



CHIMES

WINTER 2019/2020



COMMUNITY BUILDING ministry

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RENEW: Community Building Ministry

The Community Building Ministry team shared their work with church leadership in a combined meeting of elders and deacons on Oct. 8. Session voted to endorse these plans, which follow below.

About Community Building Ministry

The Community Building Ministry will be organized around the desire to connect and build meaningful relationships so that we may discover and mirror God's constant and unconditional love in our midst. As we seek to accomplish this, the team highlights the following:

Hospitality Welcome Team

A revisioning of how we welcome people on Sunday mornings—at the door, in worship, and at fellowship hour—so that no person joining us for worship leaves without human contact. In that vein, we are thinking of ways to involve everyone in this effort. Each of us plays a crucial role in ensuring all feel welcomed as we gather. We plan to communicate ideas in the coming weeks, but we hope you might feel empowered to reach out and greet a new face in any way that is comfortable for you.

Food Truck Fridays

Beginning spring 2020, this ministry envisions monthly Friday evening gatherings around a food truck in our parking lot, helping FCPC engage with and come to know the community around us.

Escape Weekend

Our first all-church escape to Shrine Mont in November was designed to build multi-generational connections and Christian community in the FCPC church family through shared experiences of fun, food, worship, and beauty in nature. Our next Escape Weekend is already planned for Nov. 6-8, 2020.

Community Building will include other ways to keep us connected and build relationships, including the following:

Rides to Church. Making sure those who want to be at worship have a way of getting there.

Vacation Bible Camp. Designed to help children within our church and larger community discover the wonders of God.

College-Age Ministry. To reach out to those away from us, reminding them that the church family that made a baptismal promise to help them grow in faith continues to care for them.

Seasonal Gatherings. Designed to help bring people together to share a meal and build relationships across generations.

About the Leadership

The Community Building Ministry transition team also presented a plan for how the ministry leadership will operate this year. Leadership will consist of

Community Building continued on page 4

A Note from Pastor James



James Sledge, Pastor

Christianity is a lifestyle—a way of being in the world that is simple, non-violent, shared, and loving. However, we made it into an established “religion” (and all that goes with that) and avoided actually changing lives. One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish, and vain in most of Christian history and still believe that Jesus is ‘personal Lord and Savior.’ The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on Earth is too great.

— Richard Rohr

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is Advent, a season of hoping and waiting, but I tend to be impatient, and don’t much care for waiting. I’d like things to be finished and done, but Advent says to me, to all of us, “Wait. Prepare and wait.”

I’ve also grown a little tired of waiting on our Renew process. I, and perhaps most of those on Session, expected we would finish fleshing out the new ministry teams over the summer and be wrapping up the entire Renew effort by early 2020. But we are not there yet. We are still waiting. We are working and preparing, but we still must wait.

Earlier this fall, the leadership team shepherding the Renew process asked Jen James from NEXT Church to meet with us and talk about why we weren’t closer to being finished. Jen previously conducted training in Cultivated Ministry which we are using to shape and guide our new ministry teams.

As we shared our concerns, Jen reminded us that Cultivated Ministry is not something that is ever finished. “It is way to undertake ministry with a clear and purposeful understanding of how our activities contribute to God’s mission in the world.” Ministries are continually examined to see how well they are accomplishing their purpose, are then modified or even replaced, and the cycle begins again.

As we listened to Jen, we realized that we had confused, or perhaps better, conflated a couple of things. We have some structural changes that we need to finish, but the development of ministry plans by each ministry team is an ongoing, never totally finished process. The work of growing into grace, wholeness, and renewal as God’s beloved is not something that we ever fully accomplish.

This is in keeping with the life of discipleship. It is a walk, a journey. Before the

name Christian was ever used, the Jesus movement was called The Way. This way, like the journey of life itself, requires continuous movement, growth, and change. Our theology speaks of sanctification, a process of becoming more and more Christ-like, more and more holy, that does not end until death.

I am thankful that Jen James reminded this impatient pastor of the ongoing nature of our work together. Perhaps, in this Advent season of waiting, we would all do well to remember the countercultural nature of our new life in Christ. It is not something that is accomplished in the manner that our task- and success-oriented culture understands. It is an ongoing lifestyle that is always growing towards wholeness, renewal, transformation, even salvation.

