



First Day !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
November 30, 2014

TODAY

Please join downstairs in Lyle Buck Hall for coffee fellowship following the 8:00 a.m. service (from 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.) and following the Contemporary Service (from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.) If you can help with this ministry please contact discipleship@firstpreshc.org



LITURGIST: Mike (11:00)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH: Warman/Nichols Family (8:00); Ruth Circle (9:30 & 11:00)

USHERS & GREETERS: Jim, Angela (8:00); Margot (9:30); Margot (11:00); Laura, Elaine, Barry, Jonathan (Tech Crew)

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

FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the Glory of God by Judy in honor of her grandson Joe and in celebration of his 13th birthday; and by Bob and Carol in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary. The flower arranger is Jan.

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, may go with Mrs. Cathy Lindenmann to The Worship Bridge. They will return to the sanctuary later in the worship service.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Next Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.
in the church sanctuary
Reception to follow



ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL

Bible in Depth - will not meet TODAY Sunday, November 30th.
Class will resume next Sunday, December 7th.

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

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30

Please pray for: Jeff, Joan, Carol & Woody, Barb, 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

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

Benjamin Britten (November 22, 1913-December 4, 1976) was an English composer, conductor and pianist. He was a central figure of 20th-century British classical music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. He grew up in Suffolk. His father was an avowed atheist, and many have thought that Britten himself was an agnostic. Yet in the 1960s he described himself as a dedicated Christian, influenced by the writings of Tillich and Bishop John AT Robinson's book *Honest to God*. Much of his work was on Christian themes. His *War Requiem* was recently performed by the Baltimore Symphony. It was written in 1962 for the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral (the original medieval cathedral had been bombed during the blitz.) In Advent we remember him for his *Ceremony of Carols*, completed in 1942 on a ship sailing from New York to London.

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: *Liberia, Sierra Leone*

Pray for:

- *Christian churches and people, who, despite hardships and temptations, retain faith, hope and love, and work for the betterment of all peoples in their nation;*
- *Healing for those broken in body, mind and spirit by the brutality of war;*
- *For the renewal of forests, wildlife habitats and rich biodiversity.*

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 2014

We pray for the staff of our presbytery, The Presbytery of Baltimore.

Craig N. Palmer, *Transitional General Presbyter*; Bill Nichols, *Associate General Presbyter*; Catherine Blacka, *Stated Clerk*; Walt Peters, *Associate Stated Clerk*; Deb Milcarek, *Associate for Reconciliation*; Debbie Ingram Schmidt, *Associate for Spiritual Leader Development*; Judy Johnson, *Ministry Group Staff*; Susan Krehbiel, *Director of Congregational Advocacy*; Wanda Morgan, *Director of Presbytery Events and Services*; Deborah Greene, *Director of Communications*; Luke Albao, *Administrative Assistant*; Kathy Haven, *Database Management Assistant*; Kate Foster-Connors, *Director of The Center*; Greg Seltzer, *Hunger Action Enabler*



FIRST PRES will host its ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

NEXT Saturday, December 6th, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
and NEXT Sunday, December 7th, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In addition to alternative gifts, the Fair will feature fairly traded items and a Children's Corner (your child will be escorted to a separate section of the fair where s/he can pick out and wrap gifts for loved ones without you seeing what they purchased!) All items in the Children's Corner are \$12 or less. The Presbyterian Women will be holding a bake sale on Saturday, too. The Fair is open to the public; be sure to invite your friends and family to join you for a good time for a good cause! For more information about the Fair, contact the church office, 410-730-3545. Want to volunteer? Check out the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center.

