

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL –
Classes meet in the Park Level at 10 a.m.**

Class	Teachers
Nursery (8:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.)	Certified and professional staff members, supervised by Katie Cashwell
“Where the Wild Things Are” ages 3-5	Doug House, Brian Dewhurst, Sally Davis, Karen Cook, Kay Meek
Lower Elementary ages 5 to 8 years	Marsha Renwanz, Molly Lauer, Mark Sproles, Bridget Sproles
Upper Extravaganza ages 9 to 12 years	Mike Smith, Kathy Doan, David Gillies
High School and “Confirmation Commotion” 7 th - 12 th grade	Chris Rehling, Kevin Guy, Betsy Merritt, Pastor Katie Cashwell

**Reminder for December 23 and December 30:
Worship will be held at 10 a.m.**

Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 and 8 p.m.

Cookies and Caroling	TODAY 11 a.m., Peter Marshall Hall
Join together after the Christmas Pageant for home baked treats, fruit, and coffee, along with caroling, cookie decorating, and Radcliffe Room gift wrapping. If you like, bring your favorite Christmas Cookies to share, or simply bring yourself!	
Adult Sunday School	Sundays, January 6 – February 3 10 a.m., Room 511
“The Universe Is Made of Stories, Not Atoms: Short Stories in the World of Faith” This five-week series will consider short stories that touch in one way or other on the world of faith, stories of doubt, faith, forgiveness, grace, blessing, , sign and symbol. Participants will read each week’s stories and be prepared to discuss them and compare them. Copies of each week’s stories will be distributed in class. Stories for the first week’s class will be available at the desk in the church entryway. Led by Paul Dornan. January 6: “The Shape of Faith”	

EXPECTING DELIVERANCE

December 16– Exodus 16
December 17– Jeremiah 46:27-28
December 18– Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
December 19– Psalm 42
December 20– Mark 1:1-8
December 21– Acts 16:16-40
December 22– 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Opportunities for Service

7-2-9 Club - Enjoy a Wednesday evening (yes, from 7 to 9 p.m.), September until June, with guests recovering from mental illness. There are games, entertainment, refreshments and time for making friends. Contact Spence Gibbins, spencergib@aol.com

Community Club - A one-with-one tutoring and mentoring program for DC public and charter school students, primarily in grades 7-12, meets at the church on Thursday nights during the school year. Adult volunteers are needed! If interested, please contact Tom Karr and Shamika Bradley at directors@communityclub.org or go to www.communityclub.org for more information.

Food for the Hungry - Non-perishable food donations are being requested to share with the Capital Area Food Bank, the large nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington metropolitan area. Your donations are welcome in the baskets located at the rear of the Sanctuary.

New York Avenue Foundation - The NYAF mission is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need throughout Washington, DC. Annually it solicits proposals and awards grants to grassroots non-profits which further that mission. A volunteer Board of Trustees conducts the work of NYAF. If you are interested in learning more or participating in the NYAF mission contact John Courson, ja.courson@yahoo.com or (202) 735-5005.

Radcliffe Room Ministry - Come fellowship with our homeless guests, Sundays, 8:30-10:45 a.m. Activities include hymn singing, refreshments and socializing. Donations of clothing, toiletries and money for transportation are needed. Contact Eleanor Robins, robinseleanor@hotmail.com

The Peace Candle - Visitors are invited to take a prayer candle home to their congregations. Candles are at the rear, right side, of the sanctuary. Please sign the note pad there, so we may know who you are. For more information about the Peace and Justice Committee activities, contact Fritz von Fleckenstein, fritz@alumni.reed.edu

Triangle Park Committee - Working with the National Park Service to ensure maintenance and oversee the flower and plant beds along the church wall, we meet 4-6 times a year, conduct business via email, and schedule work days as needed. Contact Marilyn Seiber, mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net Beth DuMez, bethdumez@erols.com or Barry Tindall, barrytindall@verizon.net

Ministers:	The Entire Congregation
Pastor:	Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.
Interim Pastoral Associate:	Katie Cashwell, M. Div.
Pastoral Associate:	Linda LeSourd Lader, M. Div.
Director of Music:	Stanley P. Engebretson, D.M.A.
Parish Associate for Visitation:	Ann Rose Davie, M. Div.
Director of Planned Giving:	Evelyn S. Ying, J.D.
Parish Associates:	Elizabeth P. Braxton, M. Div., MRE, D. Min J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M.A. Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D. J. Riley McDonald, M.Div. Judith E. Michaels, D. Min., Ph.D. Glenn Myers, M. Div., M.A.

