

FOREST HILL FAMILY

Forest Hill Presbyterian
Church
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DECEMBER, 2017

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JOYOUS EXPECTATIONS

*The Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told to them. (Luke 2:20 NRSV)*

From the November/December issue of the Upper Room by Mary Lou Redding.

With this issue, we enter my favorite time of year. I love the deeper theological meaning of this season: That God breaks into human history to change us and our lives. Advent invites us to expect God to act.

For me, one memorable picture of joyous expectation comes from a dog friend of mine — a huge, happy Golden Retriever named Luther. One morning as Luther and his owner walked near where I live, an amazing thing happened; a squirrel fell out of a tree right in front of Luther. All Luther had to do was pounce. (Luther's owner managed to save the clumsy squirrel in spite of its bad timing.) After that, every morning Luther approached that area quivering with excitement, eyes fixed on the tree from whence the squirrel had fallen, looking for another amazing gift.

Advent invites us to similar, energetic expectation, looking for God to show up in unexpected places and ways. Sometimes God's gifts drop into our lives in ways that amaze us and stop us in our tracks. Sometimes they come more quietly and subtly. And sometimes we make them real only by considerable effort. In myriad ways, God comes.

As you read the meditations from your November/December issue of the Upper Room, may you see how God is at work in your life this Christmas season.

If you do not have a copy of this issue you may pick it up from the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall.

Two Important Dates

Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am — Free Christmas Breakfast presented by the Men of the Church.

Sunday, December 24th — There will not be a 10:30 am Worship Service. There will be a Christmas Worship Service at 4:00 pm

Session Meeting Highlights

November 19, 2017
Phylliss Moret, Clerk

- The term of Clerk was set for 3-years; Phylliss' term was set for September 2017 – August 2020.
- The term of Treasurer was set for two or more years; Dan's term as Treasurer was extended through 2018.
- The annual Congregational Meeting was set for Jan 28, 2018, for the purpose of sharing the 2018 budget, electing the Nominating Committee, and other matters TBD.
- The Nominating Committee Report will be made to the Congregation at a called meeting in April and elders/trustee will be elected. Training and preparation of elders will take place in May, examination in June, and ordination/installation in July, for 3-year terms of service effective July 1st.
- Review the Good Samaritan Fund status and seek donations from members to help provide one-time gifts (avg \$50-\$100) to individuals in need.
- Pastor asked us to consider how we can use our space to reflect our theology, foster a culture of gratitude, and develop intentional practices of spiritual gratitude.
- Worship, Discipleship, & Member Care actions included:
 - Planning Christmas Eve service at 4 pm, including communion preparers. Front yard banner will be posted.
 - Collaborating with the Stewardship Committees requesting sponsorship of new hymnals in honor of/in memory of family/friends.
- Mission & Outreach actions included:
 - Collaborating with the Worship Committee to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, Dec 2nd, and make advent wreathes; all are invited.
 - Planning a reception after Pat's free concert on Dec 3rd to benefit World AIDS Day; all are invited.
- Stewardship of Property, Administration, & Finance actions included:
 - Planning discussion with recurring tenants re: revised building use fees in 2018 and in preparation for the 2018 budget.
 - Stewardship letter mailed to members; Pledge/Life Dedication Day is Dec 10th.
- Child Care Center actions included:
 - Playground mulch has been arranged
 - State inspection will take place by year-end
 - 2018 budget includes a 3.5% increase in fees
- Post-retreat next steps were discussed. Katherine will confer with John Vest.
- Next Session Meetings: Dec 10 at 12 noon. All are invited to participate.

CHILD CARE CENTER COMMITTEE

New mulch for the playground! The much-needed mulch was put down in November, as well as some re-grading of the area. This was the final hurdle anticipated by our director, Jan, in complying with regulations; a licensing inspection will be conducted in December.

After presentation of the budget, it was agreed that the fees for which parents are responsible should be raised in January. The increase of 3.5% still allows the child care center to be competitive with others in the area.

Committee member Sherri Geiger, a Center parent, summarized results of the parent survey which she had developed and conducted. Most parents are very enthusiastic about FHCCC. The bake sale was such a success that they would like to stage another one in the late spring. Parents want to be sure their children are prepared for kindergarten, and Jan agreed to provide an outline of educational and developmental goals for each age level. The parents are eager for improved communication; they would like "the Child Care Center to be a community."

Children and their families enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast together with the teachers on Friday, Nov. 17--- All were primed for the official day a week later!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to **host a Sunday reception** as many of our church families do. The next open dates are Dec. 17, 2017 and Jan. 14, 2018.

