

December 2018

The Voice of Faith

Advent

An Advent of Kindness Festival

December 2, following worship in Fellowship Hall

Greening of the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 16 during worship

Christmas Eve

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper & Candle Lighting

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

5:30 p.m.

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Please send articles and photos for the Voice of Faith by the 15 of the month. seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org

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Dear Family of Faith,

Sister Joan Chittister is a prolific writer and nationally known speaker, and a Benedictine nun. Maybe you've read some of her books.

From earliest childhood, Sister Joan aspired to two things: to serve God, and to write fiction. As a novice, with permission from her order, she applied to the program in creative writing at Iowa State University—one of the best in the United States.

Imagine how thrilled she was to learn she'd been accepted! All winter long, she was walking on air. Indeed, it was not until well into May that, out of nowhere, the Benedictines wrote to say that although they had permitted her to apply, they would not allow her to matriculate.

Much later, Sister Joan wrote a book about it, called *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope*. The book is a chronicle of grief, anger, frustration, and her struggle to make something good out of it all. At first, she was so lost in sadness that she was near despair. Gradually, she came to terms with what had happened, began to see beyond what felt like pointless injustice, and eventually found her way into the wonderful writing on the Bible, women's experience, and the life of faith for which we know her.

We begin Advent "scarred by struggle." The world is hurting, our country is hurting, our city is hurting, our own families are hurting. We are all struggling, whether with one another, or against impossible odds, or only silently and invisibly within our own hearts.

Advent begins with our yearning for the Cosmic Christ to return and, at last, bring shalom to us all: peace, justice, well-being, wholeness, healing. If all these things are in place, if justice is done and we are all in right relation with one another and with God, then we shall indeed know true peace: in which everyone has enough, and everyone who has enough is satisfied with what they have.

We remember all the Christmases past, we unpack all the memories with the decorations, and we add new ones, too, as we go along. We begin to catch the excitement, and the hope, of the Christ Child—made more piercingly sweet by the cold, the darkness, and the waiting.

In a chapter entitled "The Gift of Endurance," Chittister writes,

Endurance ... does not mean "success." It means being willing to cope with what *is*—until something else begins. It means being open to the possibility that things will stay the way they are, perhaps indefinitely. It means that I must begin to be open to becoming something new."

So this Advent, as we begin our journey together in God's beautiful, broken world; as we remember departed loved ones and greet new friends, as we pray for God's will to be done, starting (of course) with ourselves, let's draw close to the warmth of God's eternal love, bursting forth among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Advent Blessings, Mary

WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45

First Sunday of Advent

December 2

Luke 3:1-6

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9

Luke 3:7-18

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16

Luke 1:26-49

Third Sunday of Advent

December 23

Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

Lessons & Carols, designed for a multi-generational congregation.

The birth of Jesus

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

First Sunday after Christmas

December 30

Luke 2:41-52

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

Christmas Pageant *December 16*

Not to be missed, "Star Light, Star Bright" a Christmas Pageant starring our own Faith Kids will be presented during worship. Written and directed by Susan Johnston.

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room

A poster for the Immigration Adult Forum. The background features a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty against a sunset sky. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of people walking with luggage. The text is centered and reads: "IMMIGRATION", "December Adult Forum", "2 - Bible Study on Immigration led by Bill Millen", "9 - The Esperanza Center led by Yaneldis Boullon Delgado", "16 - Daily Experience of Working with Refugees led by Elaine Crawford.", and "Faith Presbyterian Church" in a box at the bottom.

IMMIGRATION

December Adult Forum

2 - Bible Study on Immigration
led by Bill Millen

9 - The Esperanza Center
led by Yaneldis Boullon Delgado

16 - Daily Experience of Working with Refugees
led by Elaine Crawford.

Faith Presbyterian Church

Looking Ahead to January Adult Forum

When we planned the year's program for Adult Forum, our beloved Randy Woodfield had agreed to present a series on Music with Strong Spiritual Dimensions. The regular attendees to Adult Forum have discussed several ways that we could address this same topic, although not with the level of expertise and insight that Randy would have provided. We will begin the series with a program on "Hymns that Move the Spirit." We'll meet Sunday in the Chapel, where we can use the piano that Randy gave to Faith. Be thinking of a hymn that you would like to sing and be ready to give us a few minutes on why you think that hymn moves the spirit. And stay tuned for further information about the other January programs.

