



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City  
Chronicles  
DECEMBER 2017



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

Rev. Jeri Fields, Pastor for Interim Ministry  
Rev. Dr. Larry Greenslit, Parish Associate

Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Co-Directors  
Homer Detrich, Sexton  
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbells Director  
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor  
Kim Parker, Office Manager  
Justin Streletz, Accompanist  
Dana Van Slyke, Choir Director  
(Vacancy), Little Hands Preschool Director

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI



The Season of Advent signals the start of a new Christian church year in anticipation of celebrating Christmas, the time in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus, while anticipating the time when he will come again. And so we say, "Come, Lord Jesus, Come."

Count backwards four Sundays from December 25 and that is the beginning of Advent. This year Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, which means Advent 4 and Christmas Eve both fall on a Sunday. So, in the morning, we will have one service at 10 AM to celebrate Advent 4. Later in the day we will have our Christmas Eve services. What a day!

During Advent, we are called to prepare our hearts and minds in order to make space for God's hope, peace, love, and joy – to make room for God's presence, to focus on Emmanuel – God is with us.

Knowing this, how might you and your family begin to look at the way you prepare for Christmas in a new way? How might your activities focus on God's promise and not on society's way of a materialistic holiday?

*In the same manner in which we clean and prepare our homes in the anticipation of welcomed guests and family members this Christmas season, let us also prepare our hearts in anticipation of the Lord's coming. Christ, our most honored and eagerly anticipated guest, desires to meet with us in a heart prepared for his arrival. So eager is he to meet with us that he offers to help us with our spiritual housecleaning, working with us; creating a resting place for Himself within our hearts.* ~ Katherine Walden, [I Lift My Eyes Ministries](#)

*A time for reflection:  
How are you preparing for the coming of the Lord?  
Where does your house need to be cleaned  
to allow room for the Christ child?*

Wishing you Advent blessings of hope, peace, love, and joy.  
Pastor Jeri

Passion for Christ—Compassion for Others  
Loving God—Loving Others  
Connect—Grow—Serve



# December Events

## Outreach Opportunities

Poinsettia Sale to decorate the Sanctuary, \$15  
Un-Trim-A-Tree in the Narthex, Due Date: 12-16-17  
Little Hands Preschool's Great Bedtime Story Pajama  
Drive, Due Date: 12-13-17  
Christmas Eve Blanket Drive for the Homeless

## Sunday Schedule

Sunday, December 3rd – Kidz Church Advent Event  
10:45 AM in the Triple Room

Sunday, December 10th – Christmas Around the World  
9:45 AM in the Triple Room

Sunday, December 17th  
8:30 AM – Breakfast  
10:00 AM – Christmas Cantata, "*Darkness into Light*"  
5:00 PM – Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve  
10:00 AM – Advent 4  
4:00 PM – Child Friendly Christmas Eve Service  
7:00 PM – Special Christmas Music  
7:30 PM – Candlelight Service with communion  
9:30 PM – Contemplative Candlelight Service  
with communion

## Session Report - November

The Session learned that the church has received approximately \$19,000 less than what has been pledged for 2017 at this point. We thank all of you who are current or ahead on your pledges and encourage you if you are behind that you fulfill your pledge. If your circumstances have changed, please contact Tim Camus to adjust your pledge.

To date, 90 pledges have been received for 2018 totaling about \$350,000. The proposed budget (spending plan) put together by the Session calls for \$450,000. When the final pledges are in, the Session will adjust the spending plan to meet that level of spending, and will review the spending and giving mid-year to make appropriate adjustments.

Finance and Administration Committee has received and reviewed financial records for the congregation, Little Hands Pre-school and Boy Scout Troop 964 and shared information with Session. Planning is underway for reviews of 2017 records next year.

Gary Smith was elected Treasurer for 2018 and thanked for his diligence in this position.

Session has granted permission to the Personnel Committee to proceed with staff contracts for 2018.

The church record and roll books were reviewed by the presbytery and were approved with no exceptions meaning that they complied with all requirements of the Book of Order. Thanks to Kim Parker for her attention to detail and help in completing the books for 2017. This is our second year with no exceptions.

The Youth Ministry thanked all those who supported the Election Bake Sale and the Pie Sale. The money raised will be used for the youth mission trip in June 2018.

The education wing door will be locked on Sundays for security reasons. Please use the front door to enter. You may exit from the back door. Prince William County police have come to our building for a safety survey and have recommended this action.

A new coat rack has been installed in the Education wing so that the Little Hands Preschool students can hang up their own coats.

The Building and Grounds committee is renegotiating the contract for cleaning our building.

Lighting in the church is being evaluated for updates, especially using LED lights to save significantly on our electric bills.

## 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. Each month, on the first Wednesday, we celebrate upcoming birthdays!

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!

**Dec. 6th Potluck Theme "Italian Night"**

**Dec. 13th Stuffed Green Peppers**

**Dec. 20th No WNA**

**Dec. 27th No WNA**



# Mission and Outreach

*Merry Christmas and Many Blessings for 2018 from the Mission & Outreach Committee!*

Thanks to everyone for their participation with the Acts of Love event. We hope you enjoyed the event and will continue your "Acts of Love" as you go through life. Remember a smile can turn a frown right side up.

Many thanks to the Mapledale Giant Food Store for donating 60 boxes of food (one box included pasta, rice, cans of black beans, diced tomatoes and green beans) to FUPCDC. The committee will ensure the food is put to good use; feeding those in need.

Your Mission & Outreach Committee continues to be blessed by our FUPCDC church families in their giving. During the month of December, forty gift cards will be provided to the ACTS Safe House for abused women and their children.

Also during the month of December, the committee will be purchasing clothing (thermals, sweat-shirts, gloves, and backpacks) for the Spread the Bread (STB) family. The annual sleeping bag and blanket collection for the homeless will be announced during the month of December.

The committee agreed to provide financial support to Project Lifesaver which is a Prince William County Sheriff's Office mission. Project Lifesaver's mission is to use state of the art technology in assisting those who care for victims (of all ages) of Alzheimer's, Autism, and other Related Mental Dysfunction Disorders (ARMD). ARMD clients tend to wander and get lost, Project Lifesaver places a personalized radio transmitter on the identified person (client). The transmitter will help the caregiver and local emergency agencies in locating the person. For more information regarding Project Lifesaver, please check out the following

link:<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/sheriff/Pages/Project-Lifesaver.aspx>.

Please take a few moments to read the letter below from the Presbyterian Mission regarding YOUR generous support for the recent hurricanes. FUPCDC has been very BLESSED with our faithful and giving church families.



November 1st, 2017

Pastor Jeri Fields  
First United Presbyterian Church  
Of Dale City  
Minnieville Road, Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Pastor Fields,

I bring you greetings from the Foday J. Massaquoi Learning Center in Liberia. Let me begin by asking for your forgiveness, as this letter is long overdue. I would like to apologize for not writing earlier than now to acknowledge receiving the gifts of school supplies and materials from your congregation, to support the work that we are doing in Liberia. This delay was not intentional, but a consequence of a number of unforeseen circumstances including, shipping, logistical, and medical-related issues, which prevented us from responding as promptly as we would have wanted to.

We are pleased to inform you that all of this has now been sorted out. On behalf of the FJM Learning Center, based in Logan Town, Monrovia, Liberia, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to you, to Mrs. Gloria Harris Coffield, and to the entire congregation of the Church for your kindness and generosity towards us and the children of Liberia. Gloria has told us of how much you contributed financially and materially towards ensuring the success of this endeavor. We remain deeply grateful.

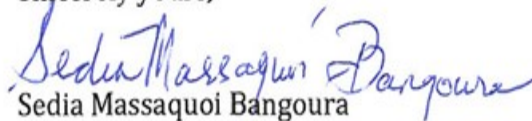
As a non profit, entirely self-supported group, the FJM Learning Center is a group of 10 women and men who decided to reach out and give back to the community that we grew up in. Each of us contribute our personal resources to help others in our community.

This is how we do it. It is often said that « An idle mind is the devil's workshop. » In giving back, we want to ensure that our young people do not go astray. We reach out to them by organizing activities in our community in Logan Town, Monrovia, Liberia. We run a Literacy Program for young women and girls who missed out on education. We also have a reading room with books and magazines where young people can spend their time in a profitable manner, reading playing board games. We organize sports competitions such as athletic races and games.

The gift of school materials and supplies which we received from you will go a long way in helping the young people in our community to achieve their educational objectives. Many of them do not have the means to procure these materials on their own. We thank you with all our hearts for this kind gesture and pray that God will bless you and replenish you with more for your kindness.

By establishing this collaboration between us and the First Presbyterian Church of Dale City, we are blessed that we have friends in you and in Gloria, who are attentive to our needs. For now, there is not much we can do to reciprocate your kindness, except to offer prayers for each and every one of you, for your family and church, and to pray that the will of God may be done in your lives.

Sincerely yours,

  
Sedia Massaquoi Bangoura  
For the F.J. Massaquoi Learning Center

## Un-Trim-A-Tree Program

FUPCDC will be sponsoring 50 children from Prince William County by participating in the Un-Trim-A-Tree Holiday Program. The program provides gifts along with wrapping paper/gift bags, gift tags, ribbons, and bows to the family. The parents have the joy of wrapping gifts for their children and placing them under the tree. The children have the joy of gifts to open on that beautiful morning. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact Verna Swift, [\(703\) 670-8550](tel:7036708550) or [\(703\) 589-7320](tel:7035897320).

## Christmas Around The World

We are so blessed with our wonderful multicultural congregation. Please join us to learn more about Christmas traditions representing that cultural diversity on December 10 from 9:45 - 10:45 in the Triple Room. There will be presentations about Christmas traditions representing Europe, South America and Africa. This is a great opportunity for us to connect with one another. Hope to see you there.

## Greeters

Prior to each service, you are met at the door by two smiling people welcoming you to worship. Aside from greeting your friends, this is such a good way to connect with people you may not know or know well. If you would like to part of this greeting team, please contact Betsy Gilbert, [703-670-4949](tel:7036704949).



## Fall Clean-Up

Our Session and the Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to thank: Becky, Tom, Karen, Lee, Bruce, Gary, Gretchen, Donnette, Kelsey, Norman, Gail, Homer, Debbie, Peter, Bob, Mike, Sue, Cathy, Liz, Charlotte, Claudia, Sam, Denise, Bel-Air Woman's Club, the Scouts and any other person or group that helps to keep our church building and property looking beautiful throughout the year.

During our fall cleanup:

1. We made 7 pickup truck loads of trees and leaves to the landfill.
2. Becky, Tom, and Karen raked leaves, trimmed trees, and the bushes near the Tom Elliot memorial area.
3. Gretchen and Donnette worked on the gardens near the front door of the church.
4. Kelsey trimmed the trees near the front door area.
5. Bob Albrecht cleared the leaves and fertilized the lawn near the front door.
6. Norman, Gail, Bruce, Donnette, Gary, Liz, Mike, Homer, and Lee worked on the area near the compressors and the LHP Garden.
7. Homer, Sue, and Cathy worked near the Preschool entrance.
8. Homer, Peter, Kelsey, and Debbie worked on the area on the LHP preschool sidewalk area and the middle of the bottom parking lot.
9. Peter worked on some spot removal on the carpet in the Sanctuary.

Overall our Fall Clean-Up was very successful!

In addition, we would like to thank all the people who work on the gardens and grounds throughout the year.

To God Be the Glory!



# Adult Ministry



“Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven,  
and nature sing.” ~ *Isaac Watts*



Together let's prepare room in our hearts for Jesus!

**12/3: Advent Event** at 9:45 AM. Adults will decorate and take home advent candleholder wreaths.

**12/17: Christmas Caroling** for singers and ringers of all ages, 5 - 6:30 PM. Join us as we sing and ring the joy of Christ's birth through the Dane Ridge and Central Park neighborhoods next to our church!

- † 5:00 PM: We gather to pray and hand out carol booklets and bells to our group.
- † 5:10 PM: We head for Dane Ridge, sing and ring carols, and hand out or hang (on door knobs) candy canes. A prayer and invitation to our Christmas services are attached to each candy cane.
- † 5:50 PM: We return to the Narthex for hot cocoa and cider and Christmas cookies. In the past neighbors have greeted us, prayed with us, and joined our church!  
If you can't make it please pray for the Lord to help us connect with our neighbors.

## Growing in Love, Faith, and Joy through Bible Study and Fellowship:

- † **Daytime Monthly Women's Bible Study** meets the second Monday in Room 22 at 9:30 AM. Join with other women of the church as Sue Porter leads this study of the book of Hebrews.

