

## December 2018

Dear Skipwith Family & Friends,

The Holy days of Advent and Christmas are upon us! Roberta and I, and our family, are praying for each of you and your families. We give thanks to God for the ways that you have expressed your love to us as well as the beautiful ways you have allowed us to come to know you and love you. We have experienced God's presence in a wide variety of ministry and mission this past year and we are eager to engage in the Kairos moments of these holy days which mark the beginning of a new Christian year.

We are in our 60<sup>th</sup> year of ministry here at Skipwith UMC! God continues to call and equip us to be vital agents in His redemptive work in our community and throughout the world. Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning team is hard at work designing a special day for former members, former pastors and their families, and our current members to celebrate. Mark you calendars now: Sunday, March 24, 2019 (with a catered meal). Make it a priority to attend- you won't be disappointed!

It is clear that God has given us a passion for hunger ministries **and** ministries to/for/with children, teachers and administrators: Thanksgiving Boxes for Henrico families, a bountiful Cornucopia donated to Lamb's Basket, Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, Angel tree gifts, 35 families assisted weekly through our Backpack Ministry, weekly readers and tutors at Skipwith Elementary, Appreciation snacks and gifts for teachers and administrators, etc.

In the new year, even more - Winter Carnival providing school supplies to community families and enjoy games, food and fellowship (January 26), a "Rise Against Hunger" event to pack 12,000 meals in partnership with Skipwith Elementary School and our Portuguese-speaking friends of the Adventist Church (date to be finalized), a mission trip to the school in Utila, Honduras with Ester Hanners (May 20-29), etc.

Though we live in tumultuous, anxious and uncertain days, it is an honor to serve a congregation that believes in making the loving presence of God known in such personal and concrete ways. I'm convinced that it is because you believe in the gift of Christmas: the incarnation – God becoming human in Jesus and

Jesus' Spirit living in us (through our baptism) to continue to make him real in this world!

From the Smith and Wright family to yours,

And from our Church family to the families in our Community & World,

May the Peace of Christ abound!

~Pastor Todd