



This will be the First Christmas

For someone you know and love this will be the first Christmas.

The first Christmas since "I got the diagnosis", "I lost my job", "My wife died", "We lost the house."

Not all of the changes have been difficult ones.

Perhaps this is the first Christmas since: "We had our baby", "I graduated from college", "We got engaged", "We opened our business", "I got sober."

Both lists are as long and as varied as the people who make them. What they have in common is that this year they are all seeing Christmas through a different lens. Something has happened that has changed life "as it was" to "what it is." Some of these events are welcomed in our lives and others dreaded. Some of these things brought us great joy and some left us hollow and hurting in their wake.

Often as we drove away from the church parking lot on Sunday morning my husband would ask the question, "And where was the good news in that?" Lest you think he was being overly critical, you should know that he asked this even when he had been the preacher. It is the ultimate question I think we all should be asking of sermons on Sunday morning, but perhaps even more so at the end of each year we have lived and breathed and loved and worked and played and gone about the business of living.

Christmas is one of those still points made even more important perhaps because of the frenzy leading up to its celebration. At some point on Christmas evening I hope we each stop and ponder the meaning not just of the holiday or the end of another year, but the meaning of all that has happened in our lives.

"And where was the good news in all of that?" is the question posed on the edge of the pause before we exhale.

As I watch my newest grandchild in that moment right before he closes his eyes and drifts off to sleep, in that

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Christmas Cookies

A Holiday Musical for the Whole Family

John Priddy, a family physician and Joy Sylvester-Johnson, CEO of the Rescue Mission; met in Sunday School more than 20 years ago. In 1998 they collaborated to create the musical, Soup, Soap and Salvation which was produced on the Mill Mountain Stage for sold out performances in 1998 and again in 2002.

This year they were invited by Pat Wilhelm and the Roanoke Children's Theater to write a family friendly Christmas musical. **Christmas Cookies**, a touching story about what it means to be a family, is the result.

The duo wanted to write a show that appealed not only to children, but to their parents and grandparents as well. Although the story includes a corps of dancing gingerbread cookies, some of the topics explored are of a very serious nature: war, homelessness, and the definition of "family."

In their effort to save the family business when their mother's National Guard unit is activated for a tour in Afghanistan, Emy and Jilly enlist the help of a homeless woman called "The Duchess" to keep the family bakery open in spite of a leaky roof, missing cookies, lost contests and a series of most unfortunate events. The final song, "It Still Doesn't Feel Like Christmas..." will resonate with anyone who has ever spent Christmas night missing the one who didn't make it home.

The show is peppered with lively songs and sweet ballads that bring equal measure of laughter and tears. The script is written without the syrupy predictable plot lines prevalent in much holiday theater. Each line and song has a reason--and for those who pay attention,-- there are hidden nuggets to be gleaned by young and old alike.

This musical will play at the Roanoke Children's Theater (located in the Taubman Museum) through the month of December 7 - 23. Tickets (\$15 for children and \$20 for adults) may be purchased by calling (540) 309-6802 or going on line to: www.roanokechildrenstheater.org



**The Rescue Mission invites you to a
Benefit Performance & Reception
Thursday, December 8 at 7 pm**
Reserve your Seats: Tickets: \$50
(540) 343-7227 or events@rescuemission.net

December 1

MENistry - Thursday 12 noon

December 3 - 2nd Helpings

2-4 pm Artist Reception
George Shumate & Martha Rhodes

December 7-23

Christmas Cookies - 7:00 pm
Taubman Museum

December 14

Adopt-A-Family Gift Bags Due

December 15 - Clinic

Bless My Sole - 5:30 pm

December 21

Children's Christmas Play

Family Shelter: 7 pm

Hospitality Chapel 7:45 pm

December 22-24 -Homemade

Pies, Cookies, & Cakes due

December 25

Christmas Feast, 1 pm

January 12,

Thursday 5:30

Eve Network Meeting

January 18,

Wednesday Noon

Auxiliary Luncheon

January 19, Medical Clinic

Thursday 5:30 p.m.

