

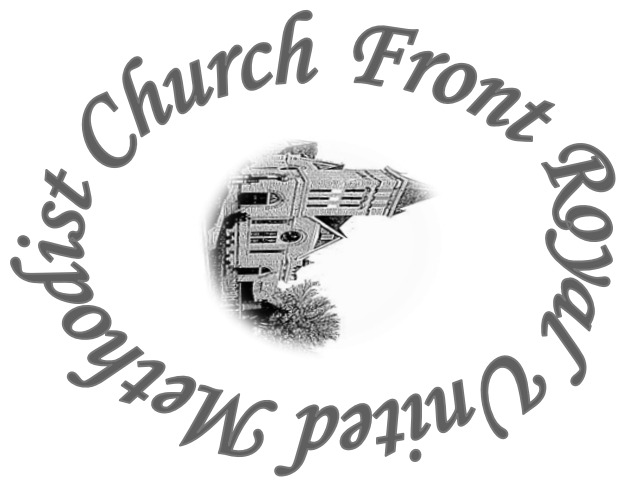
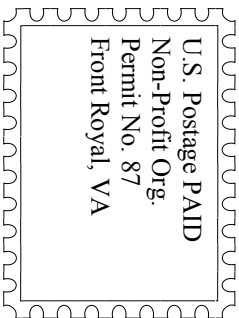
**Front Royal United Methodist Church**

1 West Main Street  
 Front Royal, VA 22630  
 Phone (540) 635-2935  
 Fax (540) 636-8518  
 Website [www.frume.org](http://www.frume.org)  
 E-mail: [lowernotes@comcast.net](mailto:lowernotes@comcast.net)

Denise Bates, Pastor  
 Rhonda Thompson, Office Manager  
 Melissa Chavez, Interim Minister of Music and  
 Worship Arts And Youth Director  
 Pam Waters, Director EBS/CDC  
 Barbara Robinson, Facilities Manager  
 Donna Quanton, Business Manager  
 Patti Henson, Housekeeper

Office Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm  
 Monday through Friday  
 Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 11:00 am  
 Sunday School: 9:45 am

*Return Service Requested*



**Sunday Services:**  
 8:30 and 11:00 am.

- December Happenings**
- 12/08 UMM/UMW Christmas Dinner
  - 12/16 EBS/CDC Christmas Pageant
  - 12/17 Free Spirits to Belle Grove
  - 12/21 Amahl & the Night Visitors
  - 12/24 Christmas Eve Services (See Inside)
  - 12/28 Service Candle

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

12/01 Sam Rusnak	12/12 Sue Henson	12/21 Kym Crump
12/02 Jim Kenney	Ashley Strickland	Ryan Manuel
Stacey Allison	12/13 Kirk Trent	Bryan Jenkins
12/03 Cory Shannon	12/14 Rebecca Jenkins	12/22 Jeremy Robinson
12/04 Pat Cullers	Olivia Marshall	12/23 Kristen Gingvich
Molly Shannon	12/15 Shirley Taylor	12/24 Jenna Bower
Mary Kate Shannon	Joyce Wimmer	Austin Price
12/06 Joe McGreevy	Margaret Keller	12/25 Jesus Christ
John Brishcar	12/16 Joan Weaver	12/26 Kim Athey
Carol Martin	Steve McMahan	12/27 Allan Robinson
Joanne Baker	12/17 Jo Petty	Collin Pavalok
Philip Vaught	Marla Zalar	12/28 Rachel Rettberg
12/08 Alan Wimer	Sarah Kirby	Carol Walker
Stephen Best, III	12/18 Raeann Bowdey	Lucas Campbell
Hannah McMahan	Dan Feck	12/29 Zack Creouse
Lisa Athey	Amber Poe	Victoria Halsted
12/10 Ann Pickrell	12/19 Graham Moore	12/30 Anna McGreevy
David Cramer	12/20 Jacob McConahy	Katie Robinson
Thomas Jenkins	12/21 Gary McFall	12/31 Kelley Newcomer
Juliana Best	Roland Berthold	
12/11 Kathleen Bassford	Howard Duncan, Jr.	



