



First Day !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
December 7, 2014

TODAY

Please greet Walt Peters at a Thank You Reception following each service this morning in the Upper Commons. We have enjoyed your time with us and we will miss you Walt!



LITURGIST: Nancy (11:00)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH: Carol, Agnes, Jevne (8:00); Scott & Jennifer & Family (9:30); Ben & Emily & Family (11:00)

USHERS & GREETERS: Rod, Alice (8:00); Melanie (9:30); Craig, Chrissy (11:00); Debbie, Brian, Jonathan (Tech Crew)

AT THE WELCOME DESK FOLLOWING WORSHIP: Maria (8:00); Brett (9:30); Linda (11:00)

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Janet & Brett in honor of Brett's parents, Lynn & John Battis, 39th anniversary; and by Roy in celebration of Agnes' birthday – May your birthday be filled with many happy hours and your life with many more happy birthdays. The flower arranger is Nancy.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: All worship begins in the Sanctuary.

At 8:00 a.m.: After Welcoming One Another: Children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to *Godly Play*. Parents can pick up their children following worship in rooms 110 & 113.

At 11:00 a.m.: After the Children's Prayer and Lord's Prayer: Children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to *Godly Play*. Parents can pick up their children following worship in rooms 110 & 113.

Older children, grades 2-5, who normally attend *The Worship Bridge* will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, also called Holy Communion, is included this morning during worship. Everyone who puts faith and trust in Jesus Christ is welcome to share communion. Gluten-free bread is available. Communion Sundays are the first Sunday of every month.

BY CUSTOM, GIFTS ARE RECEIVED to the Deacons Compassion Fund on Communion Sundays. This fund serves the needy of our community with essential living expenses like rent, utility bills, groceries or prescriptions. Place your gift in the yellow envelope found in the pew.

"MOVEABLE FEAST" MINISTRY needs home-baked or bakery-purchased desserts. Please bring your dessert donation every second Sunday of the month to the church kitchen before 12:30 p.m. Be sure to label them for "Moveable Feast." Items MAY be individually wrapped and should contain no nut products. For more information about this ministry, contact Discipleship & Caring Ministries Elders Olu Oshinnaiye and Craig Mackie.

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7

Please pray for: Jeff, Joan, Carol & Woody, Barb, Dave, Richard, Pat, Andy & Carolyn, Alice, Dorothy, Tom, Rob & Dorothy, Gertrude, Bob, Vivian & Robert, Daniel, Virginia, Ken, Kim, Bob, Cliff, Bunny, Becky, Stan, Al & Beth

Recovering from Surgery: Burta, Jean, Richard, Mil, Paul, Anna

Deaths: *May the peace of Christ be with* Jeff, in the death of his mother, Helen on November 26, 2014.

Family & Friends: Virginia's mother, Marina

PCUSA Mission Coworkers: Jeff and Christi Boyd in Congo; Amanda Craft and Omar Chan in Guatemala.

*Please contact the church office, 410-730-3545,
or Parish Visitor Ruth Bell, 443-668-1804
with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share.*



PEOPLE ON THE WAY

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (d. 397) Ambrose was a governor of northern Italy and a catechumen when he was elected bishop of Milan. He was baptized, ordained and consecrated a bishop all on the same day. While bishop he gave away his wealth and lived in simplicity. He was a famous preacher and largely responsible for the conversion of Augustine. He is always well known for writing hymns. On one occasion, Ambrose led people in a hymn he wrote while the church in which they were secluded was threatened by attack from Gothic soldiers. The soldiers turned away, unwilling to attack a congregation that was singing a hymn. Two of the hymns in our hymnal (*Glory to God*) are attributed to him, including the Advent hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come."

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE focuses the prayers of Christians week by week, so that over the year all the countries of the world are prayed for.

