



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

January 2020



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

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Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director
Justin Stretetz, Pianist/Organist
Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Directors
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Kim Parker, Office Manager

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ADAM

A New Year!

When it comes to breaking bad habits or starting something new, I'm the kind of guy that goes all in. Drinking too much soda? No more soda. Ever. Spending too much time on Facebook? Log out and have a friend (preferably a trustworthy one) change the password indefinitely. Haven't worked out in months? Time to start training for a marathon.

Over the years, I have found this strategy does not work. I still use Facebook too much, I've never run any thing close to a marathon, and I certainly have not lost my love for Coke.

First, this strategy is unsustainable. It's just too audacious to try to transform ourselves in one fell swoop. Yes, it works for a very select few people who get on TV and make us all feel inferior. But for most people who resolve to completely change their lives, they usually end up right where they started. As we enter into the New Year, we will witness millions of New Year's resolutions that will ultimately fizzle out and fail. Our goals are just too unrealistic to sustain for a week, let alone a lifetime.

Second, this strategy is unappealing 99% of the year. The bigger the change, the more daunting is the task. So, we consistently put off making these huge changes until the beginning of new seasons, like New Year's Day or Ash Wednesday, rather than recognizing each day as an opportunity to improve our lives.

Lastly, this strategy is not very Biblical, because it starts and ends with me. How often in our lives do we take the words of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things in Christ who gives me strength," and turn them into "I can try to do everything on my own without asking for help?" I think we are too quick to forget the reality of sin, which isolates us and binds us in our brokenness. So when we try to take hold of our life and completely change who we are, we often don't have the support necessary to get us through.

As Christians, it shouldn't surprise us that our efforts to transform our own lives often do not work. We have a Bible chock-full of examples of just how much God's people relied on God to intervene in their lives. As we just celebrated the coming of Jesus Christ in Christmas, let us remember this new year that it is God who will resurrect the dead, it is God who will transform our world and each of us.

So while the world around us is making resolutions this year to lose weight or clean up their finances, we are free to proclaim the ways in which God is making resurrections happen in our lives, not just changing our behavior but making us whole! Sure, resurrection might include the death of some habits and ways of living, but it will also include new ways God is creating us to be in the world. So I ask you, in 2020 what is your New Year's resurrection?

On the journey with you,

Pastor Adam

Session Report - December

The Session and the Board of Deacons met on December 19 for their annual potluck dinner and combined meeting. Denise Parris reported on the deacons' work in 2019, including their renewed focus on ministering to members of the congregation and the Session thanked the deacons for all of their hard work.

Outgoing deacons Denise Parris, Betty Matthews, Gail Cobb and Mayra Drayers were recognized with gifts and thanks for their service. Incoming deacons Pam Emert, Sandy Chamberlin, Ellen Nurenberger, Bob Albrecht and Claudia Cunningham (second term) were welcomed.

Outgoing elders Debbie Boisvert, Jennifer Casey, Lora Nedimyer and Sam Parris were also recognized with gifts and thanks for their service on Session. Cathy Albrecht, Pat Manalio, Afton Schwalm and Linda Wolstenholme were introduced as incoming elders. The Session then moved into their regular meeting.

Gary Smith was re-elected as Treasurer for 2020 and Sara Porter was re-elected for Clerk for 2020.

A commission of Pastor Adam, Sara Porter, Lora Nedimyer, Pat Manalio, Dave Stokes, and Jon Guest was appointed to study the committee structure, program year and Session priorities looking to be more effective in ministry and use of resources.

First United has received a letter from Sheriff Glendell Hill thanking us for a donation to the Project Lifesaver Program to purchase equipment to help keep people with Autism, Alzheimer's, dementia, and other related disorders safe.

We also received a letter of thanks from Urban Promise for the donation of \$2,500.00 to the Malawi mission, Youth Dream Center, raised by the Drama Camp.

Session approved submitting the PC(USA) Earthcare pledge on behalf of our Earthcare committee, led by Nancy Hummer, which is pursuing the certification as an official Earthcare congregation. The committee will be informing the congregation on ways we can be better stewards of our earth.

A called congregational meeting has been approved by Session for the end of the 10 AM worship service on December 29 for the purpose of electing Karen Elliott to fill an unexpired term as a deacon, class of 2021.

If you have questions or want more information about Session actions, please contact a Session elder or the clerk.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

Worship Committee

HELP NEEDED! Men, Women and Youth (16+) to volunteer to run the Video during the 8:30 AM and/or 11:00 AM services. We will teach you. Contact Peter Glycer at 703-590-0866 or Marti Hall at 703-626-2269.

