



## **THE HERALD – October - 2009**

First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ  
6915 York Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21212  
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www.first-ststephens.org

Rev. Linda McFadden, Interim Pastor

Director of Music, Jeffery Beyers

Administrative Assistant, Joyce Kruse

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

Part of our family recently had a small reunion here in Baltimore. The occasion was the coincidental birthdays of my husband Philip and his sister Betty, momentous birthdays that end in "0's". Thirteen of us from my husband's side of the family, from as far away as Ohio, Florida, and California, joined the Baltimore cousins for a celebratory dinner. Like many families, sadly, we rarely manage to get together unless someone has died. How wonderful it was to come together for a single evening with three generations of descendants from a pair of Baltimore sisters to celebrate life!

Although Americans' highly mobile lifestyles make it difficult in these times for any of us to identify a single location as the Old Home Place, we still count on family for a sense of belonging. As Robert Frost wrote, "Home is where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." While the siblings and cousins and aunts and nieces and nephews and in-laws who gathered at the birthday party are not part of each other's lives from day to day, they share a connection that would summon any of them across vast distances should one of the others need their help.

Whether or not you have a family of origin or of choice that supports you in that way, the church is a family you can count on. At First and St. Stephens, the claim that the church is a family in Christ is not empty rhetoric. In my brief time here, I have already experienced the vital, flexible strength of this church family as people work together to carry on the ministries of Christian education, Supper Club, worship, pastoral care, administration, and a host of small things. It is deeply moving to see how deeply members of this church care for their church family and how much joy they share in being present for one another.

If you've been missing your church family, we would love to see you again. Perhaps you've been busy or out of town. Maybe you are grieving for the pastoral transition or you're waiting to see what's going to happen. To you I would say, come on back home. Your family misses you, needs you, and wants to welcome you back home.

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.

### **8TH DAY STUDY GROUP**

On Fridays at 10 a.m., the 8th Day Study Group meets in the Pickersgill Library. On Oct. 16, the group will begin a discussion of Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

### **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.

### **SUPPER CLUB**

On October 21st, 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.

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Please join us for the congregational meeting following the service on October 25th.

### **A VOLUNTEER JOB OPENING**

A person is needed to fill Nancy Heese's job of finding liturgists for each Sunday. We thank Nancy for her many years of dedicated service.

### **RAGGEDY ANN SALE! "Out-of-Business"**

The Raggedy Ann Group will be holding an "out-of-business" sale on Sunday, November 22nd between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon.

**FRIENDS OF SABEEL** - Voice of Palestinian Christians. A conference in Washington, D.C. focusing on peacemaking in the Middle East. Oct. 1-3 at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1500 Ninth St., N.W. Registration fees are waived for volunteers.

Linda will be out-of-sight, but not out-of-mind the week of October 5th. Her husband Philip is having his 2nd hip replacement surgery. Keep Philip in your prayers.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### 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 -

World Communion Sunday

*Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering*

### Friday, Oct. 9

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

### Sunday, Oct. 11

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship

### Friday, Oct. 16

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

### Sunday, Oct. 18

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship

### Tuesday, Oct. 20

7:30 Consistory

### Wednesday, Oct. 21

Supper Club

### Friday, Oct. 23

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

### Sunday, Oct. 25

9:00 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Church School

10:30 Service of Worship

**Annual Congregational Meeting follows the Service.**

### Friday, Oct. 30

10:00 8th Day Study Group at Pickersgill

## 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.

## 2009 THANKSGIVING BASKETS



It is time to start thinking about ACTC's Thanksgiving Baskets. Each year, we assist ACTC in helping the Dept. of Social Services provide food baskets/bags to families in need.

As you shop over the next 6 weeks, you may want to start collecting food items. The food 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

Further details will follow in the November issue of The Herald. Thank you for your support.

OUR WEBSITE: [www.first-ststephens.org](http://www.first-ststephens.org)



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Address Change Requested