If you can't come to the Fair, **you can purchase Alternative Gifts on Sundays, November 30th or December 14th** in the Lower Commons, following all three services.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR STUDENT MINISTRY

Thursday, December 4th

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

Friday, December 5th

Mid-Highs & Parents Night Out | Lock-In & Cosmic Bowling

Mid-Highs arrive at 6:00 p.m. for PNO

Mid-High activities, 9:30 p.m. to pick-up at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday

Bring: \$25 for dinner & bowling

Signed permission postcard

Sleeping bag, pillow, pajamas, change of clothes, toiletries

Snack or drink to share:

Last names A-M bring snacks

Last names N-Z bring drinks

Next Saturday, December 6th

Senior High Day Trip to DC

Meet at church at 9:00 a.m., return at 3:00 p.m.

Bring: \$30 for metro and lunch

Signed permission postcard (available in Branch Hall)

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

Next Friday, December 5th from 6:30-9:30 p.m. A night of fun and crafts for children ages 4 through 5th grade while parents have a few hours of free babysitting by Mid-Highs. Call the church office to pre-register your child so enough materials can be available. Contact: the church office

ANNUAL RESPONSE PROGRAM (ARP) SAVOR THE FRUITS OF EVERY SEASON

Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the holiday season. A profound THANK YOU for Savoring the Fruits of Every Season!

It's not too late... if you haven't already done so, please turn in your Giving Estimate so that our Church can grow and thrive.

Submit your Estimate of Giving Card in the Joash box in the sanctuary. You can also take it to the church office or mail your response. As another option, you can send an email with your Giving Estimate to the secure email address pledges@firstpreshc.org. This email should include your name, address, phone number, and pledge amount per week/month/quarter/or year. You will receive an automated response once you send the email to provide instant assurance that it was received by the church.

ARP Program status as of 11/23:

- Pledged Gifts = \$588,155 (Goal \$700,000)
- Pledges Received = 149 (Goal 220)

God is generous! Let us return a portion of what God has given us, enthusiastically, earnestly and joyfully.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. Psalm 1:3 NRSV

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

2014 HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS - Christmas Stockings



Share the spirit and joy of Christmas with families in need in our community through FIRN, The Salvation Army and Head Start. The Deacons will provide Christmas Stockings or Christmas Gift Bags for children. Stockings and Gift Bags will be distributed in the Lower Commons **through Sunday, December 7th**.

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

Contact: the church office

Please check the Welcome Desk or Tidings for more details and complete lists of needed items. Food donations can be placed in the Just-One-Can bin located in the Upper Commons. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

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 contact the church office or go to <http://www.signupgenious.com>, click on "Find a Sign Up" and search for ushersgreeters@firstpreshc.org.

ADVENT NEWS

ADVENT IS HERE! November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent and we will light candles on the Advent Wreath every Sunday in worship. If you and your friends or family would like to lead worship by lighting the candles, speak to Pastor Morton or call the church office or sign-up at the Welcome Desk.

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS will take place during 9:30 a.m. Sunday School on **November 30th, Dec 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!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Next Saturday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Come lend a hand to make our sanctuary ready for Christmas.



POINSETTIAS: Please 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. Deadline for orders is **Next Sunday, December 7th**. Contact: the church office

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Next Saturday, December 6th, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Next Sunday, December 7th, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

In Lyle Buck Hall

THANK YOU RECEPTION FOR WALT PETERS

Next Sunday, December 7th following each service

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Next Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.

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.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

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

A Service of Hope and Prayer for Healing and Peace.

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

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, November 30th

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

- 9:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, December 1st

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

Tuesday, December 2nd

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

- 7:00 p.m. SMLT Meeting

Wednesday, December 3rd

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Fellowship
- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday, December 4th

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

- 6:30 p.m. The Spirit Project Rehearsal
- 6:45 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 7:00 p.m. WAM Ministry Meeting
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 5th

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

- 9:00 a.m. Deborah Circle
- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded
- 6:30 p.m. Parent's Night Out
- 9:30 p.m. Mid High Lock-In & Bowling

Saturday, December 6th

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COLLECTION

- 8:00 a.m. Walking Group at Centennial Park
- 9:00 a.m. Senior High Trip to Washington DC
- 10:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

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, 8:30 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

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.