

December 2019

# The Voice of Faith



## Contents

Mary's Letter.....	2
Worship .....	2
Christian Ed .....	3
Adult Forum.....	4
Music.....	4
Worship & Arts .....	5
Deacons .....	6
SEJ.....	6
PNC Update .....	7
Stewardship.....	8
Cuba Notes.....	8
Faith Family Life .....	9
Flowers & Fund.....	10
Advent Calendar .....	11
Concerts .....	12
Calendar .....	15

Please send articles and photos for the Voice of Faith by the 15 of the month.

## WORSHIP

### **Sundays at 10:45**

First Sunday of Advent

*December 1*

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalms 122: 1-9

Romans 13: 11-14

Matthew 24: 36-44

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Second Sunday of Advent

*December 8*

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19

Romans 15: 4-13

Matthew 3: 1-12

Third Sunday of Advent

*December 15*

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalms 146: 5-10

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Third Sunday of Advent

*December 22*

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

### **Christmas Eve**

*Tuesday, December 24*

Lessons & Carols

designed for all ages

First Sunday after Christmas

*December 29*

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalms 148

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Matthew 2: 13-23

Carol Sing

Dear Faith Family,

When I was a child, I looked forward to each year's Advent calendar.

In those days, they all came from Germany. Some of them were very simple, just one sheet of sparkly cardboard, with a little door you opened for each day leading up to Christmas, and a little translucent picture behind it that glowed with color if you held it up to the light. And then some of them were quite elaborate, in two or three panels, with sections that folded out in 3-D, and some even had little chocolates or prizes in them.

Well, I think of our calendar for the upcoming weeks as an Advent calendar plus. We don't stop at Christmas, but we run right through Epiphany, which we'll celebrate on Jan 5 this year, so there are lots of doors to open along the way. After all, Christmas doesn't really start until Christmas, and there are Twelve Days in Christmas, ending with Epiphany, or Three Kings Day.

So, in our Advent calendar plus, which you have here in this month's Voice of Faith, there are treats behind lots of doors. Here are some of the highlights:

The cycle of the calendar once again has Advent beginning on the Sunday of the Thanksgiving weekend. Advent Communion service will be Sunday, December 1 at 10:45, in regular morning worship.

As it did last year, the Greening of the Sanctuary will take place on Thursday morning, December 5, with all hands welcome to assist the Thursday Crew, and a special lunch for Diane Borgatti's birthday. Then, "An Advent of Giving" Festival and luncheon will be on Sunday, December 8.

The Christmas pageant will take place in worship on the following Sunday, December 22, and then on Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will begin at 5:30 pm with choir music, from Vivaldi's

Gloria with soloists from our own church family and Morgan State. Please plan to arrive early for a good seat and the special opening music that everyone looks forward to so much, building to the lighting of candles and singing of Silent Night that herald the beginning of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Sunday, December 29 will be our opportunity to sing all the Christmas carols we haven't already sung, and on the following Sunday, January 5, we'll celebrate Epiphany, the Feast of Light, the feast of the Three Kings.

For Adult Nurture in Advent, I am looking forward to engaging you, on Dec. 8 and 15, with Scripture and Art on the enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. Why so much John the Baptist in the Advent-Epiphany cycle? What is the role of John in the life and ministry of Jesus, and of the Jesus movement? What are some of his connections to the Hebrew prophets, the Passover, and the story of Jesus? How are John and Jesus presented in the Gospels, especially Matthew and Luke, and how has he been portrayed in art?

Your Christian Education Committee invites you this Advent to an Advent "Do-votional," a calendar of things to do each day to prepare for the coming Christ. And while of course no pastor is Jesus Christ, your PNC elves are working as busily as ever, and they are excited about the applicants interested in becoming the next pastor of Faith Church!

Faith has superb people; great stewardship of time, talent, and treasure; and a strong mission. You are growing in faith and changing with the times, and while uncertainty is inevitable, we remember that recurrent message of all the angels in Scripture, "Fear not!"

What glowing treasure might be waiting behind the next door of our Advent calendar? I am looking forward to this second Advent with you, and our journey together in 2020.

Wishing you the joy of peace and the

strength of love, this Christmas season and always,

Mary

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

### Christmas Pageant *December 22*



The children and youth are practicing for the 2019 Christmas Pageant, "Who Is He?", written by **Susan Johnson**. In this year's play, Mary learns who her child will become and what an amazing honor it is to be blessed to be his mother. The play includes beautiful music presented by the Children and Adult Choirs, ending with the gentle Welsh lullaby, "Suo Gan".

### Care Bags



This year, Karen Burd has spear-headed the creation of Care Bags, that the children and youth assembled in November. The bags are meant to be handed out to homeless folks that you see.

## Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room

Led by Rev. Mary B. Speers



There is no Adult Forum scheduled on December 1, 22 or 29.



