


Adult Sunday School	
Adventures in Prayer	Today, 10:20 a.m., Lincoln Parlor
Maybe you are new to prayer. Maybe prayer is as natural to you as breathing. This class, meeting in the Lincoln Chapel at 10:20 a.m., is for everyone and anyone who takes prayer seriously. We learn together and pray together. All questions, joys and concerns are welcome. Come when you can.	
An Advent Odyssey	Today and December 20, 10:00 a.m., Room 511
The word Advent comes from the Latin "to come to". The Advent and Christmas stories in Luke and Matthew are full of travel: Of the coming of the angel to Mary; of the visit of Mary to Elizabeth; of the hopeful trip of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; of the arrival of the Christ child; of the approach of the shepherds and magi; of the desperate journey of the new family to Egypt. Gwenn Gebhard, Tom Dunlap and Paul Dorman will bring the power and insight of poetry to our own odyssey to the manger and beyond. Come and read with us!	

Preaching Schedule	
December 20	Rev. Roger J. Gench
December 27	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 3	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 10	Rev. Alice Rose Tewell

Counters	
December 13	John Schultheis and Martha Davis
December 20	Dan Stokes and ShuXian McKenna
December 29	Ruth and Fritz von Fleckenstein

	Ministers:	The Entire Congregation
	Pastor:	Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.
	Associate Pastor:	Alice Rose Tewell, 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. Linda LeSourd Lader, M. Div.
	Director of Dance:	Kathryn Sparks, M.T.S.
	Young Adult Volunteer:	Angela Williams; Community Club and Radcliffe Room

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
"An inclusive, justice-seeking church"ja
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 Rev. Roger Gench: rfgench@mindspring.com
 Rev. Alice Tewell: alice.tewell@nyapc.org
 Rev. Linda LeSourd Lader : Linda.Lader@gmail.com
 Rev. Ann Davie : annrosedavie@gmail.com
 Jasmine Jowers, Church Administrator: jasmine.jowers@nyapc.org
 Jan Maheras, Staff Accountant : janet.maheras@nyapc.org
 Cheria McMillan, Office Associate: cheria.mcmillan@nyapc.org
 Angela Williams, Young Adult Volunteer : angela.williams@nyapc.org

Opportunities for Service

7-2-9 Club – Enjoy a Wednesday evening (yes, from 7 to 9 p.m.), 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 (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 or go to 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

Radcliffe Room Ministry – Come join our homeless guests, Sundays, 8:15-9:45 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

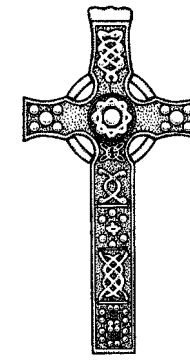
The Peace Candle – Visitors are invited to take a Peace Candle home to their congregations. Candles are at the back, right side, of the sanctuary. Please sign the note card there, so we may know who you are. For more information about the Peace and Justice Committee activities, contact Marilyn Seiber, 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 Beth DuMez, bethdumez@erols.com or Barry Tindall, 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) or Benno Lauer (benno.lauer@gmail.com)

Annual Stewardship - Each of the ministries described on this page, as well as everything else that happens at this church, is supported in a significant way by Annual Stewardship giving. Annual Stewardship is the act of making a financial pledge to the church operating budget for a year and completing that pledge. It is a deep personal and congregational theological act, and it is essential to the worship, community, and mission of this church! Members, affiliates, and friends are all invited to participate in Annual Stewardship. Please contact Jan Maheras, the church accountant, Laura Asiala, the chair of the Annual Stewardship Committee, or Rev. Roger Gench, the Senior Pastor, for more information, questions, or to make your pledge.

We are in need of volunteers to help make NYAPC a welcoming place for our visitors and members by staffing the welcome table in the narthex before and after services. Welcome table volunteers arrive about 20-30 minutes before a Sunday service to greet worshipers and then hang out for about 15-20 minutes after the service to chat with visitors and members during coffee time. For more details visit <http://bit.ly/1OFPh6r>. If you are interested in signing up for one (or more!) services please contact Alison Kootstra Nowak at amkootstra@gmail.com or Paul Dornan at pbdornanp@aol.com.



