

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. Tewell
Preschool Class ages 3-5	Doug House, Elizabeth Sciupac, Kay Meek
Lower Elementary Class Kindergarten- 1st Grade	Molly Lauer, Marsha Renwanz, Mark Sproles, Bridget Sproles, Carter Coker
Upper Elementary Class 2nd Grade-5th Grade	David Gillies, Kathy Doan, Catherine Cannon
Youth Class 6th Grade-12th Grade	Kevin Guy, Jessie Cleveland, Joe Brady, Betsy Merritt

## School Classes for all ages will resume on January 11.

### Worship Service Schedule

<b>December 21</b>	<b>Worship at 10 a.m.</b>	<b>Rev. Gench preaching NYAPC Choirs: "The Magnificat"</b>
<b>December 28</b>	<b>Worship at 10 a.m.</b>	<b>Rev. Gench preaching</b>
<b>January 4</b>	<b>Worship at 10 a.m.</b>	<b>Rev. Gench preaching</b>
<b>January 11</b>	<b>Worship at 8:45 and 11 a.m.</b>	<b>Rev. Lader preaching</b>



### 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](mailto:spencergib@aol.com)

**Community Club** – A one-with-one tutoring and mentoring program, for DC public and charter school students (grades 7-12), meets at the church on Thursday nights during the school year. Adult volunteers are needed! Please contact Tom Karr and Shamika Bradley at [directors@communityclub.org](mailto:directors@communityclub.org) or go to [www.communityclub.org](http://www.communityclub.org) for more information.

**Food for the Hungry** – Non-perishable food donations are needed by the Capital Area Food Bank, the large nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington area. Please place your donations in the baskets located at the rear of the Sanctuary or at the front desk.

**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 Brian Schimming, [nyavefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:nyavefoundation@gmail.com)

**Radcliffe Room Ministry** – Come join our homeless guests, Sundays, 8:15-10:30 a.m., for hymn singing, refreshments and socializing. Donations of umbrellas, rain gear, clothing, toiletries, and transportation money are needed. Contact Eleanor Robins, [robinseleanor@hotmail.com](mailto:robinseleanor@hotmail.com)

**The Peace Candle** – Visitors are invited to take a prayer candle home to their congregations. Candles are at the back, right side, of the sanctuary. Please sign the notepad there, so we may know who you are. For more information about the Peace and Justice Committee activities, contact Marilyn Seiber, [mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net](mailto:mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net)

**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](mailto:mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net) Beth DuMez, [bethdumez@erols.com](mailto:bethdumez@erols.com) or Barry Tindall, [barrytindall@verizon.net](mailto:barrytindall@verizon.net)

**NYAPC's Young Adults** – For more information about Sunday brunches, Faith on Tap, Bible study, and other fellowship or service activities (or to be added to the e-mail list), contact Richard Snyder ([snyder.richard@gmail.com](mailto:snyder.richard@gmail.com)) or Benno Lauer ([benno.lauer@gmail.com](mailto:benno.lauer@gmail.com))

	Ministers:	The Entire Congregation
	Pastor:	Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.
	Associate Pastor:	Alice Rose Tewell, 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:	Catherine Schultheis, B.A., Chr.Ed.
	Parish Associates:	Beth Braxton, M. Div., MRE, D. Min. J. Gary Campbell, M. Div., M.A. Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D.

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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 14, 2014**  
**10 a.m.**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

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

*Wisdom of God, playful and profound, patiently persuasive, gentle and strong,  
reveal Yourself to us in the faith of girls and boys that we may respectfully receive  
the wisdom of a child and give You praise. Amen.*  
(based on Luke 2:22-40)

**Prelude** Chorale Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo"  
J. S. Bach

**Introit** #133, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
Adeste Fideles

\*Lincoln Chimes

### I. The Community Gathers for Worship

Welcome

Narrator 1 (Julia)  
Welcome to all! Happy or sad, rejoicing or grieving, seeking or believing. Welcome to all, here is good news: To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. His name is Jesus; "Liberator," "Rescuer," "Deliverer." His life changed the world. His living presence changes us today. Lift up your hearts. Rejoice! Give thanks to God.

