

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 Rev. Cashwell
Preschool Class ages 3-5	Doug House, Elizabeth Sciupac, Elisa Jillson, Kay Meek
Lower Elementary Class Kindergarten- 1st Grade	Molly Lauer, Marsha Renwanz, Mark Sproles, Bridget Sproles
Upper Elementary Class 2nd Grade-5th Grade	David Gillies, Kathy Doan, Catherine Cannon
Youth Class 6th Grade-12th Grade	Susan Hesser, Betsy Merritt, Kevin Guy

**School Classes for all ages
will resume on January 5.**



CREATION IS FOR COMMUNITY

December 15– Genesis 11:1-9
 December 16– Leviticus 25:35-38
 December 17– Isaiah 56:1-8
 December 18– Psalm 100
 December 19– John 4:1-15
 December 20– James 3:13-18
 December 21– Revelation 22:3-5

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, 8:15-10:45 a.m. Activities include hymn singing, refreshments and socializing. Donations of umbrellas, rain gear, clothing, toiletries and money for transportation are needed. Contact Eleanor Robins, robinscleanor@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

NYAPC's Young Adults – Most Sundays, those in their 20s/30s (body or heart!) caucus after the 11 a.m. service at the back of the Sanctuary to go to lunch together. For more information about Faith on Tap, Bible study, and other fellowship or service activities, (or to be added to the e-mail list) contact Matthew Asada (matthew.asada@gmail.com).

Ministers:	The Entire Congregation
Pastor:	Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Pastor:	Katie Cashwell, M. Div.
Associate Pastor:	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:	Catherine Schultheis
Parish Associates:	Beth Braxton, M. Div., MRE, D. Min. J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M.A. Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D. John T. Mathison, M. Div. 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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 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 15, 2013
 10 a.m.
 Third Sunday of Advent**

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

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. Amen.

Prelude

"Et misericordia," from **Magnificat**
 J. S. Bach
 Chantel Pomerville, Ian Elder, soloists
 Translation: and his mercy [continues] from
 generation to generation for those who fear him.

*Lincoln Chimes

I. The Community Gathers for Worship

Welcome

*The Lighting of Advent Candles

The Joy Candle

Leader: We lit the first candle of Advent for hope and to celebrate the hopeful prophets, who waited long and looked with expectancy for the coming of the Messiah. We lit the second candle of Advent for peace and to celebrate John the Baptist and his vision for a future of Christ's peace in the world, a peace that surpasses all understanding. Now we light the third candle of Advent for joy and to celebrate the young girl, Mary, joyfully bearing the glory of God to a waiting world.

All: We light the third candle of Advent for all God-bearers, saying 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

Leader: We light the third candle of Advent for ourselves, for we, too are given the task to joyfully bear the light of Christ in to dark places.

All: God, as we wait for Your promise, give light, give hope, give peace, and give joy.

*Opening Hymn

#117 (verses 1-4),
 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"
 Winchester Old

**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 "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
Traditional
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

"Go Tell It on The Mountain"
Go Tell It

Reading Shepherds and Angels ~ Luke 2:8-14

Song #126, "Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child"
Wonderful Child
Please join the children in singing during the fourth round

III. The Community Responds to the Word

Anthem "Mary Had a Baby, Yes Lord"

Reading The Visit of the Wise Men ~ Matthew 2:1-2
Offertory "What Child Is This"
Greensleeves

***Response** #145 (*verse 3*), "What Child Is This"
Greensleeves
**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

***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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Recessional and Sending Hymn**
#134, "Joy to the World"
Antioch

***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

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We wish to thank the youth of the church, **David Clark, Chantel Pomerville, and Ian Elder** for their participation in worship this morning.

We wish to thank **Molly Wagner and Karen Dunlap** for their creativity, leadership, and vision in planning this year's Christmas Pageant.

The Advent Wreath was made by the children of the Pre-K Sunday School Class, Where the Wild Things Are. The quilt backdrop was made by the children who attended the All Church Retreat at Meadowkirk this fall.

The greenery hung in the sanctuary today and throughout Advent is dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory and appreciation of **Mary Anne Davis** who, for many years, arranged for the floral dedications each Sunday, as well as seasonal decorations in our Sanctuary.

The red rose in the Sanctuary today is to celebrate the birth of Justin William Weiss, son of Mark and Barbara Lancaster Weiss, and brother of Andrew, on December 5, 2013.

Advent Candle Lighters The Gagosian Family

Tour Guides Barry Tindall

Preaching Schedule

December 22	Rev. Roger J. Gench (single service at 10 a.m.)
December 29	Rev. Katie Cashwell
January 5	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 12	Rev. Linda LeSourd Lader
January 19 -	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 26	Rev. Roger J. Gench

Counters' Schedule

December 15	Amy Gillespie and Adam Bain
December 22	Barb Dornan and ShuXian McKenna
December 29	Dan Stokes and Adam Bain

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.

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