and sing Christmas carols with our members who have been sick, are shut-in, or those who just needed a lift. Thanks to everyone who provided the lunch before we departed and thanks to all who gave up their Sunday afternoon to bring some cheer to others.

We visited JoAnn & Earl Keller Casey Glass, Libby Fuss, Virginia Wantz, Kay & Dennis Martin, Rose Weimer, Carson Kelly, Bill Shade & Toby, and Dave & MaryEllen Shuey.



Creekers held their annual New Year's Eve Party in Fellowship Hall. It was well attended and everyone had a great time.

Pictured left, Pastor Mike tries Kathy Imirie's contribution of the Possum Candy Canes for the first, and likely last, time.

Thank you to all who helped and to Carol Hipp and Pastor Mike for providing devotions to ring in 2025.

Pictured right, Debbie Wivell speaking on December 8th regarding Peacemaking and her work with students at Thurmont Middle School.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Information regarding these events and more can be found in the church bulletins which are also posted on our website. To receive emails with announcements and prayer requests, please contact the church office or Karen Wivell at wivellkaren@gmail.com.

JAN
6



NOW MEETING

7pm at the church
All are welcome to attend

JAN
16



Oldies & Goodies

Noon in Fellowship Hall
Sign-up sheet is available in the lobby.

JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Brenda Myers	11 Carol Hipp	21 Joan Keller
10 Penelope Fattorini	14 Pat Baughman	26 Trevor Cole
10 Judy Zentz	14 Peyton Yingling	28 Zach Imirie
10 Maddy Long	18 Dawson Damon Long	

January 4
Roy & Pat Chapman

January 10
Dan & Luann Moser

January 27
Sandy & Frank Negro

Dear Creekers,

It has been a privilege to publish *the Messenger* over the last 11 years. So many changes were made in creating the monthly publication during that time. I've loved having the creative outlet and opportunity to put together Tom's Creek's Story Through Word and Image. From weddings and babies to funerals and baptisms, *the Messenger* has captured the vast majority of our life together as a church family. It has been a joy to collect photos and written testimonies from many Creekers over the years in order to complete each edition for distribution.

This Messenger is my last, and I wanted to say thank you for your encouragement, feedback, support, and love. I have so many fond (and frazzled) memories of compiling photos, late-night printings, and seeing all your faces each month as I prepared each publication. Thank you all for making our newsletter so unique.

I'd like to give a special shout-out to Karen Wivell. Without her, our newsletters would be void of content. She is the one who writes many articles. She is the one who makes sure the information is correct. She is the one I've relied on for 11 years...and not just for the newsletter. Thank you, Karen.

Thank you to all the pastors who have diligently provided a Pastor's Pen each month: Revs Tim, Bill, Heath, Tom, Ken, and Mike. I'd especially like to thank Pastor Heath who made sure I had a computer to do the newsletter when I was laid-up with a broken leg and recovering from a stroke.

Thank you to Judy Coleman for editing and posting the newsletter on our website. Thank you to Heather Fitzgerald, Mary Harner, Kim Wivell, and Kathy Amoss, for making sure I had great pictures from worship services and other events!

Thank you, Creekers, for creating such beautiful moments and memories. My heart is full. Love always, **Amy Messler**