



The Church Office will be CLOSED on December 23rd & December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday and on December 30th in celebration of the New Year.

There will be no *Forecaster* published next week.

theForecaster

Wednesday, December 21, 2011 - Volume 64, Number 48



Fundraising Campaign Update

ONWARD
A STRONG TRADITION
A PROMISING FUTURE

November 27– January 8

Goal: \$300,000

As of 12/20: \$128,219

Still Need: \$171,781

End of Year Info

In order to be counted for the 2011 tax year, contributions must be dropped off to the church office by close of business on December 29 or postmarked by December 31.

Please note that the church office is closed on Friday, December 30th.

Move Forward

by Rick Raines

This past week I went down to MCV to visit a friend. I parked my car on the third level of the parking deck. Went up the stairs and into the hospital. I visited for a few minutes, prayed, and left. I made my way down the stairwell of the parking deck, walked to my car, backed out, and started down toward the exit. I progressed about 100 yards when I noticed two cars in front of me had stopped – the two drivers were out of their cars talking on their cell phones. “Uh oh – an accident – right here in the parking deck... ok, folks, just pull your cars over a little, and let the rest of us get out.” I was wrong. There was no accident. At the turn to keep going down another car had decided to park. Right in the driveway. No going around. Nowhere to go. One person had shut down an entire parking deck. And dozens of cars were backing up.

Thankfully, there was construction going on. Now, down at MCV, you will rarely hear anyone say, “Thankfully, there was construction going on.” But today, I was grateful. Two-thirds of the parking deck is open for usage – the other third is undergoing refurbishment. In front of us – at the turn – was a construction entrance. As the security officers were talking on their radios and cell phones, a

pair of construction workers moseyed around the construction barrier, surveyed the situation, and disappeared around the barrier. I was hoping they had a brilliant idea – I was hoping they would return with a forklift, spear the offending vehicle, take it to the edge of the deck, and dump it onto 13th Street. What actually happened was even better. The construction foreman came back around the barrier, unlocked the padlock to the barrier, opened the gate, and dozens of cars were freed from their bondage.

One person stopped all movement forward. One person helped things to move forward.

At the end of the Paul’s letter to the Romans, he lists a bunch of people who helped move forward the mission of the Church. He then warned his friends to be on the lookout for those who would put obstacles in the way. I don’t ever want to be one of those people. I want to be a person who helps things move forward.

In 2012, our church will be active in many ministries and many endeavors to further the mission and vision God had given us. Each of us needs to be in God’s Word. Our leaders and our congregation need to be in constant prayer. We all move forward together.

In 2012, our church will continue to move forward in its mission to love God, love people, and introduce the world to Christ. In



January, our sermon series, “**Maximum Impact**”, will challenge all of us to maximize our involvement in impacting our community and our world for Christ. We all move forward together.

In 2012, our church will embark on the “Onward” campaign to raise \$3 million to expand our facilities and enhance our ministries. It will take prayerful, sacrificial giving. We all move forward together.

In 2012, our church will welcome many individuals and families seeking to know more about the Bible, Jesus, and salvation. It will take all of us volunteering and serving in whatever ways God has gifted us. We all move forward together.

2012 will be another special year in the life of the Fairmount Christian Church. God has great things in store for us. He will empower us to be people who move the mission forward. We all move forward together. ■

New Year Events at Fairmount

The Christmas season is a busy time for all of our families and for our church family as a whole. 2012 is also going to be busy! Mark these special dates on your calendar so you won't miss a thing.

January 1

Manna Sunday - On the first Sunday of each month we collect non-perishable food and toiletry items to help stock the MCEF Food Pantry. Shopping carts are in the front foyer to accept your donations. Please draw a line through the UPC code of items being donated.

January 8

Family Skate Night - Pack up the whole family and come to Ashland Skateland from 5:30-7:30pm to kick-off the Winter/Spring session of Sunday evening programs. Ashland Skateland is located at 516 N. Washington Highway. Admission is a canned good to benefit the MCEF Food Bank. Skate rental is \$2 (\$3 for inline skates) and hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available for \$2. No RSVP required. This is a great time to invite your friends!