**SNOW POLICY**

The church and EBS/CDC follow the snow policy of Warren County Schools. When schools are closed or close early, the church and EBS will do likewise.



HAPPY NEW YEAR !

**Circle Meetings:**

**Deborahs**—Special date Christmas dinner Wednesday, December 9th @ 6:30 PM at "The Mill" (Call Violet Carter, 635-8401 for further information)

**Marthas**—First Tuesday, December 2nd @ 12 noon. It will be our Christmas luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Each attendee to bring a covered dish or dessert.(Call Jean Brown for further information 631-9185)

**Naomis**--First Tuesday December 2nd at 6:00 PM at the Front Royal Diner (Call Pat McMillen for further information, 636-9818)

**Ruths**--Fourth Tuesday, December date to be decided later. (Call Shirley Taylor for further information, 635-2045)

**Sarahs**- --First Wednesday December 3rd. @10:00 AM . (Call Ginger Marlowe for further information, 635-7560).

**UMW News:** The financial results of our very successful **FRUMW Annual Fall Bazaar** that was held in the **Fellowship Hall** on October 24th & 25th. were approximately \$5,800.00. Chairpersons were Jacque Bowman(635-4948) and Jean Brown(631-9185). Again, a big "thank you" to them and to all the ladies who helped.

**CURRENT EVENTS:**

**"A Quiet Day"**. A Winchester District event (formerly "A Day Apart") will be held on **December 6th at 12:30 PM** at the Kernstown UMC, 3239 Valley Pike. Nancy Walsh will be the leader. "I GIVE YOU JOY". Have you ever wondered what the difference is between happiness and joy?

Find out about the "attitude of gratitude", the effects and the gift of prayer, of laughter. Call Jacque Bowman (635-4948) for information and car pool leaving 11:30 AM.

The **UMW & UMM** will hold their annual **Christmas Dinner Party on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship HALL.** The Rockland Singers will be our guest performers. The UMM will be contributing the meat, rolls and beverages. The UMW ladies are asked to bring a dessert, or salad/covered dish "with a bit extra (or two) to share with our guest performers. Reservations (for an attendee count) are requested by December 5<sup>th</sup> by calling Mary Burke (635-5045) or signing in the pew attendance book.

**UMW Executive Committee Meeting** is to be held on **December 30th.** in the LFK room at **7:00 PM.** All officers and circle leaders are to attend. If you are not able to attend, please get a substitute and call Mary Burke (635-5045)

**"HAPPY HOLIDAYS"**

**Advent Sermon Series and Study**  
**Travel the Highways of Advent**  
 Highways get us from here to there.

Join us in a journey from the here of our everyday lives to the there of Christmas hope and life.

**Sunday evening 6pm in LFK Room - Dec. 7-21**  
**AYS" from your Executive Committee!**



**FREE SPIRITS PERAMBULATE...**

Burrowing out from our summer hibernation, the Free Spirits have become hyperactive! In September we journeyed to D. C. to tour the Newseum. October followed with a train trek through the mountains of West Virginia to view eagles in flight. This was followed in November by our annual feast at Graves Mountain Lodge, returning over Skyline Drive.

However, "they" say that we always neglect to see the treasures in our own backyard. So December 17 gives us the opportunity to visit closer to home.

We're all set to tour historic Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, followed by a "Dutch Treat" brunch at Roma Ristorante. Belle Grove will be festively decorated for the holidays, and a knowledgeable docent will lead our tour, ending with grog and cookies in the basement kitchen. We'll top it off with a feast at Roma Ristorante, well known for it's Italian and Greek cuisine. Sign up for this trip early in the church office.

To keep the momentum going, January 21 marks the date for our Bingo Blast in Fellowship Hall, featuring home-made soup and sandwiches. Then on February 25 we'll travel to the Edinburg Mill museum. This restored museum has really become the model for the Shenandoah Valley. In March we'll return to Fredericksburg's Riverside Dinner Theater to dine and see the play "9 to 5", starring Sally Struthers from "All in the Family."