Bless My Sole

January 22,

Wednesday, 2 p.m.

Friends & Family Quarterly Event

January 22

12 - 3 p.m. Souper Bowl

(snow date January 29)

February 2,

MENistry -Thursday, 12 noon

For More Information

Call (540) 343-7227

rescuemission.net

drumstickdash.net

2nd Helpings

(540)491-9405 Shop/Gallery

(540) 491- 9409 Cafe

2ndhelpings.org

to receive this newsletter

online visit

rescuemission.net

Find us on Facebook 



The Souper Bowl Sunday, January 22 12 noon to 3 p.m. Taubman Museum of Art

This popular annual event benefits the Rescue Mission and RAM House.

Sample signature soups by over 20 local chefs and reserve your hand-crafted clay bowl made by local potters.

Tickets go on sale January 5, and are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event. For tickets call (540) 387-0234 or www.Q99fm.com

Making a List and Checking it Twice

People who have supported the good work of the Mission in their lifetime have one last opportunity to give a significant gift by including the Rescue Mission in their wills. Often the last gift we make is our most significant one. For more information about how to include the Rescue Mission in your estate planning contact Gail Strickler, Planned Giving Officer at: 777-7687 or gail@rescuemission.net.

Our Christmas Wish List

Recovery Participant Gift: Bag of Ground Coffee, 12 oz. Hot Chocolate (12-pack), 12 or 18 oz. bag of Chocolate or Candy.

Shelter Bedtime Gift: Twin Size Sheet Sets, Bath Towels

Child Shelter Guest Gift: Underwear, Socks, Pajamas

Teenager Shelter Guest Gift: Underwear, Socks, Pajamas

Adult Shelter Guest Gift: 2 pairs of Thermal Socks
\$5 Gift Card (McDonalds or Hardees) 18 oz Bag of Chocolate Candy, Earmuffs or Headband

Rescue Mission Shelter Toiletries: Deodorant, Toothbrush, Shampoo, Comb, Lotion, Disposable Razors, Chapstick

Drop off at the Mission's Front Desk 7am - 9 pm
402 4th St. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013 or call 343-7227



Wish List

Adopt-a-Family for Christmas

contact Jan Failes 777-7685
jan.failes@rescuemission.net

Q-tips

Baby Formula (3 months & up)

Diapers size 4, 5, 6

Volunteer Doctors, Dentists, Optometrists and Counselors

to schedule one day in 2012 in our Medical Clinic for the Homeless. Tour our facility at 321 Tazewell Ave. in Roanoke.

First Christmas *continued from front page*

last breath, I feel his body go heavy in my embrace and I know that he has finally surrendered.

On Christmas night I find myself taking one more long, deep breath before I too exhale-- and surrender. We all must submit to something--no one is exempt. This recognition of the human condition was not initially good news to a person like me who is addicted to control. But time has been an excellent tutorial in the wisdom of giving. That is what submission is--giving one's self. To give or not to give is not the question for Christmas night, but to what or better yet to whom do I intend to give my time, my thoughts, my treasures and my dreams? The best news of Christmas is that it is a time of giving gifts.

So in that last moment of that last hour on Christmas night before I too close my eyes and surrender, I hear the good news in the sermon of the day--"I am come that you might have life abundant." Not just life-- but life abundant.

Now, that is good news before I whisper "And to all a goodnight."



Open Late Thursdays in December til 8 pm

Local Artists have stocked our cases with beautiful and unique jewelry items. Angel Earrings are only \$10.00 with any \$25.00 purchase in the Gallery.

The Gallery will host the Raleigh Court Methodist Church handbell choir *Jubelation* on December 8 at 7 pm. and their Chancel Choir on December 15th at 7:00 pm

If you enjoy holiday shopping at our store at 1502 Williamson Road you will love our online 2nd helpings eBay store! We have a 100% positive feedback status and the site offers vintage, new, and just downright interesting items.