January 14-21

CARITAS - Congregations **A**round **R**ichmond **I**nvolved **T**o **A**ssure **S**helter. Our guests will join us on Saturday, January 14th and will be using our Family Life Center area as their living quarters for a week. For more information or ways you can help, contact Meredith Holden.

January 21 - March 10

Upward Basketball - Fairmount will be hosting the fourth and fifth grade teams this year. Games will be played every Saturday in the gym. Contact Chuck Rogers if you'd like to help out.

January 22

Baby Recognition Day - Each year on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, Fairmount takes time to recognize all the babies born into our family during the previous year and pray for them and their families. If your family had a new addition in 2011, please submit 2 photos - 1 of baby alone and 1 of baby with the whole family - by January 15th to cbranch@fairmountchristian.org along with baby's full name, birthdate, service you

will attend, and names of any grandparents or great-grandparents attending. Photos can also be brought to the church office to be scanned (and returned).

January 25

Ignite Kickoff! - Enjoy dinner with your Fairmount family and learn more about the next steps in our Onward Campaign. Dinner will be served from 5-6:15pm and the program will begin at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

February 1

Wednesday Night Suppers & Programs Begin - More details coming soon about class offerings for the Winter session of Wednesday nights.

February 12

Sweetheart Banquet - Each year, our Teen Ministry hosts a Sweetheart Banquet for couples married 50 years or more. If you've recently celebrated your Golden Anniversary, please be sure the church office knows. ■



Christmas Card Post Office Update

This year, **9,661** Christmas cards were sorted and filed into the Christmas Card Post Office by our teens. As a congregation, we saved at least **\$4,250.84** using this wonderful service. A special thanks to Renee Courtney for taking on this huge project. Thanks also to all the teens and their families who helped at the Christmas Card tables. **Don't forget to pick up any remaining cards for your family this Sunday.** ■

We all need redemption...
some of us more than others.



4,695 people attended Scrooge the Musical!

What a great outreach to our community!

Scrooge Final Numbers

First we'd like to extend a huge thank you to the cast and crew of Scrooge to and all the volunteers (more than 91 people combined!) for their fantastic job and perseverance. Nine shows plus two dress rehearsal performances - whew! Here is a breakdown of the attendance numbers:

Thursday, December 8	60
Friday, December 9.....	405
Saturday, December 10, 2pm	580
Saturday, December 10, 7pm	345
Sunday, December 11	575
Thursday, December 15	170
Friday, December 16	565
Saturday, December 17, 2pm	585
Saturday, December 17, 7pm	603
Sunday, December 18, 2pm.....	155
Sunday, December 18, 6pm.....	652



P.O. Box 788
 Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Phone: (804) 559-8070
Fax: (804) 559-8072
Email:
info@fairmountchristian.org

The mission of Fairmount Christian Church:

To develop followers of Jesus who:

Love God,
Love People and
Introduce the world
 to **Christ**



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The Forecaster is
 best viewed online @
www.fairmountchristian.org

Our Church: December 18, 2011

Welcome to our New Members.

Welcome to **Earl Clarke** who was **baptized** on December 12th.

Welcome to **Callie McGhee, Tori Robinson,** and **Veronica Wood** who were all **baptized** on December 18th.

Attendance & Giving.

8:15 Worship Service: 128
 Children's Worship: 17

9:30 Worship Service: 513
 Children's Worship: 61

11:00 Worship Service: 259
 Children's Worship: 108

Total: 1,086

Bible School: 622

Budget Requirements: \$36,871.00

Budget Receipts: \$38,868.70

Sermon Series Continues...



Your Church Staff:

- Rick Raines** - Senior Minister
- Chris Santasiere** - Associate Minister
- Mike Langley** - Associate Minister
- Tracy Thomas** - Worship/Music Minister
- Mike Campbell** - Youth Minister
- Rose Williams** - Children's Ministry Director
- Bob Massey** - Business Administrator
- Veronica Brewster** - Office Manager
- Jef Powell** - Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Barry Will** - Technology Director
- Larry Haake, IV** - Child Care Program Director