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
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"An inclusive and justice seeking church"



Celebration of Worship

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
welcomes all people into community,
worship, service and leadership.

**December 16, 2012
10 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent**

The worship service begins with a brief period for personal meditation and the Prelude.

SILENT REFLECTION: *Fruit of the womb, the Human One, brother, friend, child,
with a mother’s longing to see her unborn, so I long to know you more deeply, my Christ.*

Prelude

Introit “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence “

***Lincoln Chimes**

I. The Community Gathers for Worship

Welcome

***The Lighting of Advent Candles**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We lit the first two candles in hope and in love. Now we light this third candle in joy, the joy that we have in Jesus our Savior.

All: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Leader: God of joy, come to us again this Advent.

All: May your joy live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: A candle burns, the third marker of our Advent journey. As we continue, may we travel with joy. As we continue, God of journeys, guide our footsteps. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

#20 (verses 1-2) “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night.”

Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are. Traveler, o’er yon mountain’s height, See that glory beaming star. Watchman, does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell? Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night, Higher yet that star ascends. Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends. Watchman, will its beams along gild the spot that gave them birth? Traveler, ages are its own; See it bursts o’er all the earth.

**Please stand, if able*

Call to Worship Angel Visits Mary ~ Luke 1: 26-38

Narrator: One day, an angel appeared to a young woman named Mary.

Angel: Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and called the Son of the Most High!

Mary: How can this be?

Angel and Congregation God will send the Holy Spirit to give you this baby and therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. God has also done another miracle. After many years of waiting, God will give your relatives Elizabeth and Zechariah a son. For nothing is impossible with God!

Mary: I am God’s humble servant. Let it be according to your word.

Reading Mary Visits Elizabeth ~ Luke 1:39-49

***Prayer of Confession** Joseph's Dream

Narrator When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant before they were to be married, he planned to dismiss her quietly because he was a righteous man and was unwilling to expose her to public disgrace.

Congregation We confess that we are not open to your miracles, O God. We do not open our eyes to your possibilities in our lives. We exclude and judge those who do not adhere to the norms of our society and struggle to find you in our world.

Narrator: In exhaustion and concern, Joseph fell asleep. That night, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Angel: Do not be afraid! For the child conceived in Mary is from the Holy Spirit.

Congregation This child shall be called Jesus and he will save his people from their sins.

Special Music “Angels We Have Heard on High”
David Clark, saxophone

II. The Community Hears the Word of God

Reading The Birth of Jesus ~ Luke 2:1-7

Meditation Rev. Roger J. Gench

Processional Hymn *(Please remain seated)*

44 (*verses 1-2*) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy darkness shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

Reading Shepherds and Angels ~ Luke 2:8-14

Song “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Song “Carol of the Animals”

Recessional “Dance of the Nativity”

III. The Community Responds to the Word

Anthem “The Snow Lay on the Ground”

Reading The Visit of the Wise Men ~ Matthew 2:1-2

Offertory “We Three Kings”

***Response** #66 (*verse 5*) “We Three Kings”
Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia Sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of night, Star of royal beauty bright; Westward leading Still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

***Prayer of Dedication** **O Mighty One, You have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is Your name. Bless all we offer You – ourselves, our time, our possessions – that through us Your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

***Passing of the Peace**

***Sending Hymn** #22 (*verses 1 and 4*) “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation’s story now proclaim
Messiah’s birth: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the Eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

***Commissioning to Ministry and Benediction**

Narrator: Bright star-maker God, travel with us through Advent. Shine into our dark corners, lead us into the ways of justice, warm us with joy and wonder.

Congregation Bring us to new birth. Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

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Many thanks to the children and teachers of our **Preschool Sunday School Class** for their creativity and hard work in creating our Advent wreath.

A big thank you to *Molly Wagner and Susan Wherley* for their leadership and direction of the Christmas Pageant. Thanks to all of the children, youth, parents, and teachers for their participation in the pageant and leading us in worship.

Greeter Jack Gillies
Advent Wreath Lighting The Ashworth Family
Tour Guide Len Shabman

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