<http://stores.ebay.com/Roanoke-Rescue-Mission>

Bring your own unique or special items and donate them to be sold in any of our stores. Your gift will help the Rescue Mission provide shelter, food and medical attention for the homeless and it is tax deductible. Call (540) 343-7227 for more information.

Meals and More...

These numbers represent lives changed through God's blessings and your generosity!

	October 2011	YTD 2011
Meals served	31,079	292,984
Shelter nights	11,500	107,133
Clothing items provided	1,785	17,856
Professions of faith	106	1,082
Volunteer hours	8,625	91,945
Class hours of instruction	1,290	19,443
Clinic patient visits	1,346	11,668
Value of healthcare provided	\$246,785	\$1,988,177
Case management visits	282	3,671
Legal clinic visits	7	53

THANK YOU!

Drumstick Dash 2011 Sponsors, Volunteers and Participants!

This year's DASH was the best yet! Visit www.drumstickdash.net to see photos, statistics and our sponsors. Please support the sponsors who supported us!

So, So Many for Making Mission Possible!

- The Tri-Diocesan Council on Aging provided personal hygiene bags for the Women's Shelter
- ITT Employees donated 5 boxes of warm winter coats
- Lewis Gale Medical Center employees donated 1,392 rolls of toilet paper.
- Woodlawn United Methodist Church made beds and helped in the Thrift Store.
- Bar Palma students gave 36 Haircuts to guests in the Men's Shelter
- Roanoke Catholic Fellowship of Christian Athletes made 250 sandwiches and delivered them to feed lunch to our hungry guests!
- The Monday/Saturday Salem Civic Center Weight Watcher meetings contributed 200 lbs of food to the Rescue Mission
- Mike & Natalie of WSL Channel 10 did food prep in the kitchen while filming for their TV show "Out n' About"
- Eight Virginia Tech students spent 3 days serving food, setting up beds, and reading stories to kids.
- St. John Lutheran Church children assembled safety pin sets for the Drumstick Dash

Churches and organizations are making our first annual "Happy Coats-giving" drive (runs through Dec. 25) a great success!



Steven Cunningham prepares DASH bags for families to pick up.



Grand Interiors donated 38 mattresses to Family Shelter.

To Remember and Honor, to Remember

JOHN SYLVESTER-JOHNSON MEMORIAL FUND

To Benefit The Residential Recovery Program

William C. Foreman
James & Judith Rumford

Foundation for Roanoke Valley
James & Jo Ann Michael

In Memory of

Don Alls
Bernard Althoff
Thomas & Evelyn Anderton
Lucille Angle
Bailey, the good dog
Peggy S. Baker
Grover W. Barker
Randolph S. Becker
Mrs. Belle Belcher
D. Blackwell Brown
Jane & D. Blackwell Brown
Michael Brown
Bill B. Bumgarner
Phil C.
Carolyn Caldwell
Harold E. Campbell

Tamako Chandler

Elizabeth Russell Chapman
Kim Clark
Arthur & Laura Cronk
Mittie Davison
John Wallace Delaney
Kathy Donaldson
Dorothy E. Dooley
Lois G. Dunham
Ms. Fox
John & Rozelle Gearheart
Kenneth R. George, Sr
Tommy & Darrell Gills
Elizabeth Givens
Vivien Glidden
Archie Goode
Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Griffith
Roy C. Hambrick

Given by

Lucian T. Bias
Carol L. Althoff
Alice Sue A. Brinkley
Glenn Angle
Walter Miller
James O. Baker
Karon B. Flippen
Faye J. Becker
Mrs. Peggy J. Phillips
Dr. & Mrs. F. Joseph Duckwall
Elizabeth Pence
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James & Marisa Smith
H. "Jake" Jacobs
Carolyn S. Edwards
Margaret K. Campbell
& Kathy Campbell
James L. Campbell
Cliff & Mary Ann DeMars
Chip & Paula Vail
J. Granger Macfarlane
Uncle Hugh E. Jacobs
Sherrill D. & Betty P. Cronk
Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Davison
Velma F. Delaney
Mary H. Noon
Christine F. Huddleston
The Powell Family
Cynthia F. Martin
Anonymous
Ken & Norma G. George, Jr.
Wanda Gills
Midred & Richard Throckmorton
Olin V. Glidden
Diane S. Goode
Carlton & Nancy Griffith
Genetta H. Lewis