I recently shared this from Richard Rohr in a sermon: “Christianity is a lifestyle—a way of being in the world that is simple, non-violent, shared, and loving. However, we made it into an established “religion” (and all that goes with that) and avoided actually changing lives. One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish, and vain in most of Christian history and still believe that Jesus is ‘personal Lord and Savior.’ The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on Earth is too great.”

Our faith is not something we finish. It is not a matter of learning the right things or believing the right things and being done. It is indeed a lifestyle, one that is always waiting for, and moving toward, the hope of God’s new day. I pray that this Advent season of waiting may help you and our congregation on our way.

Advent blessings and a joyous Christmas,



Escape Weekend 2019

We did it! We escaped! On a glorious, crisp, fall weekend in November, 109 FCPC members and regular attendees escaped to Shrine Mont in Virginia's Shenandoah Mountains. We hiked trails, ate great camp food, shared fireplace fires, took prayer walks, went ziplining, watched potato chips being made, saw a covered bridge, contemplated Enneagram types, escaped from an escape room, enjoyed a Honey and Locusts jam session, made s'mores around a bonfire under a starry sky, and best of all shared conversation and intergenerational fellowship. Sunday morning's joyous worship service, led by Pastor Diane Walton Hendricks, capped off the weekend.

From the beginning, the goal for Escape was to build a sense of community and foster joy in a shared experience, so we might come home rested and refreshed, giving thanks to God for the beauty of nature and companionship with others.

Many thanks to Diane Walton Hendricks, Diane Maloney, and Megan Klose for worship and program leadership, and to Carolyn Bruce and Marnie Sarver for inspiration and logistical planning. Mark your calendar now for next year's Escape Weekend, Nov. 6-8, 2020.

"I can't say enough about how special this weekend has been."
— Narra Geisinger

"Thank you for getting me out of the house and into the great outdoors." — Caitlin Good

"... an exceptional experience like no other in our lives. We came home refreshed and invigorated." — Alice Lancaster

"I loved hanging out at the bonfire with my friends. It was very relaxing!" — Ellie Bruce

Overheard in St. Andrew's cabin: *"Where are the kids?"*
Response: *"They're outside lying down on the grass looking up at the stars."*

"This weekend was absolutely amazing. The people in our cabin were lovely company, and the children just adopted our children into their folds." — Nicole Moose

Sporting a Shrine Mont sticker on their car, the Riggiones told Shawn Sledge, *"We've drunk the Kool-Aid."*



Mercy Ministry, Wish Upon a Star

Mercy Ministry opportunities

Heeding Jesus' call to mercy, we serve those in need in our greater community so that we may serve God, engage our neighbors, and grow into God's Kingdom where all are welcomed in, all have a place, and all know they are beloved. – Mercy Ministry Impact Statement

Did you know that FCPC ...

- ... invites people into our building for a free meal on the first and third Wednesday of each month through our Welcome Table program?
- ... takes a hot meal to those without a roof over their heads every Monday from Nov. 15 through March 31 in support of the Falls Church Homeless Shelter?
- ... knocks on the door of our neighbors and hands them a meal on the first and third Monday of each month through our participation in Meals on Wheels?
- ... shelters a family from Honduras at Ives House and provides tutoring, legal, and financial support?
- ... supports our youth on Christian immersion work and mission trips both at home and abroad?
- ... packages meals by the thousands to be delivered overseas through our annual Rise Against Hunger effort?

Each of these ministries is supported by FCPC's Mercy Ministry. If you feel called to Christian discipleship through any of these ministries, please contact Will Packard at packardw@gmail.com.

MERCY
ministry

Jesus said "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:34

Wish Upon a Star for Ives House

The historic Ives House, owned by FCPC, sits just west of the church along Broad Street. Years ago, FCPC decided to use the house to provide shelter to families in need. Current residents are the multigenerational Benítez family from Honduras. Our church supports the family in many ways, including mentoring, financial assistance with rent and utilities, and sharing our knowledge and resources as the family navigates a new culture.

