



First Day !

Weekly News and Opportunities at
The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
December 21, 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: Linda (11:00)

LIGHTING THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH: The Haskins Family (8:00); The Curran/Saunders Family (9:30); The Williamson Family (11:00)

USHERS & GREETERS: Debbie (8:00); Brett (9:30); Craig (11:00); Barry, Laura, Jonathan, Brian (Tech Crew)

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

THE POINSETTIAS gracing our Sanctuary this Christmas Season have been graciously given by members of the congregation (please see insert).

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 Ms. Virginia Callegary to *The Worship Bridge*. They will return to the sanctuary later in the worship service.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

TODAY 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



GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21

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

Recovering from Surgery: Burta, Jean, Richard, Mil, Paul, *Maggie*, Dean

In Summit Park Health & Rehabilitation Center: Milton

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

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591 John was a Spanish monk of the Carmelite order who met Teresa of Avila when she was working to reform the Carmelite Order and return it to a stricter observance of its rules. He followed Teresa's lead and encouraged others to follow her reform. He was imprisoned when he encountered opposition to the reform. His writings, like Teresa's, reflect a deep interest in mystical thoughts and meditation. He is one of the great poets of the Spanish language. Works like *The Spiritual Canticle*, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, and *Sayings of Light and Love* (Dichos de Luz y Amor) have influenced mystics, poets and the Spanish language the world over.

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: *Ghana, Nigeria*

In prayer give thanks for:

- *Christians and Muslims who take risks to work for dialogue and reconciliation between the two faith communities.*
- *Talking drums and rattles.*
- *Fufu, yams, cassava and peanuts.*

Pray for:

- *The curtailment of deforestation, and better stewardship of the environment and natural resources.*
- *A more just distribution of wealth and power.*
- *Just and peaceful relations between members of different ethnic groups and between Muslims and Christians.*
- *An end to human rights abuses against minority groups.*
- *Those who suffer from malnutrition and diseases such as malaria, whooping cough and HIV and AIDS, and ebola.*

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 mission of our congregation.

For *The Joy Gift* special offering, which provides financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

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

Class will not meet on Sunday, December 28th and will resume on Sunday, January 4th.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR STUDENT MINISTRY

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

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.signupgenius.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.



HELPERS NEEDED TO SET OUT LUMINARIA ON CHRISTMAS EVE

If you are available to help set out luminaria along the walks and steps on Christmas Eve, please arrive at 5:00 p.m. and look for Woody!

ADVENT NEWS

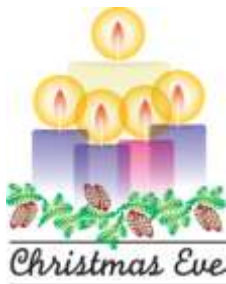
CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS will take place during 9:30 a.m. Sunday School on **December 21st**. Please encourage your child/grandchild to attend Sunday School rehearsals and participate in the pageant; all are welcome!

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.). Today **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 St. John.

Childcare available at 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00 p.m.

First Sunday after Christmas, December 28th

One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Carols, Lessons and Stories for Christmas

End of Year Sunday Brunch

immediately after worship service in Lyle Buck Hall

Donations: \$2.00 per person

This is a time to reflect on the year past, with your church family, while enjoying a delightful meal.

It is also a time to prayerfully think of the year ahead.

O Lord, bless and grant us peace in the year 2015.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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.*

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY 2015

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

Sunday, January 4, 2015

Worship at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.

Church School for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

Sunday, January 18, 2015

2:00-4:30 p.m.

Extreme Weather: How Will We Handle It?

Featuring Dr. R. Wayne Higgins, Director, Climate Program for NOAA and OAR and US Ambassador for Global Climate Services

Contact: www.earthforumfirstpreshc.org

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S DINNER, *Winter Wonderland*

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

6:30-9:00 p.m. in Lyle Buck Hall

Meal prepared by Chef Craig and Cook Woody. Secret Pals revealed. Choose new Secret Pal for 2015. Musical Entertainment. Purchase your ticket for \$15.00 on Sunday mornings in the Lower Commons starting Sunday, December 28th. See you in the Winter Wonderland!



Merry Christmas

From the Church Staff

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 21st

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

- 9:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 12:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 2:30 p.m. Children's Dress Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Birthday Cake

Monday, December 22nd

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE

Tuesday, December 23rd

- 1:00 p.m. Bulletins Folded

Wednesday, December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service
- 7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Candlelighting
- 9:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Candlelighting
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service



Thursday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 26th

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 27th

- 8:00 a.m. Walking Group at Centennial Park

Sunday, December 28th

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- 10:00 a.m. One Worship Service
- 11:15 a.m. End of Year Brunch

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, January 15, 2015** at 9:00 a.m. for the February 2015 Issue #2.