In Memory of

Sam & Kitty Harris
Mrs. Bonnie Hinkley
Liz Hodges
Linda Holyfield
Woodrow Howard
Tom Hubbard
Blanche H. Hudgins
John Henry Hudson, Jr.
Tiny Belle Humphrey
Rev. Bill Hungate
Bill & Elsie Menefee Hylton
Leonard & Martha Ingram
Carol Dean Jarrett
Maxine Johns
Naomi Garvin Johns
Carolyn Kane
Nancy W. Karnes
Gail Kepley
Teresa Key
Dr. Stephen Paul Key
Maxine (Mickey) Kitts
Charles Edward Lawhorn, Sr.
Peter Leggett

Mrs. Leizer

Ronnie Lockard
John R. Love
Sonny Lower
Lita A. Lunsford
Michael Donald Mabry

Deborah Mayhew
R. Edwin Metts
Richard L. "Buddy" Mitchell, Sr.

Given by

Marie H. Marshall
Bobby E. Wirt
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Kidd
Margaret S. Ferguson, Michael, Billy & Natalie
Sondra H. Wertz
Charlotte R. Hubbard
Genetta H. Lewis
Velma F. Delaney
Dana Belle Kinzie
Helen, Robin & Becky Hungate
Jo Hylton Oliver
Harold L. Ingram
Michael & Terri Huffman
Joan J. Long
Carson & Kathy Mills
Carolyn S. Edwards
Daniel E. Karnes
Shirley W. Plymale
Ms. Wanda Brody-Q-Hartman
James & Florine Harrell
Shirley W. Plymale
Cycle Systems
Mrs. James Robert Justice
J. Granger Macfarlane
Jack Dickerson
Paula & Chip Vail
Sidney & Wanda Miller
Mary H. Stone
D.D.S. Social Committee
Richard & Martha Throckmorton
Jeanette Burrows-Holt
Sara L. Lower
Read A. Lunsford
Frederick S. Bolyard
Jack & Janet O'Connell
Terry Meade
Pam & Elmo Stephenson
Amy Turman
Alison Wilson
Sybil S. Atkinson
Carolyn S. Edwards
Ruth M. Metts
Betty Mitchell, children, Lynne & Richard



Franklin Heights Baptist Church of Rocky Mount rolled, baked and decorated over 1600 cookies.



Bonsack United Methodist Church provided a truckload of food for our Thanksgiving Feast



Allstate Insurance employees donated 90 twin sheet sets for the Family Shelter

Volunteer!

Reception Volunteers

Weekday afternoons 1-5 pm
(weekly commitment)

Children's Chapel Helpers

Monday - Friday, 6 -7:30 pm

Childcare Givers

Wednesdays, 8:45am-10:15am

Thrift Store Sorters

Linen, Clothing, and Bric-a-Brac
Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5 pm

Administrative Supporters

Volunteer to file records
Weekdays after 3 pm

Contact Leslie Littlefield
leslie@rescuemission.net
(540) 777-7651

and Honor to Remember and Honor to

In Memory of

Maude & Corinne Moeschler
Mazie & Edward Moles
Thurston & Ruth Moomaw
Blake Nicewander, Jr.

Madelyn Nicewander
Tina Parker
Kenny Peery
Nellie Peggans
Keimer & Lottis Poff
Douglas C. Powell, Sr.