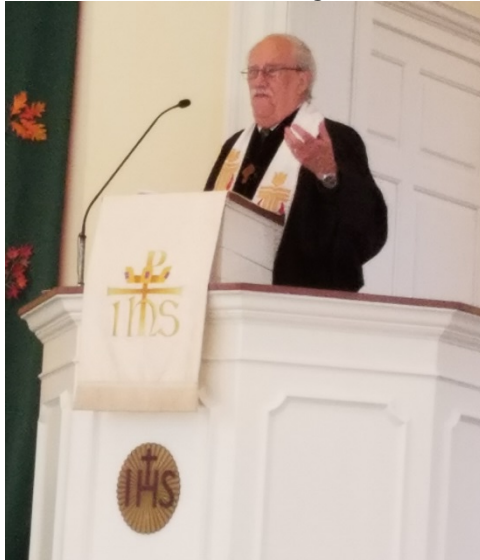
WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Greening of the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 10, 9:00-noon

Please come and enjoy the fellowship while decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. There is something over all ages to do.

All Saints Sunday



On the first Sunday of November we remembered Christian Dunyoh, Mildred Miller and Dorothy Weller, Faith Church members who died during the previous 12 months. **Rev. David C. Harris** preached and celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The congregation was invited to light

candles in memory of loved ones. Soprano **Ayanna Freelon** sang Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Pie Jesu* during the lighting.

Thanksgiving Sunday



Thank you to Pat Nesbitt for creating this beautiful arrangement.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

DEACONS

GEDCO



At the GEDCO Thanksgiving Tribute, two wonderful members of our congregation were honored for their significant civic contributions and support for GEDCO. **Ellen & Ed Bernard** were recognized with the Jack Sharp Award. Please join in congratulating Ed and Ellen for their good works and for continuing the Faith tradition of providing leadership in the GEDCO organization as demonstrated by earlier honorands **Pat Thompson** and **Christa Burns**.

Habitat

On Saturday, January 12 there will be a Faith Home Blessing at 747 McCabe Avenue. This is very similar to a Home Dedication, but instead will be specific to just our faith coalition supporters. For now, it would be great if you'd mark your calendars for this truly heartwarming event. The start time will be around noon. More details to come on this. More build dates for January, February and March will be out in early December. Contact Natalie Wallace for more information.

STEWARDSHIP

Faith Endures!

Romans 15:5 "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other..."

Although our Stewardship Campaign has seen its formal end, it is not really over until we have received your pledges! Over the past month, we began worship with some wonderful moments for stewardship from several members of our congregation who reflected on the people who inspire them and are an important reason why Faith Endures. As we move into the Advent season, please remember your gifts from Faith and your gifts to Faith. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible so that the church budget can be set for the coming year. And thanks to those of you who have already made your commitment to help Faith endure.

If you have any questions regarding the pledge card and/or the automatic payment form please feel free to reach out to –

Carl Herber 443-286-4099/
carl@herberhometeam.com or
Scott Bissett 908-399-2429/
sabissett@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who helped and everyone who attended the Stewardship Subs and Sundaes luncheon!



FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Randal Woodfield

Randal Woodfield died on November 7. Randy was a long time member of Faith Church, a member of Session, a choir member, the chair of our Worship and Arts committee and a leader of Faith Church for a very long time. We will miss Randy and his beautiful voice.

A celebration of his life is being planned, when date has been confirmed it will be published in the bulletin and the News & Notes.

Happy December Birthday!

