

Adult Sunday School	
Adventures in Prayer	Today, 10:20 a.m., Lincoln Chapel
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, 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 Dornan 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 27	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 3	Rev. Roger J. Gench
January 10	Rev. Alice Rose Tewell

11:00 a.m.	
Candle Lighters	Hiemstra-Hill Family
Liturgist	Jenean McKay
Tour Guide	Paul Dornan
Worship Play	Rev. Alice Rose Tewell and Dawn Hill

Counters	
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"

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Rev. Alice Tewell: alice.tewell@nyapc.org

Rev. Beth Braxton: revbeth.braxton@gmail.com

Rev. Ann Davie: annrosedavie@gmail.com

Rev. Linda LeSourd Lader: Linda.Lader@gmail.com

Catherine Schultheis: ceks12601@yahoo.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 20, 2015

11 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Johannes Brahms

Introit

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Hyfrydol

*Lincoln Chimes

I. The Community Gathers for Worship

Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 89: 1-4

*The Lighting of Advent Candles

Hiemstra-Hill Family

Leader: Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent wreath, the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy. God speaks in many ways: through dreams, visions, new ideas, and the kicking of a child not yet born, a child to be born in Bethlehem of Judah. We light our fourth candle, as a sign of God's love, shining in the world through people past and present.

All: I will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that Your steadfast love is established forever; Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: God said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

All: Living Christ, incarnate amongst us all, give us hope to follow You, peace to put our trust in You, joy to adore You, and love to recognize You in the face of all others. We praise You for Your abounding never changing love. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

#104, (verses 1 and 2) “O, Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben, 1614

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder, as we journey into these final days of Advent we confess that we have busied ourselves with things we need to get done, until we have lost all our energy. We have tried to meet others expectations and forgotten about the beauty of the expectation and hope of this season. We have forgotten that we are first Your beloved children. Forgive us. Inspire us. Show us how to open our hearts wide to Your love for the world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**Please stand, if able*