Lisa Puckett
Deric Quesenberry
Hoss R.
Maybel Susie Reynolds
Mary J. Rice
Moses & Susan Roberts
David M. Rose

Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Ryan
Marvin S.
Galen D. Saul
Neil Secrist
Bettie Senter
Judy Riley Sink

Raymond & Virginia Sink
Darrin Smarz
Daniel Snellen
Jack Spruhan
Jack L. St. Clair
Peggy Leigh St. Clair
Fred & Allene Sweeney
Nathan Tanner
Sherry Thompson
Elizabeth C. Thomson
Edith P. Tomlin
Richard West
Hazel Wickham
Liz Wicks
Otis Williams
Eugene E. Willis

Given by

John H. Harris
Hugh E. Jacobs
Mr. T. M. Moomaw
Fay Nicewander
Fay Nicewander
Fay Nicewander
Bill & Liz Parker
Karen S. Carter
Pete & Margie Craghead
Sherrill D. & Betty P. Cronk
Cliff & Mary Ann DeMars
Aubrey & Ardie Powell
George & Bonnie Igoe
Beverly B. Brown
H. "Jake" Jacobs
Ms. Wanda Brody-Q-Hartman
Melanie & Larry Basham
Lula R. Dooley
Chandra Mason & Dave Cotting
Lonnie & Vernell Mason
Carlton & Nancy Griffith
H. "Jake" Jacobs
Mrs. Margaret H. Saul
Dennis & Eric Secrist
David & Julie Perry, Bill & Flo Fahrback
Jackie & Edna Riley
Clyde B. Sink
Buddy Sink
Billy & Edith Hurt
Carol L. Althoff
Dr. & Mrs George S. Tate
Terry L. St. Clair
James & Aileen St. Clair
Wilson & Audrey Poff
William B. Shepard
William B. Shepard
Paul R. Thomson, Jr.
Richard & Dianne Wingfield
Mr. & Mrs. Cranston Williams, Jr.
Jack & Diane Beason
Jerry & Ann Hall
D. M. Williams
Mabel M. Willis

In Memory of

Grady & Annie Wilson
Frances P. Witt

Ira N. Witt
Mike Wright
Dan Zuro
Family and Friends
Loved Ones
My Parents and Brothers

In Honor of

Mrs. Pat Basham
Nancy Caldwell
Major John E. Crabtree, U.S. Army
Richard Cundiff
Sammy Cundiff
Capt. David P. Codington, USA Reserves
John Michael Delaney & Family
Rev. Dr. David Dixon
James, Thomas and Luke Garland
Rev. Robert Hamner
Lois Sue Hash
Lois Sue Hash
Lucas J. Hunt
Larry Jessee
Lomax "Red" Johnson
Lucille Kingery's 100th Birthday!
Sarah Gibbons Kohler
The Magers Family
Virginia G. Overstreet
Jane Stuart Smith
Lois Smith
Gail Strickler
Joy Sylvester-Johnson
Ernestine Weeks
Tony Williams' Birthday
Our Soldiers
The American Military
The Rescue Mission
My Children
Our Children

Given by

Irene W. Eanes
John, Lou Anne, Andrew,
Brent & Hazel Ferguson
Anonymous
Genetta H. Lewis
Richard & Virginia Wright
Charles & Margaret Zuro
Colleen Spradlin
Mrs. Claire Walters
Anna Firebaugh

Given by

Drew Gibbons
Carolyn S. Edwards
Evelyn I. Crabtree
Frank H. Mater, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick A. St. Clair
Henry & Janet Shockley
Velma F. Delaney
Bill & Mary Gust
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Cummings
Bill & Mary Gust
Mary Anne & Atwood Huff
Mary Anne & Atwood Huff
Joseph B. Camper
Frank H. Mater, Jr.
Rhonda Gordon
The Powell Family
Drew Gibbons
Bernadine M. Arkridge
Eloise Dunagan
Hannah & Thomas Mann
Ruth & Jim See
Christina K. Snellings
James & Jo Ann Michael, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James Allen Young
G. O. & Joyce Woodlief
Shirley Sutphin
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas M. Lang
Ruby McCulley
Nancy H. Greer
Dennis & Barbara Harris