Celebration of Worship

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

December 13, 2014

11 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Silent Reflection

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 Carols of the Season with Steel Pan Drum Improvisations
 Josanne Francis, Pannist

Introit “Carol of the Bells”
 Traditional, Arr. Mannheim Steamroller
 David Clark, Saxophone

***Lincoln Chimes**

I. The Community Gathers for Worship

Welcome and Reflection

Call to Worship Led by members of the Upper
***The Lighting of Advent Candles** Elementary Class

The Candle of Joy Candle Lighters Sam, Penny and Elliott
 From Isaiah 61 and Matthew 11

Astrid: Prepare the way of the Lord! We lit the first two candles of hope and peace. Now we light this candle of 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, and to release to those in prison, to comfort those who mourn, to give them garlands instead of ashes, oil instead of mourners tears.*

Jacob: In a season full of so much to do, especially when we want to calm our fears and our tensions, we listen to the words of the angels cried out to the shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks by night:

All: *Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy of all the people.*

Philip: Through JOY, we share the good news of Jesus Christ:

All: *Go and tell what you have seen and heard, the poor receive good news, and the dead are raised to new life.*

Aidan: God of all creation, You bring life giving hope to the most surprising places.

All: As we worship you today, open our hearts that we may know You and believe. Amen

***Opening Hymn**

#82, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
 Hyfrydol

II. The Community Hears the Word of God

What If Jesus Was Born Today As told by narrators and NPR Reporters

First Reading *(based on Luke 1:26-37)*
As read by Mary, Angel Gabriel and Elizabeth

***Hymn #100**, “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” (Canticle of Turning)
Star of The County Down

Prayer of Confession *(based on Matthew 1:18-25)*

Joseph: About three months later 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.

Congregation: **God of grace, we confess that we are not open to Your miracles. 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.**

Assurance of Pardon

Angel Gabriel: 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.”**

Responsive Music and Dance “We Saw Three Ships”
Led by David and Beth Clark

Second Reading *(based on Luke 2:1-7)*
As told by Joseph, Mary, NPR Youth Radio Correspondent, and NPR Correspondent

Responsive Hymn

#114, *(verse 1)*, “Away in the Manger”
Cradle Song

Third Reading *(based on Luke 2:1-7)*
As told by Narrators, Girl on iPhone, Office worker, Urban Farmer, Angels and Sheep

Anthem "Drummer Boy" and “In the Bleak Midwinter”
Upper Elementary and Middle School Choir

III. The Community Responds to the Word

Responsive 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.

Offertory #135, "There’s a Star in the East”
Follow

***Response** #607, “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
Doxology
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Led by Elliot and Astrid
Elliot and Astrid Let us pray:

All: 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, which 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.

***Passing of the Peace**

Jacob: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Jacob: Let us share the peace of Christ with each other.

*** Sending Hymn:**

#119, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Mendelssohn

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain***

**3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

***Commissioning to Ministry**

Malcolm: Go in peace to love and serve God!

Corinne: May the love that made the stars be your guiding light.

Liz: May the love revealed in Jesus, be your hope and inspiration;

Allison: May the love of the ever-present Spirit, give you courage, joy, and hope, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction #177, *(verses 1 and 2)*, “I Will Come to You”
Led by Upper Elementary and Middle School Choir

Postlude

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”
Traditional, arr. Mannheim Steamroller
David Clark, Saxophone

We wish to thank all of the youth (especially our little sheep), directors, dancers, Rev. Alice, and musicians including David Clark and Josanne Francis for their leadership in worship this morning!

The Peace Candle on the chancel reminds us to pray for victims of mass shootings across the nation and refugees displaced by terrorism around the world.

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.

During part of the Advent and Christmastide Season, for 4 Sundays, we also join together for a single service. On Dec 13, 20, 27 and January 3 please join us for a single service at 11 am. (Please note the change in time from previous years).

Assisted Listening: Do you have difficulty hearing the service? Our assisted listening system may help you. The system consists of a small wireless receiver and an ear phone. You may also use your own choice of ear phones or t-coil equipped hearing aids with the receiver. Please contact Joe Thierry at jthierry@erols.com or 703-568-5158 for more information.

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

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

Families with Infants and children: Infants and toddlers 4 and under are welcome in the **Park Level nursery**. Care is provided by licensed, paid professionals. The nursery is open from 8:30 a.m.–12:30p.m. During the services, **children’s worship bulletins**, crayons and books are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. During the sermon time, Pastor Alice and helpers offer **Worship Play** for ages 3-10. During this worship playtime, the children are invited to pray, listen to stories from the Bible and related picture books, sing a song or do a simple craft. At the end of Worship Play, the children are offered a peanut free snack. **There is no worship play on December 13 or 24.**

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.

If you have been worshipping regularly at the New York Avenue Church and do not yet have a permanent nametag or have somehow mislaid your permanent nametag, please fill out a blank form with your name in the envelopes on either of the nametag kiosks in the narthex and the church entryway on the first floor. You will find your permanent nametag on one of the kiosks on one of the next two Sundays. Nametags are just one more way New York Avenue strives to be a welcoming presence in Washington!