



THE HERALD – November - 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

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, when the doctor in a small village in Switzerland retired from practice, the people in the town wanted to do something to show their appreciation for the care he had given them through the years. Their part of the country was known for the excellent white wine it produced, so they decided that they would give him a supply of wine to last him through his retirement years.

Each household brought a pitcher full of wine to pour into a large cask for the good doctor. The villagers were satisfied that when the barrel was filled, the doctor would be well fixed for his remaining years.

When the full cask was presented to the doctor with due ceremony, he drew out a glass for the first taste, there was a surprise. The barrel contained pure water!

It seems that one by one the thrifty villagers had decided that if everybody else was contributing their share of wine, there would be no harm in slipping in ONE pitcher of water. The problem was, that every single household had made that decision. The wine was turned into water.

Sometimes we fall into that same false thinking about our contribution to the church: *If I don't show up, lots of other people will still be there on Sunday. . . . If I don't do that task, somebody else will do it. . . . If I don't contribute my fair share through giving, somebody else will pick up the slack.*

At a time when we are celebrating God's abundant love and the many blessings we enjoy, let us remember that First and Saint Stephen's is only as strong as the commitment of the members of this community. Your church needs your presence, your talent, and your financial commitment to stay strong and vital.

Grace and peace,

Linda McFadden

TID-BITS

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

HANGING OF THE GREENS

On **Monday, Nov. 30th** from 6-8 p.m., we will gather to decorate the church and share pizza!

8TH DAY STUDY GROUP

On **Fridays at 10 a.m.**, the 8th Day Study Group meets in the Pickersgill Library. We are currently discussing Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Relin.

SUPPER CLUB

On **November 18**, we will be serving meat loaves, rice, canned fruit and vegetables. We 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 or if you would like to help serve the meal.

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

RAGGEDY ANN SALE! "Out-of-Business"

The Raggedy Ann Group will be holding an "out-of-business" sale in the Gathering Room **Sun, Nov. 22nd** between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon. Sewing machine available—make a best offer.

EARL'S PLACE

The mission offering for November has been designated for Earl's Place.


The Board of Directors of Earl's Places invite you to an Open House on **November 7th** from 10-12 p.m.

Watch for the Giving Tree for Earl's Place in the Gathering Room later this month. Tags on the tree will indicate some of the needs we will be collecting for a resident who will be moving into his own apartment.

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of Cameron James Richmond, born on 10-25-09, the grandson of Dorothy Richmond.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

Our Stewardship Pledge Ingathering will take place on **Sunday, November 22nd**.



ECONOMY PLUMBING

Samuel Marshall
~Technician~

6917 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

Cell: 443-529-7173

CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 2

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Nov. 1

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship - Communion

Friday, Nov. 6

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Nov. 8

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship

Friday, Nov. 13

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Nov. 15

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship

Tuesday, Nov. 17

7:30 Consistory

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Supper Club

Friday, Nov. 20

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

Sunday, Nov. 22 Stewardship Sunday

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship

Raggedy Ann going out of business sale

Thursday, Nov. 26-27

Church office will be closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sunday, Nov. 29

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship

ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

You can help ACTC make Thanksgiving a day of thankfulness by providing food bags to families in need.

Baskets/bags should be left in the narthex on the long pew and delivered by **Nov. 15th**. Items should be packed in a double paper grocery bag inserted in double blue plastic bags with handles. Items for each bag should include only the following:

- 1 can sweet potatoes/yams (23-29 oz. can)
- 2 cans meat (ex. beef stew or chili 15-24 oz.)
- 1 large can fruit (20-30 oz. can)
- 4 cans vegetables (ex: green beans, peas, corn 15 oz. cans)
- 1 cranberry sauce
- 2 pkg. macaroni & cheese
- 1 box instant mashed potatoes
- 1 cake or brownie mix
- 1 bag or box stuffing mix
- 1 lb. bag or box of rice

A flyer detailing the project is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please contact Jean Cyphers at 410-377-2873 if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

If your information in the church directory has changed since August 2008, please call or email the church office. We will be printing a new directory in November. Thank you.

CERTIFICATES

First and St. Stephen's has received three certificates in recognition of our support of Our Church's Wider Mission and other UCC offerings in 2008. They are displayed above the literature table in the Gathering Room. Take a look!

OUR WEBSITE: www.first-ststephens.org



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Address Change Requested