A great big thank you to all the volunteers who participated in lighting the Advent Candles, donated poinsettias, helped decorate the church, provided special music and have added so much to all of us in our Advent season. You are truly appreciated. It truly takes a village!

Submitted by Marti Hall, Worship Committee Elder

Stewardship Committee

As 2019 comes to a close, the Stewardship Committee would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all who made their pledge, a commitment to God, in support of His work at FUPCDC, in our community and across the world. We are blessed to have a generous and giving congregation; your support helps to ensure that FUPCDC can maintain existing programs in 2020. Current information indicates program budgets available to the Congregation and friends of FUPCDC, support for the community, and resources for mission can be a reality. It may even be possible to grow some programs as remaining pledges are received. If you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2020, it is not too late. You can still provide your commitment by placing a pledge card in the offering plate, providing it to a member of the Stewardship Committee or leaving it at the church office. As a reminder, individual Per Capita contributions of \$42.64 should be submitted not later than February 16, 2020. We are all reminded of our Stewardship theme, "God is the artist and He is weaving the fabric of our lives"; together we will make 2020 a special year in our lives and the life of our church.

Blessings and Joy,
Your 2019 Stewardship Committee

"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ."- Colossians 2:2 ESV

2020 Spring Adult Christian Education Classes

Adult Christian Education

The **prophet Isaiah** wrote many words that are familiar to us ("For unto us a child is born..." is but one example) but the prophet himself is shrouded in mystery. To add to the mystery, many believe that the prophecies of Isaiah are the work of not one but three individuals, writing at different times in Israel's history. In our 2020 winter/spring adult Sunday class, we will examine Isaiah and his prophecies. We will attempt to shed some light on the words that have meant so much to Christians over the years.

Our class begins on Sunday, January 12, 9:45 AM, in the Triple Room. Bob Porter and Larry Greenslit, our ruling elder/teaching elder "tag team", will once again facilitate the class. All are welcome, and as always, come as you are, and come when you can.

The Resurrection Represented in Art or the Art of Easter. We will spend time delving into sacred art focusing on the Easter story. Classes will be **March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 in Room 22** next to the Kitchen. Cathy Smith will facilitate this course.

Congregational Connections

Christmas Caroling in the Community, December 8, 2019



INTERFAITH DAY OF LEARNING

LOCATION: CONGREGATION NER SHALOM

14010 Spriggs Rd, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2020



Schedule:

Resilience 10:30-12

A Jewish proverb states, "Ask not for a lighter burden, but for broader shoulders." Come together for a reflective session of intergenerational healing and connection and learn about how faith communities can build resilience.

Lunch 12:00-1:30

Imagine a Just World 1:30-3

Using John Lennon's "Imagine" and Genesis as a catalyst, this visual arts workshop challenges participants to imagine what a perfect world looks like and identify what stands in the way of bringing that vision into reality.

Coffee break 3:00-3:30

Bal Taschit (Don't Waste!) 3:30-5

Learn how to be mindful of the environmental impact of our eating habits and to avoid food waste while trying some fun, sustainable recipes.

This is a free event! Come for the whole day, or just drop in for one session if you'd like!

FUPCDC Earthcare Group

FUPCDC Takes First Step Towards “Earth Care Congregation” Certification

Thanks to our Session members, FUPCDC took its first step towards our denomination’s [“Earth Care Congregation” certification](#) when it approved PC(USA)’s “Earth Care Pledge”. **We are grateful to our Session for diligently reviewing the pledge and approving it at their December meeting.** *Take action, Earthcare ACTION, and read the pledge below!*

Three simple ways you can take Earthcare ACTION

What is “Earthcare ACTION”? It’s the result of deciding to do what you do in an Earth-friendly and compassionate way. Some simple examples are to (1) use your own refillable drink bottle instead of buying single-use bottles and cans; (2) use your own mug for church coffee hour (bring it with you and take it home each Sunday); (3) drop off your unwanted shoes and clothing in the Soles4Souls collection box permanently located in the Narthex coat closet.

1) Share your “Earthcare Actions”: Take photos of actions you take in your home, school, workplace, church, and community to care for the Earth, and either post them to social media with the #FUPCDCEarthcareAction hashtag or email them to nanhummer@gmail.com indicating your permission to post on FUPCDC social media outlets.