4th Bill Millen
5th Diane Borgatti
6th Mary Ellen Curtis
12th John Marinacci
13th Vivian Mbah
18th Rashaun Millen
19th Gordon Rush
20th Dorothy Weller
22nd Beverly Baker
Audrey Trapp
23rd Peter Burger
Susan Johnston
26th Colin McGill
30th Janice Williams

If you would like your birthday added or if it is incorrect, please contact the church office.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Betty Bunce
Nan Pohl
Esmie Stirling
Nancy Stutzer
Betty Lou Tampieri

Please send your prayer requests to Mary Speers, *Interim Pastor* 410-435-4330, and/or Sharon Will 410-254-6788. Prayers are answered!

SEJ

December 10 following worship in Woodmont

Social & Environmental Justice Council (SEJ) meeting. **Gwen Brown** of BUILD will be attending to discuss how we can become active members of BUILD and make a difference in the City of Baltimore. All are welcome to attend.

Book Club

The Book Club **will not** meet in December.

Shredding by Andre

Andre's Shredding Service had a good backlog for the next couple of weeks, but please remember to set aside your sensitive documents so that we can supply a steady stream. Also, there is no need to shred business envelopes or unsolicited mass mailings (home service offers, pizza flyers, etc.) that you receive. You can just tear your name or name label off and rip it up or set that aside for shredding, but recycle the envelope or form letter, once devoid of personal information, with your regular recycling. Here are links to two websites that contain more specific suggestions for how to protect your privacy.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2015/05/pack-rats-guide-shredding>

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/what-shred>



Christmas Flowers and Funds

During this festive season, we ask you to remember friends and loved ones with a contribution. Seasonal flowers beautify our worship service and your contributions to Bread and DEAR Funds reflect Faith's mission. Your memorials and celebrations will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Name _____ Envelope # _____

Poinsettias

Orders must be received by **December 10**. _____ Poinsettia(s), \$12.00 each

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

Flower Donation Enclosed \$ _____

Faith's Music Ministry *supports the music ministry*

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

Music Ministry Donation Enclosed \$ _____

Faith's Bread Fund *provides food for those in need.*

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

Bread Donation Enclosed \$ _____

DEAR (Deacons Emergency Assistance Resource) *provides assistance to Faith Church members.*

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

Please circle one

In Memory/Celebration of

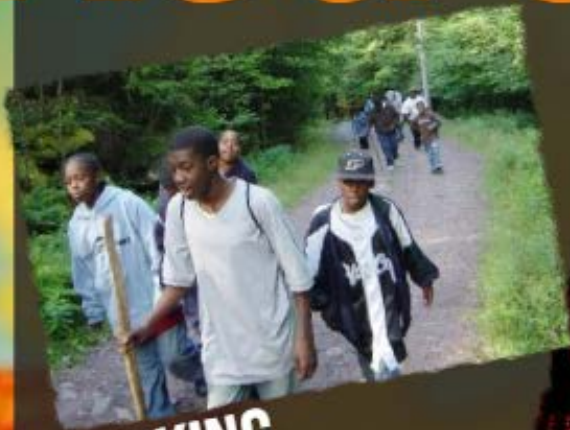
DEAR Donation Enclosed \$ _____

Please place this form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office along with your donation. Please designate "flowers," "music," "bread fund" or "DEAR" on the memo line of your check. Separate checks are preferred.



FAITH CHURCH YOUTH

Overnight Retreat



HIKING



BONFIRE

**WOODBERRY CROSSING
PARKTON**

DECEMBER 7-8

CAMPING.HIKING.BONFIRE.\$10 PER PERSON

BRING PILLOW & SLEEPING BAG

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2 9:15AM – WB Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship Noon – FH Advent Festival	3	4 7:00PM – WB Deacons	5	6 6:30PM -WB Bells 7:30PM -CR Choir	7 Youth Fall Retreat	8 9:00AM – ST Greening
9 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship Noon – WM SEJ with BUILD	10	11	12	13 6:30PM -WB Bells 7:30PM -CR Choir	14	15
16 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship & the Pageant	17 7:00PM – WB Session	18	19	20 6:30PM -WB Bells 7:30PM -CR Choir	21	22
23 10:45AM – ST Worship	24 Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols 5:30PM – ST Worship	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:45AM – ST Worship	31			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Locations</p> <p>ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus</p> </div>		