All in all, it's an ambitious and fun schedule of events. Several of our Board members are retiring and we need some fresh ideas. Any volunteers out there? Seniors helping Seniors -- it's a great way to spend an hour every second Wednesday morning!



**Meet Our Church Staff**

**Melissa Chávez, Interim Minister of Music and Worship Arts and Youth Director** [melissa@frumc.org](mailto:melissa@frumc.org)

Melissa has been leading in church music and youth ministry since she was in high school and is delighted to share her passions, interests, gifts and graces with Front Royal United Methodist Church. Her first church job was leading worship for the children's church time in her home congregation, and subsequent church work has encompassed all facets of music ministry, youth ministry, and Christian education. In addition to church work, Melissa performs regularly as a professional singer and is currently completing an advanced graduate degree at Shenandoah University.

Melissa spent her childhood growing up in lots of places, including two different countries, but considers herself most at home when she is in Virginia. She attended both Penn State University and Shenandoah University and in her free time enjoys cooking, playing tennis, going for runs, and beating friends at Bananagrams.

**Christmas Trees...**

Boy Scout Troop 52 will begin their annual Christmas Tree sale on **November 29, 2014** the Royal Plaza shopping center. This is the troops major fund raising event for the year these funds are used to purchase equipment and assist the boys pay for scout activities such as weekend camping trips and Summer camp. They are also used to purchase rank advancement patches, mothers pins, and award plaques. The troop which is sponsored by Front Royal United Methodist Church will be selling a mix of trees, some that they have planted as seedlings and cared for over the past 10 years and trees purchased at other tree farms for variety.

This year's selections are:

- White Pine
- Scotch Pine
- White Spruce
- Frazier Fir 6'
- Frazier Fir 7'



We will also have fresh wreaths and Christmas Tree stands available for purchase.

So if you are looking to purchase a fresh/live tree this year please stop by and help support the troop.

Sales hours are :

- Monday through Friday 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Saturday 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Sunday 12:00 PM (noon) to 8:00 PM

**Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Worship  
At Front Royal UMC**

**5:00 pm "Star Light, Star Bright"**  
*Especially for children and families*

**7:00 pm Lessons & Carols**  
*Featuring the Joyful Noise Choir, Praise Team, High School Choir*

**11:00 pm Lessons & Carols**  
*Featuring the Sanctuary Choir & Men's Ensemble*

**Stewardship Reflections...**

Our church recently began its celebration of the Advent Season, a joyous time when we prepare our hearts and souls to observe the coming birth of Christ later in the month. It is a time of expectation, of watchfulness and of self-examination. Hopefully, amidst all the activities taking place around us, we will examine our stewardship of time, abilities and money to evaluate how we have been using all three for the proclaiming of God's kingdom. Since everything that we have is a gift from God, when we are generous with our love and compassion for others, we are showing our appreciation for God's love toward us.

**The Mission Box 2014**  
The **December** Mission Offering will be donated to **Society of St. Andrew.**  
The **November** Mission Offering was donated to **Backpack Buddies**

**Please pray for our infirmed and homebound...**

Helen Seekford, Clemence Bruce, John Smith, Carrie Baker, Myrna Mason, Herbert McCall, Debbie Llewellyn, Esther McConahy, Frank Carter, Bernie Stokes, Ida Dehner, Kathryn Hall, Dorothy Scott, O'Neal Foglesong, Rosalie Baldwin, Earl and Herbert McCall, Ira Neff, Grace Green, Kathrine Biggs, Mary Beth Quist, and Pauline Woodward

**Please be in prayer the families of...**

Magretta Haga, Bobby Rickard, Roy Leap and our service men and women.

**Special prayers go out to our missionaries...**

Clara Biswas in Cambodia, Ann Kolbe in VIM Cambodia, and Beth Ferrell in Arizona

**Let us also remember the families of all service persons...**

Aaron Tuten, Lindsey Tuten, and Stephen Twele.