This week: *Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal*

Pray for:

- *Those who work together to improve food security in rural households, to educate and end illiteracy, to support refugees from neighbouring countries, and to provide care for people living with HIV and AIDS.*
- *Those who flee to urban areas and face problems such as chronic unemployment, alcoholism and drug addiction.*
- *Rebuilding and healing in Guinea-Bissau as it recovers from civil war, and the establishment of stable civilian government.*
- *All who suffer the effects of water shortages and long-term drought.*
- *Refugees who seek shelter and safety in these countries and for those who work to meet their needs.*

For more information about the Prayer Cycle, visit the website of the World Council of Churches: www.oikoumene.org

OUR MISSION PARTNERSHIP PRAYER CYCLE FOR 2013

We pray for the churches and pastors of Baltimore Presbytery.

- ✦ *Second Church in Baltimore City – Thomas Blair, Pastor and Jennifer DiFrancesco, Associate Pastor*
- ✦ *Springfield Church in Sykesville – Carol Davis, Interim Pastor*

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL

Bible in Depth

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Clark Parlor

“Bible stories you didn’t learn in Sunday School.”

a Bible study, led by Carl

STUDENT MINISTRIES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR STUDENT MINISTRY

Thursday, December 11th & 18th

Confirmation Class, 6:45-8:30 p.m. Room 258

Saturday, January 3, 2015

Senior High Snow Ball 2015, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

An evening of dinner and dancing

R.S.V.P. to the church office, 410-730-3545

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS - The Deacons thank you for picking up a Christmas Stocking to share the spirit and joy of Christmas with families in need in our community through FIRN, The Salvation Army and Head Start.

Stockings for the Salvation Army must be returned by **TODAY December 7th**; others by next Sunday, December 14th

Contact: the church office.

Thank you for your generosity.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE as Head Ushers, Ushers, Greeters, PowerPoint and Audio Operators for all three morning services. Youth as well as adults are invited and training is provided! For more information, or to sign-up, please go to <http://www.signupgenious.com>, click on “Find a Sign Up” and search for ushersgreeters@firstpreshc.org.

COLD WEATHER IS COMING AND SO IS THE COLD WEATHER SHELTER! This is a joint effort among 15 Howard County faith communities, the Grassroots Crisis Center and the Howard County Government to provide food and shelter for 20-24 homeless children and adults. First Presbyterian will host the shelter from **Monday evening, February 2, 2015 until Monday morning, February 16, 2015**. We need lots of volunteers to cook dinner, stay overnight, do laundry, clean the sleeping areas and provide company to our guests each evening. Please see the sign-up board and list of requested donations in the Lower Commons. For any questions, contact the church office.

JUST ONE CAN... PLUS! – December – POWERFUL FOOD

The Board of Deacons’ campaign in December will focus on donations of **POWERFUL** protein-rich food for our continuing efforts against Hunger in Howard County. Recommended items are: *peanut butter, beans-dried or canned, canned meat/tuna/chicken, canned soups, infant formula, baby and toddler foods*. Please leave your contributions in the “Just-One-Can” wooden cart by the front entrance of to the church across from the Welcome Desk in the Upper Commons. You may also leave items for the Backpack Project or any

other food donations in this location. The generous support of the congregation is greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL EVENTS TODAY

THANK YOU RECEPTION FOR WALT PETERS

TODAY Sunday, December 7th following each service

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

TODAY Sunday, December 7th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lyle Buck Hall

If you can't come to the Fair today, **you can purchase Alternative Gifts on Sunday, December 14th** in the Lower Commons, following all three services.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TODAY, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.

in the church sanctuary

Reception to follow

ADVENT NEWS



POINSETTIAS: TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER

a poinsettia to help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season. Poinsettias can be taken home after the midnight Christmas Eve service. **Cost is \$11.00** and order forms are at the Welcome Desk. Contact: the church office

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS will take place during 9:30 a.m. Sunday School on **December 7th, 14th, and 21st**. Speaking roles will be cast after December 7th. Please encourage your child/grandchild to attend Sunday School rehearsals and participate in the pageant; all are welcome!

ADVENT COMPLINE

Wednesday evenings, December 10 & 17 at 7:00 p.m.

When we pray Compline together, *Prayer at the Close of the Day*, we complete our day in the presence of God. In the midst of a spinning, chaotic world, gather with us in praying the *Compline*, that each of us find peace.