Here are some recent examples from your church family:



Bob and Cathy Albrecht: When they assembled their artificial Christmas tree this year they realized so many imbedded lights weren’t working they considered discarding the whole tree and purchasing a new one. But because they care for God’s creation they decided to remove the old lights and string the tree with new ones, instead! Thank you, Cathy and Bob, for reducing landfill waste and sharing your **Earthcare ACTION** with us!



Jess Martin: Instead of throwing out plastic grocery store bags, Jess and her sons are using their crochet skills to turn them into outdoor sleeping mats for the unsheltered. Once completed they can be given to our friends at Spread the Bread. Jess even agreed to teach us how to make them on **January 21 at 6:00 PM in room 9!** Thank you, Jess, for recycling plastic, and for sharing your **Earthcare ACTION** and your knowledge with us!



Stewardship Committee: The Stewardship Committee’s **Earthcare ACTION** to allow **ongoing** shoe and clothing donations means you can divert your unwanted shoes and clothing from the landfill AND show compassion to others in one **Earthcare ACTION** at any time! Soles4Souls accepts your donations in ANY condition for ANY season, so donate whatever you have. Wherever people are struggling, your donations enable children go to school, adults to go to work, and entrepreneurs to start local resale businesses. THANK YOU for your donations!

2) Participate in FUPCDC Earthcare Group Initiatives (*events and projects to improve our Earth care practices*):

- **Learn to RECYCLE plastic grocery store bags into sleeping mats for the unsheltered:** Divert plastic bags from the landfill and show compassion to the unsheltered in one **Earthcare ACTION!** Our own Jess Martin will teach us how to crochet outdoor sleeping mats with plastic grocery store bags on **Tuesday, January 21, at 6:00 PM**, in Room 9.
- **Earth Day, 2020:** There will be plenty of **Earthcare ACTION** opportunities leading up to the Earthcare Group’s **Earth Day celebration at Wednesday Night Alive on April 22, 2020 at 6:00 PM.**





FUPCDC Earthcare Group

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3) Read the PC(USA) Earth Care Pledge:

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.

In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.

Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

2020 Initiatives

In 2020, the Earthcare Group is helping lay FUPCDC's foundation for achieving PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation certification in 2021. We are counting on the congregation to become aware of and get involved in our worship, education, facilities, and outreach initiatives, not just to achieve certification but to enjoy and show regard for God's creation and each other.

Join the FUPCDC Earthcare Group

Now is a great time to join the Earthcare Group and help us plan these initiatives. Join the "FUPCDC Earthcare" Facebook group, email Nancy Hummer (nanhummer@gmail.com), or better yet, **attend our next meeting on Sunday, January 19, at 12:15 PM in room 22** (refreshments provided).

"To the Lord belong the earth and everything in it, the world and all its inhabitants. For it was he who founded it in the seas and planted it firm on the waters beneath." Psalm 24: 1-2

More EarthCare news

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song before you and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12

The beginning of a new year is a great time to introduce changes in your life. Let 2020 be the year you resolve to become proactive about protecting and preserving God's wondrous creation!

You are probably already familiar with the "Three Rs" of Earth Care: reduce, reuse and recycle. While many of us already recycle (when we think of it or when it is convenient) few realize that recycling should be our last option because it has the least impact.

FUPCDC Earthcare Group

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Let's expand those 3 Rs and put them in order of impact:

1. **RETHINK** your choices. Make mindful decisions about everyday activities such as shopping and running errands.
2. **REFUSE** single use products such as plastic produce bags and plastic straws.
3. **REDUCE** consumption. Do you really need another jacket, pair of shoes, video or glossy magazine? Save money and protect the environment at the same time.
4. **REUSE** everything. Save and reuse wrapping paper, gift bags and bows. Clean and reuse food storage bags and aluminum foil. Think like your depression-era grandparents or great grandparents.
5. **REFURBISH** old things. Mend, patch, replace buttons or zippers on clothing. Repaint or refinish furniture.
6. **REPAIR** before you replace.
7. **REPURPOSE** unwanted items. Unleash your creativity! Think of new uses for old possessions.

If you cannot think of a new purpose for yourself, donate the item so it can be used by others. **RECYCLE** what cannot be reused or repurposed.

Future articles will present more ideas about what individuals can do to reduce their impact on the environment. If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to share please let us know!

Next month we will share more environment-friendly recipes.

Mission and Outreach

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

Spread the Bread Ministry

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to extend a special thanks to all who have supported this ministry whether through the giving of their time, food donations, or financial support. Your cheerful giving enables us to provide a hot meal for our friends every Sunday afternoon!