This holiday season, we once again will have a Christmas wish list for the Benítez family. Look for the blue poster with yellow stars in Fellowship Hall. Choose a star from the tree, purchase and wrap the gift, attach the star to the gift, and leave it in the marked box. Deadline to drop off gifts is Dec. 22; gifts will be delivered on Dec. 23. The family is very excited this holiday season as one of the members and her husband are expecting a baby girl on New Year's Eve!

If you have questions about the Giving Tree or would like to join the Ives House Task Force, contact coordinator Elaine Porter at eporter519@gmail.com. Jenneke Fijn van Draat, Mark Seklecki, Katie Gehron, Bill Darrow, and Hannah Jordan are also on the Task Force and can answer any questions about this ministry.

Community Building continued from page 1

Abbie Freeman, Allison Hoak, Bill Kusterbeck, Kathy Chavez, Molly Good, Theresa Brown, Narra Geisinger, and Diane Maloney. The team will meet quarterly in the new year and will be available for questions and support at any time. If you have an idea for a new activity, please let a member of the leadership team know and they can share with you how your idea can be developed.

What's next?

Elders and deacons are continuing to meet in order to hear from the remaining transition teams. The Mercy and Justice teams presented their plans at their November meeting, so look for information on those ministries in the near future. Worship and Ministry Support will present their plans after the first of the year.

We hope you will continue to pray for the transition and new leadership teams and find where the Spirit is inviting you to be part of our new calling.

New Members, Facilities Report, Operating Fund

Welcome, new members!

Keith Sverdrup and Barbara Sverdrup Stone

Keith and Barbara joined FCPC by letter of transfer from Immanuel Presbyterian, Milwaukee, Wi., on June 2. Keith is an emeritus professor at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a program officer at National Science Foundation. He enjoys mysteries and stamp collecting. Barbara is a retired math teacher and enjoys genealogy and golfing. Keith and Barbara enjoy supporting Welcome Table with contributions of fruit for our guests. They reside in Gainesville, Va.



Barbara Sverdrup Stone and Keith Sverdrup

FCPC Facilities Report

John Loyd, facilities manager

2019 was a busy year for facility maintenance and repairs at FCPC. Some of our greatest progress came from improvements to our largely invisible but essential heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. We have dozens of individual units throughout the church, some large and some small. Here are some of the exciting highlights from the HVAC work.

We repaired the gas furnace that heats areas of the downstairs classrooms, repaired both twin pack units that heat the Fellowship Hall and Loft, and replaced the circulating pump motor, adding years of useful service to these units.

Several of our larger systems were beyond their life expectancy. This past spring, we replaced the boilers that heat most areas in the older part of the church, including the Sanctuary and Memorial Hall. These new high-efficiency units should last until the year 2045. We replaced the boiler in the Ives House and made safety improvements to its design. We replaced the heat pump that heats and cools the Choir Room.

With these three HVAC replacements and the \$125,000 capital investment, we've reset their service life for the next 15 to 25 years.

FCPC Operating Fund

Income and Expenses for Current Fiscal Year as of November 30, 2019

| | Actual Results: Jan 1 - Nov 30 | Annual FY19 Budget | Difference | Actual as a % of Budget |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| Weekly Offerings | \$ 703,594.00 | \$ 770,000.00 | \$ 66,406.00 | 91% |
| Building Use & Other | \$ 86,277.00 | \$ 97,000.00 | \$ 10,723.00 | 89% |
| Subtotal | \$ 789,871.00 | \$ 867,000.00 | \$ 77,129.00 | |
| Prior Year Surplus Funds | \$ - | \$ 32,283.00 | \$ 32,283.00 | 0% |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 789,871.00 | \$ 899,283.00 | \$ 109,412.00 | 88% |
| Expenses | \$ 776,556.00 | \$ 899,283.00 | \$ 122,727.00 | 86% |
| Difference | \$ 13,315.00 | \$ - | | |

From the FCPC Library

The FCPC library falls under the umbrella of the Spiritual Growth Ministry. As part of Spiritual Growth's Renew efforts, the Library submitted its plans and goals for 2020; they are listed below.

Library work day

Saturday, Jan. 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Librarians Avery Burns and Carolyn Bruce are looking for four to six volunteers who will help go through the shelves and check the status of our collection. If you can help with this effort, please email library@fallschurchpresby.org.

Fellowship Hour hosting

The library staff will host Fellowship Hour in the spring and fall in order to promote library resources, create continuous satellite displays, and work with other FCPC groups to ensure the library is supporting their needs.

