

# Celebration Journal

Fall 2012

## In This Issue...

Pastor's Page	2
Homework Club	2
Holiday Needs	3
Intern Spotlight	3
VICHOP	4

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## Join Christ UMC in supporting Rising Hope Mission Church

It costs \$1,500 each day to keep the doors open and  
to serve God's people at Rising Hope.

Plan to join us for a wonderful evening of dinner, great music, dancing, silent and  
live auctions and know that your participation promises to keep the doors open and  
the spiritual hearth warm!

**November 16, 2012**

*7:00 – 11:00 pm*

**Waterford at Springfield**

*6715 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150*

**To purchase tickets or be a sponsor  
Visit [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org) and click**

**DONATE NOW  
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# Pastor's Column

## An Incarnational Church

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas my mind turns to the marvelous gift we have in Jesus: the Incarnation of God into the world through Jesus Christ.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

On the streets in front of Rising Hope I see people broken and in pain every day. A young mother with her infant turns up on our steps one morning seeking help after sleeping the night behind a gas station. A disabled senior citizen in a wheel chair is panhandling to get up enough cash for a night's rent in the motel. It does not take long to identify the prostitutes soliciting for 'johns' or the street dealers hustling their drugs. On the corner is a group of aimless men who pass their time swapping stories and hiding the beer that is rushing to their heads and will soon make them obnoxious and unruly.

I have counseled and cried with grown men who could not get a job that supported their families; empathized with working mothers that must supplement their food budget by coming into our food pantry; and grieved with individuals who are refused work or an apartment because a felony conviction, for stupid youthful actions, hang over their heads.

The incarnation of God, the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, is because God loves all His creation and desires that no one perish but have life, eternal and abundant. Paul tells us, in his letter to the Philippians, that the way the work of the Incarnation is continued is through us. Our lives are to follow the pattern we see in Christ.

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)*

I thank God that the Alexandria District of the United Methodist Church and its members are supporting this Incarnational movement to help those most in need and distress in our community. Please join us in this journey of the Spirit.

Keary Kincannon

## STOP THE PRESS

### Homework Club

New to the Rising Hope Children's Ministry is the Homework Club, a weekly program for elementary school students to join for mentoring, fellowship, and support.



Maryellen Rodgers works with students to explore fun and safe ways to use the internet

Participants receive help in reading, writing, math, and technology, while enjoying snacks and seasonal celebrations.

"No matter where they are... we can help the students," said volunteer Maryellen Rodgers.

*"We believe all children deserve recognition and loving care"*

-Sula Tyler, Youth Ministry Coordinator

The Homework Club meets during the school year (Jan - Jun and Sept - Dec) every Wednesday 3:30 - 5:30 pm



# Thanksgiving and Christmas Needs

## WANT TO SAVE TREES AND LOWER MAILING COSTS?

To receive your next Rising Hope newsletter electronically email [info@risinghopeumc.org](mailto:info@risinghopeumc.org) or use the QR code below! Thank you!



With the winter holidays quickly approaching, we are preparing for our yearly Christmas Shoppe, Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets, and Holiday Meals.

Rising Hope strives to provide not only the meals that so many cannot afford, but also a place where those who are alone—with no family nearby—can join and celebrate the holidays together.

In order to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas day meals, volunteers are needed to help set up, cook, serve, and clean up.

Donations of roasting chickens and side dishes (except stuffing) will help to supply holiday meals and Food Pantry Baskets.

We are gathering donations through December 14 of new items for our annual Christmas Shoppe, where low-income families are invited to select gifts for their loved-ones.

Suggested Christmas Shoppe donations include clothes, toys, games, puzzles, and electronics for children and teenagers, and purses, jewelry, and gift cards for adults. As forecasts are predicting a very cold winter, we especially encourage donations of mittens, gloves, wool caps, thermal underwear, sleeping bags, winter coats, and backpacks.



## Intern Spotlight



Photo by Ed Simmons

Over the years, Rising Hope has been greatly blessed by the skills, energy, enthusiasm and fresh perspectives of our interns from Wesley Theological Seminary. This year, we welcome Drew Colby (pictured left), and Justin Hull (right) who returns to us for a second year. In addition to their internships, Justin also works with us part-time as our Audio-Visual Technician, and Drew is assisting as a tutor in our Literacy Program. We are so thankful for these two gifted people!

# Ventures in Community

## Hypothermia Outreach Program

We are in need of overnight chaperones on Thursday nights the entire season, Monday and Saturday nights in February and March. We ALWAYS need socks, gloves, hats and travel size toiletries i.e., toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap. We served 117 homeless people this past season and had over 350 volunteers. We can always use more volunteers especially overnight chaperones.

We also have a need for someone to take the sleeping bags to the Fairfax County jail to be laundered every other week and someone to pick them up.

For more information about volunteering or donating to VIC-HOP, email Sherry Edelkamp at [vichop2010@yahoo.com](mailto:vichop2010@yahoo.com)

Check out the four-part series on Homelessness in Fairfax County: [forthunt.patch.com/articles/faces-of-homelessness-a-night-at-the-shelter](http://forthunt.patch.com/articles/faces-of-homelessness-a-night-at-the-shelter)

### **Help by Donating:**

- Socks
- Gloves
- Hats
- Travel-size Toiletries:
  - Toothbrushes
  - Toothpaste
  - Shampoo
  - Soap

## **RIISING HOPE MISSION CHURCH: A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION**

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