This ministry could not be accomplished without the outpouring of love and gifts from each and every one of you here at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. We truly appreciate your efforts and our friends remind us every week how much they appreciate you and all you do for them. If you are interested in getting involved with God's ministry, please contact Jon Guest at jon.a.guest@gmail.com or Pam Cox at ima-poohfreak@yahoo.com.

ACTS Domestic Violence Shelter

The Mission and Outreach Committee continues to support the ACTS Domestic Violence Shelter with gifts of love. Working with the Shelter supervisor, the Committee provided grocery store gift cards which allowed families living at the shelter to purchase and prepare Christmas dinners for their families. To God Be the Glory!

Un-Trim-A-Tree

In December FUPCDC once again participated in the Prince William County Un-Trim-A-Tree program. You sponsored 50 children (from 19 families), who attend Henderson Elementary school by providing 100 gifts (2 gifts per child). This program is sponsored by the Volunteers of Prince William who work with the local schools to identify families for participation in the program. Approximately 40% of the program support is provided by local churches; the rest is provided by groups and organizations, and individual families who want to help provide the spirit of Christmas to others in their community. Thank you FUPCDC for your continuing display of love and hope to those in need in Prince William County!

Mission and Outreach

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Sleeping Bag and Blanket Drive

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank you for your generous donations of blankets, sleeping bags and tents. We greatly appreciate this time of generous giving on December 24 each year. We look forward to distributing your gifts of love over the next few Sundays during our Spread the Bread ministry.



Sleeping/Blanket Drive
Becca Washburg

Photo credit: Michael Washburg



Un-Trim-A-Tree

Photo credit: unknown

Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesday Night Alive is an opportunity to connect and grow while enjoying a dinner each Wednesday night followed by Pastor's Bible Study and Chancel Choir rehearsal. The first Wednesday of each month is a potluck, and on the following Wednesdays enjoy a delicious homemade meal. Salad, drinks and dessert are also provided each week.

There is no charge for the dinner, just a donation to help cover the cost of the food.

Please join us for FOOD, FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

- Jan. 1 No WNA
- Jan. 8 Potluck - A Healthy Start (Healthier Foods)
- Jan. 15 Chili Dogs
- Jan. 22 German Goulash Soup
- Jan. 29 Cashew Chicken





OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

9311 Lee Avenue

Manassas, Virginia 20110

(703) 792-6070

FAX (703) 792-7485

Glendell Hill
Sheriff

December 3, 2019

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Re: Project Lifesaver Donation Check #4845 for \$750.00

The Prince William County Sheriff's Office would like to express our sincere appreciation for the First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City's contribution to the Project Lifesaver Program. Your contribution will be used to purchase new equipment so that we may add additional clients to the program. Your generosity will surely be a great help for individuals suffering from Autism, Alzheimer's disease, Dementia and other related disorders. Thank you for assisting us in allowing this program to grow within our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glendell Hill".

Glendell Hill,
Sheriff



December 12, 2019

First United Presbyterian Church
14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193-3042

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind donation of Hygiene Kits to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That someone cares. And they are not alone.

Disasters can strike anywhere, anytime. And they can take many forms: tornadoes, earthquakes, civil conflict, drought, hurricanes and more. Caring people like you – who understand the urgency of responding after a disaster – allow people in crisis to receive help when they need it, and hope for the future.

Learn more about the power of your compassion at cwskits.org.

Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes your donations ensure that help is never far behind.

With deepest gratitude,

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO

P.S. Processing and shipping CWS Kits to their destination is a costly endeavor. Please help by sending a donation in the enclosed yellow envelope or paying online at cwskits.org/shipping. If you have already provided your gift for processing and shipping your kits to those in need, thank you!

Inclement Weather Policy

As we prepare for winter . . . we remind you of our Inclement Weather Policy here at FUPCDC .

Please text "@fupcdc" to the number 81010 to be put on our Group Text for [First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City](#).



Inclement Weather Policy

FUPCDC activities will follow the PWCS delays/cancellations for inclement weather during the week. Information pertaining to weather closings will be announced on ABC 7, News 8, FOX 5, WUSA 9 and radio station WGTS 91.9.

For Weekend Ministry Activities, We Will Notify You Of Cancellations & Changes By Email, Text, or Social Media

This newsletter covers events from: January 1 - January 31.
Exceptions: Adult Christian Education class to be held in March 2020