Friends of the Library team

We plan to develop a Friends of the Library team to help the librarians and promote the collection. Email library@fallschurchpresby.org if you are interested.

Library presence on website

FCPC's new website features a library resources page which includes featured selections and a searchable link to our inventory. We also welcome your book reviews! Visit www.fallschurchpresby.org/library/

New acquisitions

Passover and Easter: Origin and History of Modern Times. Paul F. Bradshaw and Lawrence A. Hoffman, editors

Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons. Jan Richardson

God and the Art of Happiness. Ellen T. Charry

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church. Rachel Held Evans

Hiding the Light: Why I Risked Everything to Leave Islam and Follow Jesus. Rifqa Bary

Children's picture book

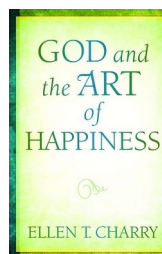
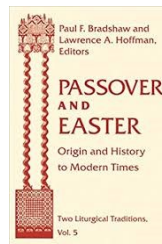
The Stuff of Stars. Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Advent and Christmas books

The FCPC library has an extensive collection of Advent and Christmas books for all ages. Come on by and take a look!

Creche collection on display

We currently have more than 20 creches from around the world on display in the library. There are nativities from Turkey, the Philippines, Mexico and Africa to name a few. Stop by and see if you can find them all hidden among the books!



Presbyterian Women — Offering our gifts and talents, in service to the church



Lydia Circle meets on the second Friday of the month at 11 a.m. for Bible study and fellowship.

Our moderator is Helen Waugh (waughken68@gmail.com).

Sarah Circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Join us for a potluck meal, fellowship, and Bible study.

Our moderator is Kathy Chavez (ckathychavez@aol.com).

Circles meet in the parlor and visitors are always welcome.

Our Stories

“Our stories” is now a regular feature in *Chimes* and can also be found at www.fallschurchpresby.org/stories. If you have a story of interest to share, please send to chimes@fallschurchpresby.org.

Narra Geisinger

The Geisinger family attends the Family Table most Sunday mornings. The Family Table is an interactive Sunday morning experience designed for people of all ages to engage in the movements of worship: gather, listen, respond, and send through a variety of activities and stories. Narra shares the following:

One reason our family appreciates Family Table is the active reflection piece of it all. How often do we take the time to reflect on any lesson in life? In Family Table, we are introduced to something, then given time to discuss. Family Table is truly the only time we find ourselves in inter-generational church company (as a family and with the other participants), talking about how each of us as individuals feels about a lesson, a Biblical story, a personal experience where we’ve seen God, a thought. I find that we are able to connect lessons from Family Table to our every day lives more than other church-related activities. Getting our youngest to church is always a challenge, but I have been to Family Table enough to know that it helps us center ourselves as a family unit, and each of us individuals. If we start Sunday off by attending Family Table, the entire day is better! I also love that Family Table keeps us moving. We get up and dance, we move tables to share God Sightings, we read scripts, we film news reports (MY FAVORITE), we paint rocks. These are things I have always loved and WANTED to do as a family, but our busy lives never allow us to stop and actually do them!

Join the Geisinger family and others for Family Table Sunday mornings at 9:40 a.m. in Memorial Hall.



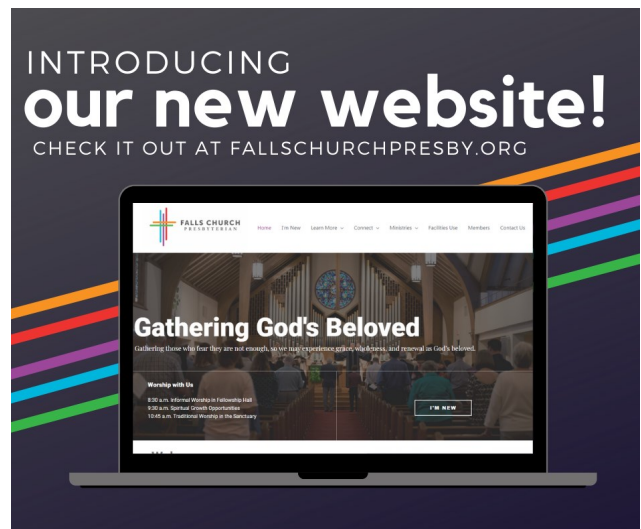
The Geisinger family at Shrine Mont Escape Weekend

