

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 - is a one-with-one tutoring and mentoring program for DC public high school students meeting at the church on Thursday nights during the school year. Adult volunteers are needed! Contact Tom Karr at directors@communityclub.org, or go to www.communityclub.org for more information.

Food for the Hungry - Every 4th Sunday bring non-perishable food for the Capital Area Food Bank, a large nonprofit hunger and nutrition resource in the DC metropolitan area. Place donations in baskets at the back of the sanctuary.

New York Avenue Foundation - Its mission is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need throughout Washington, DC. Annually it awards over \$30,000 to grassroots non-profits which further that mission. An all-volunteer board conducts the work of the Foundation and selects grantee organizations. Contact Jennifer McIver, jenzan@msn.com or 703-785-4762.

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

The Peace Candle - An opportunity for visitors 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 - works 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

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| | Ministers: The Entire Congregation |
| | Pastor: Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D. |
| Associate Pastor for Congregational Life: | Tara Spuhler McCabe, 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: | J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M.A. |
| | Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D. |
| | John T. Mathison, M. Div. |
| | J. Riley McDonald, M.Div |
| | Glenn Myers, M. Div., M.A. |

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
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 Website: www.nyapc.org ☩ Email: nyapc@nyapc.org
 Telephone: 202-393-3700

"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 18, 2011
10 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Introit

*Lincoln Chimes

I. The Community Gathers for Worship

***The Lighting of Advent Candles and Call to Worship**

Olivia Lewis

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

All: He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

(Adapted from Isaiah 9)

*** Opening Hymn**

#34, "In Bethlehem a Babe was Born"
Discovery

*** Welcome and Announcements**

*** Hymn**

#8, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"
Truro

Prayer of Confession

We confess that we are not open to Your gifts of love, Oh God. We question every offering of care and compassion that may come our way. We do not know how to wait and receive Your gift. We tend to become impatient and expect someone else to do something. We do not see the possibilities that can happen outside of society norms. Exclusion, judgment, and constant greed are the ways of the world, God, and we continuously struggle to find You in it.

Silent Confession

***Assurance of Pardon**

The Angel proclaimed, "Do not be afraid! For God has chosen you and blessed Mary to give birth to God's very own son. And this child shall be called Jesus, Prince of Peace, Immanuel!"

| CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL always beginning in the Park Level at 10 a.m. | |
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| Class | Teachers |
| Nursery <i>(8:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.)</i> | Certified and professional staff members, Supervised by Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe |
| "Where the Wild Things Are" ages 3-5 | Sally Davis, Karl Hoffman and Doug House |
| "Sunday Extravaganza" ages 5-11 | Kathy Doan, Marsha Renwanz, David Gillies and Mike Smith |
| "Confirmation Commotion" 7 th - 9 th grade | Christopher Rehling, Kevin Guy and Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe |
| "High School Rocks!" Sr. High School | Phil Hanna, Betsy Merritt and Mary Spatz |

| Goodpasture Class | Sundays 10 a.m., Lincoln Chapel |
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| <p>"The Lord Provides" Abraham is instructed to offer his only son, Isaac, to the Lord. He proceeds until an angel of the Lord tells him to stop. Abraham proves his faith by being obedient to God. Today's lesson is from Genesis 22:1-2,6-1. Teacher: Robert Osborn. Prayer Leader: Yomi Faniyi</p> | |
| Adult Sunday School | TODAY at 8:45 a.m. January 8 and 15 10 a.m., Room 511 |
| <p>"Steadfast Hope" This study challenges common myths and misperceptions about the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, presents a compelling snapshot of the present situation on the ground and offers a guide to the challenges that lie ahead in the quest for peace. The materials offer an inspiring view of the activities currently being undertaken by Muslim, Jewish and Christian peacemakers working for justice and reconciliation. It also gives helpful guidance on how our congregation can contribute to the cause of just peace for the people who share the Holy Land.</p> | |

Church Building Schedule

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| December 24 - SATURDAY - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. | | |
| 5:30 p.m. | Christmas Eve Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| 8:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. | | |
| 8:15 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room |
| 8:30 a.m. | Radcliffe Room Ministry | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service | |
| December 26 - CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED | | |
| December 27 - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | | |
| December 28 - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | | |
| December 29 - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | | |
| December 30 - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | | |
| December 31 - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | | |
| January 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY - Church Building Open - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. | | |
| 8:15 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room |
| 8:30 a.m. | Radcliffe Room Ministry | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service | |

***Response** #25 (verses 1 and 3), “Away in a Manger”

1 **Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in They tender car, And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.**

First Lesson Luke 2: 8-15, page 54-55, NRSV
Shepherds in the Field

Sermon “A Night For Dancing”
Music Director: Susan Wherley
Chorus Director: Molly Wagner

***Hymn** #53, “What Child is This”
Greensleeves

Second Lesson Matthew 2:1-11, pages 1-2, NRSV
The Visit of the Wise Men

Christmas Joy Offering

Giving of Morning Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”
arr. Barbara Kinyon
The New York Avenue Handbell Choir

***Response** #40 (verse 1), “Joy to the World”
Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King: Let every hear prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing. And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer *(page 16-Traditional)*

***Passing of the Peace**

Anthem "The Word was God" *(please be seated)*
Rosephayne Powell

Benediction 1 John 1:1-5, page 86, NRSV

Postlude "In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born"

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**Reminder for December 25 and January 1
Worship will be held at 10 a.m.**

The poinsettias in the chancel today are given to the glory of God and in memory and honor of friends and family of the congregation as listed in today’s bulletin insert.

The rose in the chancel today celebrates the December 6 birth of *John Stewart Méndez*, son of *Suecia Méndez and Rev. John Stewart*, and grandson of *Rev. Héctor Méndez and his wife Oneida Padilla*, of our partner church *First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana*.

Greeters Mike, Molly and Maya Smith

Tour Guide Len Shabman

Counters

Information for Sunday Visitors

*We extend a warm welcome to visitors!
We invite you to sign the guest book at the rear of the Sanctuary.*

Garage Parking: Free self-parking is available in the garage next to the church at 1399 New York Avenue until 1 p.m. Please park in any non-reserved space.

Radcliffe Room Ministry: Everyone is invited and encouraged to come to the Radcliffe Room on Sunday mornings. This is a vibrant NYAPC ministry and we would love to have you join us: meet our friends for coffee, conversation, bagels and hymn singing.

Restrooms: The Deacons remind members and friends that the restrooms on the fifth floor are available on Sundays mornings.

Infants and children: Babies and toddlers under 4 are welcome in the park level nursery. **Care is provided by licensed, paid professionals.** During the services, children’s worship aids are available in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Building Tours: To take a tour of our building and learn about this congregation’s heritage and current ministry and outreach, meet the tour guide at the front of the Sanctuary immediately following the service.

Large Print Bibles and Large Print Bulletins: Available at the front of the Sanctuary.

When bulletins are waved during worship at NYAPC, it is a sign of appreciation for the music or other contribution to the service. It is an action which we learned from our partner church, the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, as an alternative to clapping. For the wavers, it is an expression of joy in the moment and our connections with sisters and brothers in faith.

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.