## Wednesdays Bible Study

11:00 a.m. in Woodbourne Room

Join Faith every Wednesday for a lively discussion of Sundays upcoming lesson. No preparation is required.

## MUSIC

A Masterclass with world renowned soprano **Marquita Lister** was held at Faith for the Urban Choral Arts Society (UCAS). It was a great learning opportunity for the students & mentors.



UCAS will present a Christmas concert here at Faith on Saturday, December 14 at 7:00. For more information, see Samuel Springer.



## WORSHIP & THE ARTS

### All Saints



Rev. Jack Hodges, our guest preacher along with **Rev. Doris Cowan** and **Rev. Bill Millen** officiated at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, November 3. Following receiving the bread and wine, worshipers were given the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of our Faith Family and of loved ones who have died.



It was a service of celebration, shared memories and thanksgiving for the communal love of the Faith Family.

### Celebration of Baptism



Faith members were delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism of **Brayden Alexander O'Hara** and **Nolan William O'Hara**, sons of **Anna & Robert O'Hara**. Anna & Robert live in New Jersey. They are one of a large group of family and friends who traveled to Faith Church in order to have their children baptized in the church where their parents, **John & Annie O'Hara** worshiped for many years before their death.



## DEACONS

Susan Minor, Moderator

### An Advent of Giving

The Advent of Giving Festival will inspire all of us to make this Christmas about those in need. Our annual fund raiser for the Deacon's Hands of Faith mission will be held following worship on December 8.

Our Hands of Faith supported these and more:

- Purchase of a much-needed new refrigerator for the CARES Pantry.
- Thanksgiving dinner, Lasagna Bingo Night, and a Game Night for the residents of Harford House.
- Large-print devotional booklets for those on the Deacons' Care list.

We will have a delicious meal of ham and macaroni and cheese, followed by beautiful Christmas desserts.

Bring your Christmas shopping list, as the Hands of Faith Table will be full of gifts for family and friends. New this year, will be a silent auction of beautiful gift baskets that are sure to delight every shopper!

Once again Heifer International will be there to help you find a special alternative gift for family & friends! We have catalogues to show you what's available including cows, sheep, goats, chickens, bees, even fresh water and more! You will receive cards to announce your gift. Look for the table with the red plaid tablecloth & the Christmas tree!

Set aside some time for the Advent Festival to enjoy your Faith Family, sing a few songs, meet a new friend, and support those in need. Are all welcome. No reservations needed. Call **Robin Nemser** to volunteer to help set-up, clean-up or contribute to the event.

Please look for the Advent of Giving calendar on page 11 in this newsletter.

### Thanksgiving Tribute Dinner

On Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, seven members and friends of Faith had the pleasure of attending GEDCO's annual Thanksgiving Tribute at the Visionary Arts Museum. The food and "entertainment" were top-notch: Bourbon Chicken, Creamy Leaks atop Salmon, and tons of appetizers! In addition, the program was emceed by **Stan Stovall** of Channel 11. The keynote speaker was former Mayor and President of the University of Baltimore, **Kurt Schmoke**.

Several individuals were recognized this year for their continuing contributions to GEDCO, including our special friend, **Pastor Jenn DiFrancesco** of 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian. Jenn was awarded with the "Spirit Award", and those of us who know her know that she is a truly spirited person, a great preacher, and wonderful to work with.

Next year, please consider attending this event, not just for the good food and entertainment, but also to really become aware of how GEDCO has grown over the years to touch the lives of so many different people, and how we, as a GEDCO supporter, affect the lives of friends in our community.

## SEJ COUNCIL

Karen Meyers, chair

### Walter P. Carter Math Night





The remaining Walter P. Carter Family /Community Engagement Nights are as follows:

- December 17: Holiday Celebration and Movie Night
- January 21: Parent-Teacher Conference Night
- February 18: African American History, Culture, and Talent Exposition
- March 17: "Know Your Rights" (when interacting with law enforcement) and Self-Defense Night
- April 21: Holistic Wellness Night
- May 19: STEAM and Science Fair Night

All are Tuesday nights, and the time is 5:30-7:30. The school is located at 1101 Winston Ave. We do not yet know the dates of the planning sessions, but we will pass them along once we know. If you are interested in getting involved, please email **Karen Meyers** (karencmeyers@gmail.com) or let the office know.



## PNC Update

Karen Burd and Mike Shirey, co-chairs

As the season of Advent begins, one of the busiest times of the year, our Faith Family can be sure your Pastor Nominating Committee continues. As of the end of November here are some numbers:

100 (+/-) = the number of Personal Information Forms reviewed. Approximately 2/3 were matched to us from the Church Leadership Connection database. The remaining 1/3 have been self-referrals meaning prospective pastors saw our Ministry Information Form or heard about us through various grapevines and reached out to us because they liked what they saw in our information and our online presence.