ADVENT QUIET DAYS

Wednesday-Thursday, December 10th & 11th, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Friday, December 12th, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Come, take time to pause during this busy season to walk the canvas labyrinth in the sanctuary. Other places will be available around the labyrinth to read, pray, light candles, draw – time to find peace, light and courage this season.

See Woody Collins if you can help to set-up on **Tuesday, December 9th** at 7:00 p.m.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Next Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m.

A Service of Hope and Prayer for Healing and Peace.

Following the service, we gather for a warm supper and conversation in Lyle Buck Hall. Please come and join us.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 21st

2:30 p.m. Children meet in Branch Hall to prep and for dress rehearsal

5:00 p.m. Pageant Begins!

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Birthday Cake in Lyle Buck Hall

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

For more than 80 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to lift up those who've devoted their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). On **Sunday, December 21st**, churches throughout the denomination will again receive this special offering. The Christmas Joy Offering is shared equally by the Assistance program of the Board of Pensions, which provides much-needed assistance to PC(USA) church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. Every congregation's gifts to the Offering are critical to the future of these programs, especially now. If you don't already do so, please make the Christmas Joy Offering part of your Advent & Christmas tradition.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Children's Worship Service, 5:00 p.m.

Traditional Festival Service with Candlelighting, 7:00 & 9:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service, 11:00 p.m.

Ushers and greeters needed for Christmas Eve Services. Contact Jonathan.

GENERAL INFORMATION

2014 ANNUAL REPORTS are due **Monday, January 5, 2015**. Please send your reports to execasst@firstpreshc.org. Early reports accepted!

2014 VOUCHERS should have been submitted by now! If you are spending money in December the due date is **December 31, 2014**.

THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED on *Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25; Friday, December 26 & Monday, December 29*. The Church Office will be **open** on *Tuesday, December 30, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. & Wednesday, December 31, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.* The Church Building will be **closed** on *New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, 2015*.

For more events throughout the week at First Presbyterian Church, please check the calendar on our website at www.firstpreshc.org, the current issue of Tidings, or call the church office 410-730-3545.

A Weekly Email is sent every Friday, if you would like to receive it please contact the church office.

To submit news or events for the weekly bulletin **First Day!** please email to: churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

To submit articles for Tidings, our monthly newsletter, please send articles by email to: churchoffice@firstpreshc.org by **Thursday, December 11, 2014** at 9 a.m. for the January 2015 Issue #1.

Weekly Calendar

Every Sunday

- 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- Infant & Toddler Care is available all morning
- Godly Play (age 4 – grade 1) during 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. services
- The Worship Bridge (grades 2 – 5) during 11:00 a.m. service
- 9:30 a.m. Church School for all ages & First Forum 📖
- 10:30 a.m. Backpack Project Packing

Sunday, December 7th

- SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- COMMUNION | NAME TAG SUNDAY
- DEACONS COMPASSION FUND OFFERING
- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION
- MINUTE FOR MISSION – COLD WEATHER SHELTER
- ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
- THANK YOU RECEPTION FOR WALT PETERS AFTER EACH SERVICE
- 9:30 a.m. Children’s Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Concert & Reception

Tuesday, December 9th

- SUPER TUESDAY
- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION
- 1:00 p.m. Earth Care Team Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Earth Forum Team Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Discipleship & Caring Ministries Mission
- Strengthening the Church
- Set-up for Quiet Days

Wednesday, December 10th

- BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE
- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION
- 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Quiet Days
- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship
- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:45 p.m. Pastor-Parish-Personnel Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Compline
- Year Round Stewardship Committee
- 7:30 p.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting

Thursday, December 11th

- TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE
- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION
- 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Quiet Days
- 6:30 p.m. The Spirit Project Rehearsal
- 6:45 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 12th

- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION
- 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Quiet Days
- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Saturday, December 13th

- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION
- 8:00 a.m. Walking Group at Centennial Park
- 9:00 a.m. Lydia Circle
- 1:00 p.m. Memorial Service for William Hardy

Sunday, December 14th

- THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS DUE
- 9:30 a.m. Children’s Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 2:00 p.m. Vantage House Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
- 6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle