



THE HERALD – September - 2009

First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ
6915 York Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
TEL 410-377-5224 FAX 410-377-4910
www.first-ststephens.org

Rev. Linda McFadden, Interim Pastor

Director of Music, Jeffery Beyers

Administrative Assistant, Joyce Kruse

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Last week I had just started working on the sermon when my computer froze. Then it died. Completely. If you aren't a computer user, that event might not seem like a big deal. To me, unfortunately, it was a VERY big deal. I use my laptop every day for writing, research, and communication, and its hard drive contains a great deal of vital information. So daily life suddenly became a new set of problems and work-arounds. Last week is not one I'd like to repeat.

Happily, this week, thanks to the warranty on my laptop, I have a new hard drive. I can access the Internet again, and I've reinstalled the software that I need for writing. I still don't know whether I can recover the lost files, contact information, things I've written, and lots of photos, including all the pictures I took in England this summer. Until (unless!) those files can be resurrected, I'm going to have to figure things out bit by bit and do without some other things.

It occurs to me that the month of August has required a certain amount of that kind of "figuring out" around the church as we have begun this interim time together. First and St. Stephens lost a big part of the church's "memory files" with the departure of your pastors. Bruce and Clara passed along some of the important stuff before they left, but every day we discover questions around the office or in worship that no one seems to know the answer to. Bit by bit, though, we are reassembling important information, we are getting to know one another, and the life and ministry of First and St. Stephens goes forward. Thanks be to God!

Day by day I give thanks to God for the faithfulness, wisdom, and spirit of fun I am discovering in this community. I thank you for your patience and support in these early days, and especially for wearing your name tags!

Grace and peace,

TID-BITS

If you would like a weekly email update from the church, please email the church to be added to the distribution list.

NAME TAGS

Please wear your name tags so that our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Linda McFadden can get to know who you are.

RETURN TO FALL SCHEDULE

- SERVICE OF WORSHIP, **SEPTEMBER 6TH**, 10:30 A.M.
- CHOIR REHEARSAL, **SEPTEMBER 13TH**, 9:00 A.M.
- CHURCH SCHOOL, **SEPTEMBER 13TH**, 9:30 A.M.

8TH DAY STUDY GROUP

On Friday, September 11, at 10 a.m., we will resume 8th Day Study Group in the Pickersgill Library. Linda will be leading the group in a discussion of Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith, by Anne Lamott.

JOIN US ON THE PEACE PATH

Friday, September 11, 2009, 4-6 p.m.

Please take a moment and go to the website, www.peacepath911.org, for the "Peace Path" that will line Charles Street on 9/11. We hope to have a good representation from First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ. We will gather at Gittings Ave. and be either north or south of the intersection. Bring friends and neighbors and support the goal of a world without violence and bloodshed.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive Oct. 4, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

One-third supports UCC's Council of American Indian Ministries. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Neighbors in Need also helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions can be made on-line at any time at: www.ucc.org/nin.

**Fall Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. on September 6th
Choir & Christian Education resume on September 13th**

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept. 6
10:30 Service of Worship and Communion

Monday, Sept. 7
Church office closed—Labor Day

Friday, Sept. 11
10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Sept. 13
9:00 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:30 Service of Worship

Tuesday, Sept. 15
7:30 Consistory

Wednesday, Sept. 16
Supper Club

Friday, Sept. 18
10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Sept. 20
9:00 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:30 Service of Worship

Friday, Sept. 25
10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Sept. 27
9:00 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:30 Service of Worship

Following Worship - High Five Sunday Dinner

Friday, Oct. 2
10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Oct. 4
9:00 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:30 Service of Worship

SUPPER CLUB

On September 16th, we will be serving meat loaves, rice, canned fruit and vegetables and need donations. Meat loaves can be left in the church freezer at your convenience. Please contact Barbara Joellenbeck, 410-532-0309, if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

The Supper Club is located at First United Evangelical Church, 1728 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, 21231.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

We have many opportunities for hosting Fellowship time in the Fall. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room to pick a Sunday when you would like to host. Thank you.

ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES

ACTC needs: cereal, pork & beans, canned fruit, macaroni & cheese, canned green beans, canned corn, canned peas, jelly & peanut butter, spaghetti & spaghetti sauce, pasta meals, rice, tuna, canned tomatoes, soup, potatoes (canned or boxed), saltines (4-pack per box). Items may be placed in the large basket in the narthex. For more information, call the Assistance Center at 410-296-4855.

NEW MEMBERS

New members are received on the 2nd Sundays of January, March, May, September and November or on a Sunday of special choosing by those desiring to join. If you are interested in inquiring about church membership, please contact the pastor.

HIGH FIVE SUNDAY

Our gala Fall gathering dinner will follow worship on September 27.

During this dinner, we honor all the members who joined the church this past year and those who joined 5, 10, 15, 20 or so years ago.

OUR WEBSITE: www.first-ststephens.org



*First and St. Stephen's
United Church of Christ
6915 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212*

Address Change Requested