10 = video interviews with prospects from across the United States through the marvels of modern technology.

3 to 5 = the number of prospects we hope to have on our "short-list" of candidates by early December.

Once our "short list" is compiled we will conduct primary reference checks over the phone and, assuming the primary reference checks are acceptable, forward our list of three to five prospects to Baltimore Presbytery so that a Presbytery-to-Presbytery clearance can be done. We really hope to begin face-to-face meetings and hearing prospects preach before mid-January 2020.

The poster boards are now on display in the narthex and outside the hallway/sanctuary door tracking the progress we've made so far with blue smiley faces. Just remember there's a lot that goes on in the spaces between those blocks. Be not discouraged and please continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the committee and for the energy to continue the work. As Paul wrote in his letter to the churches in Galatia

(6th chapter/9th verse): *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Just a reminder – while we understand people's curiosity, we ask for your understanding in the confidential nature of the process.

## STEWARDSHIP



Seeking. Standing. Serving.

## Finding Abundance in Faith

On Sunday, November 17, the formal end of Faith's stewardship campaign was celebrated with our traditional "Subs and Sundaes" luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Over 50 members of the congregation enjoyed submarine sandwiches, sides, and ice cream sundaes, but mostly enjoyed the company of one another. Diane Borgatti had prepared a slide presentation with highlights of the year at Faith. The array of activities and the number of people who contribute to a vibrant congregation are impressive reflections of who we are.

During Sunday worship services throughout the weeks of the stewardship campaign, we heard moving testimonials by **Mozella Williams, Dawn Shirey, Susan Johnston, and Chandra Jackson** about how they have been "Finding Abundance in Faith."

And, apparently others agree! Our initial results are encouraging with several individuals/families pledging who had not previously participated and with preliminary totals suggesting that we may meet our important objective of ensuring the kind of financial stability that has generally characterized our church. This latter goal is vital as we seek to begin another era in Faith Church's history by calling a new pastor. The

Stewardship Committee (**Carl Herber, Chandra Jackson, Bill Millen, Neil Nemser, and Paula Burger**) will report more formally once all results are in. It is not too late to be part of this effort so that our Pastor Nominating Committee has another arrow in its quiver! Fundamentally, however, this is all about Finding Abundance in Faith and demonstrating that we know what faith and Faith can do personally and collectively.

**Warm thanks to all who have contributed, and gratitude also to those who are still thoughtfully considering their commitments.** Please send your pledge card to the church office. Also, remember that automatic withdrawals are possible to make it convenient for you to continue to support our efforts to be Faith in the City: Seeking, Standing, and Serving.

## CUBA NOTES

### Next trip to Cuba!

We are planning to visit our partners in Meneses and Iguara the last week of March 2020. Will you go with us?

Dates: March 26 - April 1, 2020 (tentative)

Where: Our partner churches in Meneses and Iguara, Cuba

Why: To renew our partnership covenant for five more years and share our faith and love and hope

How: Fly from BWI to Florida to Havana, bus to El Centro

Cost: \$1500 all inclusive

Who: **Phyllis Compton, Chandra Jackson, Audrey Trapp**

Deadline: December 12th, \$200 deposit

More:

- We have room for 1-2 more people
- You must have a valid passport with an expiration date of October 2020 or later
- Scholarship help is available from the Presbytery and we are planning a Cuba Scholarship Fund Fundraiser on January 25th

- If you are unable to go this time, the next opportunity will be In February or March 2021

If you have interest in the March 2020 trip (or future trips), please email Audrey Trapp immediately at [audreytrapp@comcast.net](mailto:audreytrapp@comcast.net)

## FAITH FAMILY LIFE

### Happy December Birthday!

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grail Lent
- 4<sup>th</sup> Bill Millen
- 5<sup>th</sup> Diane Borgatti
- 6<sup>th</sup> Mary Ellen Curtis
- 7<sup>th</sup> Payton Lemon  
Mehki Jones
- 12<sup>th</sup> John Marinacci
- 13<sup>th</sup> Vivian Mbah
- 18<sup>th</sup> Rashaun Millen
- 19<sup>th</sup> Gordon Rush
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Weller
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Beverly Baker  
Audrey Trapp
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Peter Burger  
Susan Johnston
- 26<sup>th</sup> Colin McGill
- 30<sup>th</sup> Dylan Brown  
Janice Williams