Words cannot express our appreciation for our Church Family and the outpouring of love, prayers and cards, during our time of sorrow,

Diane Rickard, Terri, Guy, Brandon and Trevor Whiteside.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your church staff!**

Rhonda Thompsen, Barbara Robinson, Donna Quarton, Miranda Propps, Amber Parker, Patti Hinson, Karrie Grigsby, Melissa Chavez & Pastor Denise

To give our staff a well desired rest, the church office will be closed from noon Christmas Eve through New Year's Day. Regular office hours will resume on 1/2/15. Should you have a need of any kind, please contact Pastor Denise at 571-449-0650.

The EBSCDC children and staff enjoyed a delightful time at their Thanksgiving Luncheon on Tuesday, November 18th. The children invited family and friends to join them. They made all of the table decorations, invitations, and desserts. The wonderful ladies of the church (with the help of some of the men) donated and prepared the feast. Everything was delicious and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all helped to make this a special event for our children.

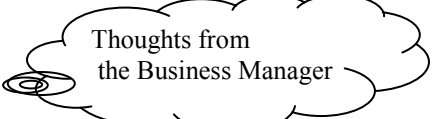
**FYI:**

EBSCDC will have their Christmas program on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary with refreshments to follow in the Fellowship Hall

**The Choral Department of Skyline High School**

will present its Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 7th** at 3:00 pm in the SHS Auditorium. The program will offer sacred music, including arrangements of traditional carols of hymnody as well as several newer compositions. Included also will be contemporary, secular favorites of jazz, pop and musical theatre. Mixed Chorus, Show Choir and several small ensembles are eager to share with the community th4e gift of holiday music and the inspiration that comes from Bethlehem, Broadway and beyond. Admission is \$3.00 and a reception will follow the concert.

I wonder when "busy" became our go-to greeting? How are you? Busy! Where have you been? Busy! What are you doing? Just busy! We wear busy like a protective mantel, a shield, a great excuse to hide behind. If I'm "busy", it's not so bad to shy away from commitment. If I'm "busy", I don't have to set priorities. If I'm "busy", it justifies not keeping my promises.



One thing I do know, "busy" is a relationship killer. God made us to be in relationship with Him. God created Adam and didn't want him to be alone, so God created Eve to be his partner. God gave us Jesus. God gives us family. God provides for us a church, thus creating our church-family.

God also gives us the great gift of choice. I pray we can all choose to move from busy to Blessed. Blessed to choose God. Blessed to invest in the relationships God creates for us. Blessed to pray every day about our priorities. Blessed to spend time with our families. Blessed to be part of the FRUMC family. I encourage all of us to move away from our self-imposed busyness toward a God-induced Peacefulness!

May we all be Blessed during this season of great Joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
Donna Quarton

**Jesus...really?**

Wondering what all the hoopla is about Jesus? Wondering who he was and what that has to do with you? Wondering how Jesus is relevant to your life?

Wondering where you can discover more?

Come to worship and learn about Jesus...and about yourself.

Jesus...really? sermon series beginning January 11, 2015

**From the Finance Committee ...**

At their November meeting, the Administrative Board approved the Finance Committee's request to establish a line of credit (a.k.a., a loan) in order to pay our outstanding bills. The Finance Committee remains optimistic that the membership can financially support our ministries, but it is the responsibility of the congregation to ensure that our bills are paid in a timely manner, through their giving to their church. We invite you to pray with us about the financial needs at FRUMC and to pray about your ability to financially support the ministries here with your gifts and offerings. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Bret Hrbek, Chair; David McDaniel, Treasurer; Dave Hardy, Financial Secretary; Bob Knerr, Audit Chair;

Jim Wells, Lay Leader; Cathy Johnson, Annual Conference Rep.; Tina Maddox, At-Large;

Alan Wimer & Janice Mills, Trustee Acct. Managers; Donna Quarton, Business Manager; Rev. Denise Bates, Pastor

*"I am the vine and you are the branches..."*



**Saturday Evening Worship Service**  
5:30 pm

Methodist Meeting House @ Happy Creek  
(formerly Happy Creek United Methodist Church)

1652 Happy Creek Rd.

Everyone welcome -  
Come as you are

A ministry of Front Royal United Methodist Church