Volunteers are needed to serve as Duty Officer ushers and greeters for our Sunday morning worship services. Please call the church office to sign up.

If you would like to be a lay reader for our Worship Service please let Rev. Todd know. She would welcome your help!

See Anna Margaret Price to help prepare **communion** as some of our members do.

**Missions and Outreach Committee
December, 2017 Newsletter**

Jayne Clements, Jim Irving, Keith Johnston, Phylliss Moret, Donna Stafford, Gay Olsen

Our Thanksgiving Ingathering of food for Eastminster Presbyterian Church's food pantry was very generous! Many thanks to all who demonstrated your Christian love and helped feed the hungry. Additionally, food donations from the attendees of Pat's concert generously overflowed our baskets. Pat Carlin was brilliant for planning his first of three concerts to coincide with our Thanksgiving Ingathering! Thank you all for your support for the concert by attending and by donating cookies. It was a glorious time and we collected almost \$300 in monetary gifts for EPC's good pantry!

As Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." To simultaneously express your gratitude to God and Christian love to others, consider:

What you can do in December:

1. Warm the cold! Contribute new and used warm clothing for those in need. You may have jackets, coats, sweaters, and other items that are still good but you no longer wear. Somebody desperately needs them! Your contributions will be given to our sister church, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, for their clothes closet.
2. Contribute a new or used book and/or toy to our Child Care Center (CCC). And instead of trashing your Christmas cards after the holidays, donate them to the CCC to be used in craft projects next year.
3. Donate to the Joy Christmas Offering of the Presbyterian Church USA to support important PCUSA ministries and programs.
4. Support the church's **Good Samaritan Fund (GSF)** to provide a one-time gift to individuals in need. About 40+ individuals are helped each year with a variety of needs, from gas to food requests, each averaging \$25 - \$100.

Nov 26-Dec. 24-- Mitten Tree

Our **Mitten Tree**, an annual tradition at FHPC, will be the place to bring new gloves, scarves, hats, etc. Your contributions will be given to our sister church, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, for their clothes closet.

December 2—Hanging of the Greens and Advent Workshop@ 10:00 am

Do not miss this fun event! Decorating for Christmas is so special and in our beautiful sanctuary makes it all the better! Then, enjoy hot chocolate and Swedish sweet rolls and make advent wreaths. We have all the fixings for the wreaths, but adding some seasonal greens growing in your yard would be fun to share. See you all at 10:00 am—what a wonderful family affair!



December 3---Pat's Concert @ 2:00 pm

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church Sanctuary
"Annual Christmas Concert of Solo Vocal Music in Commemoration of World AIDS Day"
This concert will feature vocalist Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs and some of my vocal students

Roses and Wings

What a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration we had for 28 girls in Roses and Wings on Saturday, November 18! Turkey and dressing was enjoyed by all. A special thanks for Carol Stephens, Irene Roberts, Phyllis Moret and Gay Olsen for helping put on this event for the girls. A special offering is available to support the girls. A \$5.00 donation will support one girl for this event



MUSIC MINISTRY

Patrick Carlin, Music Minister

HAPPY ADVENT – the season of joyful expectation and quiet waiting!

Please mark your calendars for these remaining **FREE Concerts for 2017-2018**. This information is also found on our FHPC web site. The Complete Concert Program may be viewed on our web site, closer to the concert date.

Sunday, December 3, 2 PM

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

“Annual Christmas Concert of Solo Vocal Music in Commemoration of World AIDS Day”

Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs, Katherine Virginia DeLoyht, Michele Baez (Orr), & Elisabeth Carlton Dowdy

Sunday, January 14, 2018, 2 PM

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

“Annual Concert in Honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”

Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs, Vocalists
Naima Burrs, Violin

Sunday, March 17, 2018, 2:00 PM

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

“Songs from Musicals” Vocal Artists TBA

Music during our December Sunday Worship will include:

December 3 1st Sunday of Advent

Organ Prelude “Canon in D” (Johann Pachelbel)

FHPC Women’s Ensemble “Prepare the Royal Highway” (Hal H. Hopson)

Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story.
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s Word! O sing a joyful song, sing alleluia, praise the Lord.
Prepare, he is near!