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

### Please Keep in Your Prayers

Beverly Baker, Betty Bunce, Nan Pohl, Nancy Stutzer

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

### Book Club

Monday, December 2-7:00

Note change of venue: previously advertised

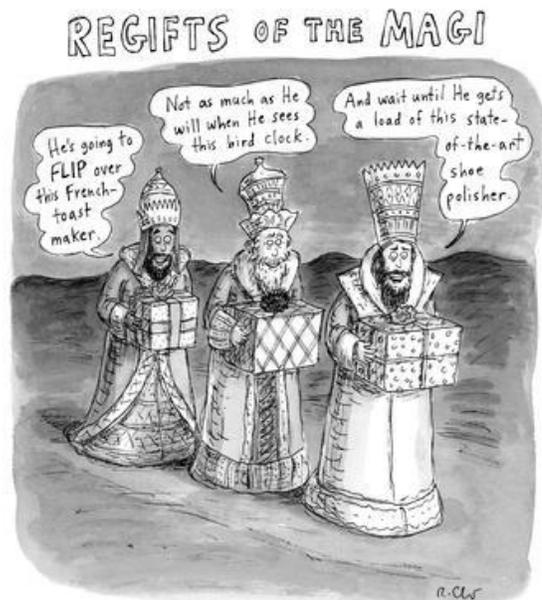
as at the Burgers, now at the Nesbitts.

Book Club has chosen New York Times Bestseller *Becoming Nicole* by **Amy Ellis Nutt**. The inspiring true story of transgender actor and activist Nicole Maines, whose identical twin brother, Jonas, and ordinary American family join her on an extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

### Shredding by Andre

Andre's Shredding Service has 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. Please no mass mailings (home service offers, pizza flyers, etc.) that you receive. 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 Music, 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 8**. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.



# An Advent of Giving

Donations for the CARES Pantry  
Please Bring to Church Each Sunday

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
Canned Apple Sauce	Canned Mixed Vegetables	Tomato Soup	Boxed Crackers	Canned Tuna	Boxed Macaroni & Cheese	Breakfast Cereal
<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
Canned Fruit	Canned Corn	Chicken Soup	Pasta	Jar of Spaghetti Sauce	Boxed Potatoes	Oatmeal
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
Canned Sweet Potatoes	Canned Carrots	Boxed Stuffing Mix	Boxed Rice	Canned Tomatoes	Canned Beans	Peanut Butter
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
Canned Cranberry Sauce	Canned Green Beans	<i>Christmas Eve</i> Your Favorite Non Perishable				
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
			<i>New Year's Day</i>			



**Encore**  
*Creativity for Older Adults*

*Presents a*

**FREE Holiday Concert**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**4:00pm**

**Towson Presbyterian Church**

**400 W. Chesapeake Ave., Towson MD 21204**

*Featuring*

**the Towson Encore Chorale and  
the Columbia Encore Chorale**

*This performance will feature seasonal holiday classics and a  
variety of other choral favorites*

**For more information contact Encore at 301-261-5747**

**Email [info@encorecreativity.org](mailto:info@encorecreativity.org) or Visit [www.encorecreativity.org](http://www.encorecreativity.org)**

THE NEW WAVE SINGERS OF BALTIMORE PRESENTS

# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

TIMOTHY E. GILLHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
CHRISTOPHER SCHROEDER, ACCOMPANIST

DECEMBER 7, 2019  
7:00 PM

**Epiphany Episcopal Church**

2216 Pot Spring Road  
Timonium, MD 21093

DECEMBER 8, 2019  
4:00 PM

**Grace United Methodist Church**

5407 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21210

Tickets \$20.00 at the door, \$18.00 online [newwavesingers.org](http://newwavesingers.org)  
Ages 17 and under free



CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE ARTS



new wave singers  
of *baltimore*

Maryland's premier GLBTS chorus

GALA  
CHORUSES  
changing our world through song

**HANDEL'S  
MESSIAH**

**CHRISTMAS  
URBAN CHORAL  
ARTS SOCIETY  
WITH**

**RAY'S  
GOSPEL  
MASS**



**WWW.URBANCHORALARTS.ORG**

**DECEMBER 14, 2019**

**7PM**

Faith Presbyterian Church  
5400 Loch Raven Blvd  
Baltimore, Maryland 21239

**Tickets \$15 Adults 17+ || Children \$5**

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> 10:45AM – ST Worship	<b>2</b> 7:00PM – OC Book Club	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga 7:00PM – WB PNC	<b>5</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 10:00AM – Greening 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship Noon – FH Advent Fest	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00PM-WB Deacons	<b>11</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga 7:00PM – WB PNC	<b>12</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00PM – ST Concert
<b>15</b> 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga 7:00PM – WB PNC	<b>19</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM-CR Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:30PM – Youth Crafting and Caroling
<b>22</b> 10:45AM – ST Worship Pageant	<b>23</b> 7:00PM – WB Session	<b>24</b> 5:00PM – ST Christmas Eve Service with Candle Lighting	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:45AM – ST Worship with Carol Sing	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**Locations**

ST – Sanctuary  
 WB – Woodbourne Room  
 WM – Woodmont Room  
 FH – Fellowship Hall  
 OC – Off Campus