Kasia Gryglak

In her spare time, FCPC’s administrative assistant Kasia Gryglak creates pieces of art that employ collaging, photography, and her poetry, among other things. She recently participated in two local art shows, Tiny Show in Washington, D.C., and Pieces and Parts at Falls Church Arts. Interested in the use of contrasting patterns, colors, and textiles to shock the senses, she explores repurposing old art (medieval illuminations, Christian iconography, 70s advertisements and more) as a way of conveying her own stories and experiences in an abstract way that can be consumed by anyone. You can view one of her works that is on display at Falls Church Arts through Dec. 29, or you can find her on Instagram @katarzynagryglak.



Kasia, left, with Carol Ann Siciliano, proud owner of Kasia’s artwork “Back Porch”



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2019

SAT. DEC. 14
5:00-7:30 PM

THE CHRISTMAS MARKET
POTLUCK MEAL, HOT CHOCOLATE BAR, CAROL SING,
& GIFT SHOP

SUN. DEC. 15
8:30 AM
10:45 AM

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
INFORMAL WORSHIP
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP & CHANCEL CHOIR PRESENTS
"GLORY AND PEACE" BY DR. DOMINICK DIORIO

SUN. DEC. 22
8:30AM
10:45AM

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
INFORMAL WORSHIP
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

TUES. DEC. 24
4:30 PM
8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY SERVICE WITH HONEY & LOCUSTS
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR

WED. DEC. 25

CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SUN. DEC. 29
8:30 AM
10:45AM

WINTER LABYRINTH WALK
INFORMAL WORSHIP
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

SUN. JAN. 5
8:30AM
10:45AM

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
INFORMAL WORSHIP
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP



225 East Broad Street
Falls Church, VA 22046
www.fallschurchpresby.org

Sunday schedule

8:30 a.m. Informal Worship
Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth
Opportunities (September-May)
10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
Sanctuary

Our Mission Statement

Gathering those who fear they
are not enough, so we may
experience grace, wholeness,



Falls Church Presbyterian Church is a congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA). We also belong to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which works "for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church."

Chimes is a quarterly publication of Falls Church Presbyterian Church. Archived issues are at www.fallschurchpresby.org.

The deadline for the spring issue is **February 10**. E-mail articles to chimes@fallschurchpresby.org.

Staff

703-532-6518

The Rev. James Sledge, pastor ext. 201
jsledge@fallschurchpresby.org

The Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks ext. 202
pastor for spiritual growth
dhendricks@fallschurchpresby.org

Diane Maloney, director of children, youth, and family ministry ext. 205
dmaloney@fallschurchpresby.org

The Rev. Megan Klose, parish associate
megan.g.klose@gmail.com

The Rev Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., parish associate
rustylynn@earthlink.net

Dr. Lisa Billingham, choral director ext. 207
lbillingham@fallschurchpresby.org

Dr. Lisa Bloy, organist
lbloy@fallschurchpresby.org

David Schoonover, music coordinator
djsch19@gmail.com

Susan Loyd, office administrator ext. 203
sloyd@fallschurchpresby.org

Kasia Gryglak, administrative assistant ext. 200
kgryglak@fallschurchpresby.org

Mary Salpini, financial administrator ext. 206
msalpini@fallschurchpresby.org

John Loyd, facilities manager ext. 208
jloyd@fallschurchpresby.org

Ministry Teams and Group Leaders

Please contact the church office for contact information

Community Building Ministry: Abbie Freeman

Deacons: Narra Geisinger

Flower Committee: Marnie Sarver

Justice Ministry: Frank Burdette

Kitchen: Sally Storr

Library: Avery Burns, Carolyn Bruce

Mercy Ministry: Will Packard

Ministry Support: Mike Volpe

Presbyterian Women

- Lydia Circle: Helen Waugh

- Sarah Circle: Kathy Chavez

Session: Mike Volpe, Clerk of Session

Spiritual Growth Ministry: Anne Mugler

Welcome Table Planning Team: Gail Robarge

Worship Ministry: Myra Bridgforth