Organ Postlude “Te Deum” (Marc-Antoine Charpentier)

December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

Organ Prelude “Chorale Prelude on Sleepers Awake” (J. S. Bach)

FHPC Women’s Ensemble “Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring” (J. S. Bach)

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright. Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned. Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying, round Thy throne. (Martin Janus)

Organ Postlude “Laudation” (Gilbert Martin)

December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

Organ Prelude “Chorale Prelude in Bb” (Johann Pachelbel)

FHPC Women’s Ensemble “Light a Little Candle” (Joseph M. Martin)

Light a little candle of hope in your heart. Christ the Lord is coming soon. Light a little candle of hope in your heart, reflect it in all that you do. Light a little candle of peace and love. Light a little candle of joy in your heart. Christmastime is coming soon. Light a little candle of joy in your heart; let its glory shine out bright and clear. Christmastime will soon be here. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. O, light a little candle of peace in your heart. Christmas lights will soon burn bright. ... Let it burn throughout the night. Light a little candle... Christmastime will soon be here!

Organ Postlude “Rejoicing from Royal Fireworks Music” (G. F. Handel)

December 24 Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM

Prelude Michele Baez, Guest Vocal Soloist

FHPC Women’s Ensemble “Were You There on That Christmas Night?” (Natalie Sleeth)

Were you there on that Christmas night, when the world was filled with a holy light? Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth? Did you see how they hailed Him King, with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring? Did you see how they bowed, as they praised Him aloud at His birth? Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight? Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night? Did you know it was God’s own Son, the salvation of the world begun? Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?

Offertory “O Holy Night” (Adolph Adam) Michele Baez, Guest Vocal Soloist

December 31

Organ Prelude Christmas Carol Improvisations

FHPC Women’s Ensemble “Carol of the Children” (John Rutter)

One for the star in the sky over Bethlehem; two for the hands that will rock him to sleep; three for the kings bringing gold, bringing myrrh, bringing incense; four for the angels that watch over his bedside. Blue for the robe of the sweet Virgin Mary;

White for the dawn of the first Christmas Day; red for the blood that he shed for us all on Good Friday; black for the tomb where he rested till Easter. Lullaby! He soon will awake, for the oxen are stirring and morning will break. One for the heart that I give as my offering to Jesus. (John Rutter)

Organ Postlude “Improvisation on Let There be Peace on Earth”

May this Holy Season be a source of renewal for you, your loved ones, and FHPC!

Pat C.



WELLNESS CLASSES

The Feldenkrais Method allows us to learn through gentle movements that improve our quality of life. It can be beneficial to those who have experienced arthritis, joint surgery, balance issues, back pain or just general stiffness of movement. Our first series of classes in November will be done in chairs and will take place on Monday mornings at 10:00 AM at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in the parlor. The location is 4401 Forest Hill Avenue. The cost of the class is discounted and will be \$10 per class. There will be some individual time after class for questions and consultations. Contact Mary Hobbs at 804-244-6800 by phone or text for more information.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Mary Jane Unterzuber, Morningside of Bellgrade, 2800 Polo Parkway, Midlothian, VA 23113, #254

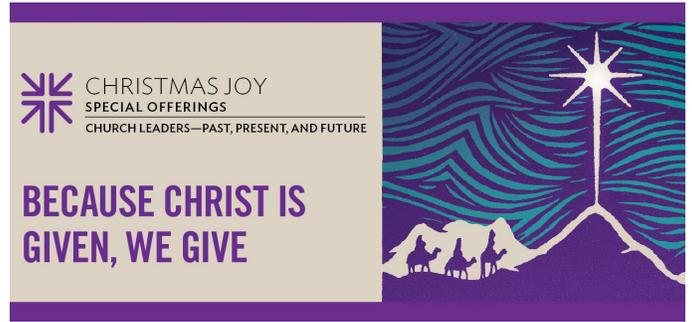
Sol Wrenn, at home

Greg Jones, at home — Envoy of Westover Hills, 4403 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 232



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Chancel for Christmas in memory or in honor of someone, please let the church office know by **December 10th**. **The cost is usually \$7.00**. You may call the office at 233-4371 or email us at info@fhprichmond.org.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Advent is a time of anticipation and promise, of thanksgiving and celebration. Every year, we pour out our gratitude by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering which supports church workers and their families in need and nurtures the promise of our future racial ethnic leaders.

50% provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need.

- Support grants that help retired church workers and their families with financial and housing needs.
- Provide aid to church workers with urgent financial and medical needs.

50% supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools.

- Give scholarships for racial ethnic students and future church leaders.
- Equip racial ethnic leaders for ministry.
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We will receive this offering on Sunday, December 24th during our 4:00 pm Christmas Service.

A very Merry Christmas to all of our Forest Hill Family and our friends who participate and worship with us on a regular basis. May God be with you through the entire year.