\*The Lighting of Advent Candles

The Candle of Joy  
The Spuhler McCabe Family

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

**All: The prophet Isaiah speaks: The Spirit of the Living God is upon me because God has chosen me...to announce good news to the humble, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to release those in prison, to comfort those who mourn, to give them garlands instead of ashes, oil instead of mourner's tears.**

Leader: In a season full of so much to do, instead of fear and anxiety, we listen to the words of the angels to the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night: *Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy of all the people.* Through JOY, we share the good news: *Go and tell what you have seen and heard, the poor receive good news, and the dead are raised to new life.*

**All: God of all creation, you bring forth flowers in the desert and water in a weary land. Open our hearts that we may know your presence and believe. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

#128, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
W Żłobie Leży

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

**Narrator 2:** One day, an angel appeared to a young woman named Mary. *(Olivia)*

**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? *(Beth and Narrator 2)*

**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. *(also Narrator 2)*

**Reading** Mary Visits Elizabeth ~ Luke 1:39-49

**Narrator 2:** Mary quickly left to visit Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Elizabeth:** Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! You are full of grace to believe that what the angel told you would come true! *(Liz)*

**Mary:** My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, for he has looked on a lowly servant with favor. All generations will call me blessed! Holy is God’s name! *(also Narrator 2)*

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

**Joseph:** When I found out that Mary was pregnant before we were to be married, I planned to dismiss her quietly because I wanted to do the right thing and didn’t want to publicly humiliate her. *(Jack)*

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

**Congregation:** **All this took place to fulfill what has been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, which means, God is with us.”**

**Special Music** "Angels We Have Heard On High"  
French Carol, *Les Anges dans nos campagnes*  
David Clark and Stephen Dunlap, Saxophones

## II. The Community Hears the Word of God

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

**Emperor Augustus:** I, Emperor Augustus, issue a decree that all the world should be registered. All should go to their own towns to be registered! *(Allison)*

**Narrator 3:** Joseph and Mary also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. *(Lauren)*

**Meditation** **"The Christmas Star"**  
**Rev. Alice Rose Tewell**

**Procession of Children, Youth, and Helpers**  
#136 (verses 1 and 3), "Go Tell It on The Mountain"  
Go Tell It

**Reading** Shepherds and Angels ~ Luke 2:8-14

**Shepherd 1:** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. *(Corrine)*

**Shepherd 2:** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them *(Penny)*

**Shepherd 3:** We were terrified! *(and Elliot)*

**Angel:** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

**Narrator 3:** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” *(Lauren)*

**The Sacrament of Child Baptism** *Lila Frances Ashworth*

**Baptismal Hymn** "God's Child" *See Baptism insert*

## III. The Community Responds to the Word

**Anthem** "Mary Had a Baby "

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

**Narrator 4:** Sometime after Jesus was born, three wise men journeyed to Jerusalem. They had carefully studied the stars to learn that a King had been born in that region. They stopped at King Herod’s palace. *(Astrid)*

**Gold Wise Man:** Where is the newborn King? *(Aidan)*

**Frankincense Wise Man:** We have seen the bright star and know that he is to be King of the Jews. *(Sam)*

**Myrrh Wise Man:** We want to worship him. *(Philip)*

**Narrator 5:** But King Herod did not like this news. *He* was King of the Jews! *(Jacob)*

**Herod:** I do not want to share my throne with anyone, and certainly not with a baby! My chief priests tell me that this King in Bethlehem is to be a shepherd to God’s people! Seek this King in Bethlehem. When you find him, return to me and tell me where he is...so that I can worship him too. *(Malcolm)*

**Narrator 6:** The wise men traveled to Bethlehem and presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. *(Linda)*

**Offertory** #137, "He Came Down"  
He Came Down

**\*Prayer of Dedication**  
**Narrator 7:** **Gift-giving God, of Angels and Stars, Magi and Shepherds, promise and hope, journeys and longings; God who calls and sends, blesses and guards, hides and reveals, asks and waits. Ancient love, that is always new; God of Christmas, God of our hearts; may we bear the Christ, to everybody who needs him, and allow his birth in us again. Amen.** *(Alex)*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

*Lauren and Pastor Alice* **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** *Julia*

**\*Recessional and Sending Hymn**  
# 134, "Joy to the World"  
Lowell Mason

- Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**  
**Let earth receive her king;**  
**let every heart prepare him room,**  
**and heaven and nature sing,**  
**and heaven and nature sing,**  
**and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
- Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**  
**Let all their songs employ,**  
**while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains**  
**repeat the sounding joy,**  
**repeat the sounding joy,**  
**repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- No more let sins and sorrows grow,**  
**nor thorns infest the ground;**  
**he comes to make his blessings flow**  
**far as the curse is found,**  
**far as the curse is found,**  
**far as, far as the curse is found.**
- He rules the world with truth and grace,**  
**and makes the nations prove**  
**the glories of his righteousness**  
**and wonders of his love,**  
**and wonders of his love,**  
**and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**\*Commissioning to Ministry and Benediction**  
**Postlude**

Finale on "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"  
David Willcocks

**Narrator 1:**  
*(Julia)*