## Growing in Discipleship through Small Groups:

- † **Prayer and Praise Team** meets for prayer and praise at 3 PM every Thursday. Led by Sue Johnson in the Church Library.
- † **Devotional Fitness** meets Saturdays at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary, free of charge. You are invited to worship the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30) by focusing on scripture and prayer while stretching and strengthening. Bring your mat and a water bottle. Led by Nancy Hummer, [nanhummer@gmail.com](mailto:nanhummer@gmail.com).
- † **Spreading the Warmth** meets monthly on the third Monday at 7 PM in the Church Library to knit and crochet items to share with those in need. Led by Elizabeth Glycer.

*Submitted by Nancy Hummer, Adult Ministry Elder*



## Youth Ministry



Our church youth and youth leaders are very grateful to our congregation for your support during our bake sale and pie sale in November. We aimed to raise \$1,000 for our summer youth mission trip. This fall our goal was surpassed. Thanks to your generosity, we earned over \$1,100 for our 2018 mission trip to Raleigh, NC! Thank you for your love and support for our youth!

Many thanks to the Deacons and friends for purchasing 16 pies from the youth and serving them to our congregation on Pie Sunday! This gave the pie sale a financial boost and was such a treat for everyone!

### Two exciting youth events are coming soon:



**The 30-Hour Famine (February 9 - 10, 2018)** will be held at Bethel UMC Church, 13506 Minnieville Rd., Woodbridge. Middle school and high school students will grow closer to Christ and to others as they fast together for 30 hours and raise funds to fight hunger around the world. Cost is \$16. <http://www.30hourfamine.org>

Gatorade, food, and monetary donations will be collected for 30 Hour Famine from **January 21 - February 9, 2018** at the Tree of Hope sponsored by the Mission & Outreach and Youth Committees.



**Planet Wisdom (March 2 & 3, 2018)** Planet Wisdom is a two-day discipleship conference designed to challenge middle and high school students to dig deeper into the Bible and see the world from God's perspective. Planet Wisdom is passionate about empowering students to become thinking, growing authentic followers of Jesus Christ in today's world. Fred Lynch and Heather Flies will be back with The Skit Guys! At the door tickets will be \$64. Due to a generous donor, our price is \$5 for the first 12 teens who sign up. Bring a friend! <https://youthspecialties.com/planetwisdom/> .

*Submitted by Amy Greenslit, Youth Elder*

# LITTLE HANDS PRESCHOOL

Lots of excitement in the preschool as the children and staff prepared for their Thanksgiving program: A Day of Sharing, attended the Tiny Tots Christmas Concert at Forest Park High School, and now are preparing for Christmas and their special program at 11:15 AM on December 20th and 21st: The Parade of the Magi. We would love for people from the congregation to come join us.

LET US GIVE THANKS!



How exciting to meet Disney characters Elsa and Anna after the Tiny Tots concert!



When you're worried about your Mom who is in the hospital, it's nice to have your classmates care about you and offer support. BTW—Mom is fine. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl!



## Merry Christmas

### From Children's Ministry

#### December 2017 Calendar

**December 3rd:**

9:45 am—10:45: Ms. Becky's class in Room 4.

10:45 am—Noon: Advent event in triple room. Tables will be set up according to classes with age appropriate crafts. Children will be brought to the Sanctuary for Time with Children.

**December 10th:**

9:45 am—10:45 am: Ms. Becky's class in Room 4.

11:00 am: After Time with Children, all classes, including Nursery will meet in Youth room to view "A Charlie Brown Christmas". If time allows we will have a discussion regarding the movie.

**December 17th:** Christmas Cantata; One service at 10:00 am. No Kidz Church. Children 5 and under will join Ms. Joann and Ms. Becky in the Nursery. Children 6 and up will attend service with parents.

**December 24th:** One service at 10:00 am. No Kidz Church. Children 5 and under will join Ms. Joann and Ms. Becky in the Nursery. Children 6 and up will attend service with parents.

**December 31st:** One service at 10:00 am. No Kidz Church. Children 5 and under will join Ms. Joann and Ms. Becky in the Nursery. Children 6 and up will attend service with parents.

Ms. Becky, Ms. Cathy, Ms. Joann, Ms. Marlo, Ms. Nancy and Mr. Mark wish everyone a Blessed and Safe Christmas!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

