Adult Sunday School: "Reframing Eve" The Garden of Eden has a terrible litter problem! It is knee deep in our prejudices and preconceptions. We will engage in interpretive litter control by reconsidering the Genesis portrait of the most maligned woman in all of scripture. We will consider new insights provided by feminist re-readings of the story, and reflect on ways in which it has impacted, and continues to impact, our imaginations, beliefs, attitudes, behavior, and popular culture. Rev. Frances Taylor Gench will lead.

Adult Sunday School: Sunday, December 8 10 a.m., Room 511

Cuba Partners Bible Study: In his birth narratives, Luke places hymns on the lips of those taking part in the Blessed Event: Mary, Zechariah and Simeon. For Luke (as Albert Schweitzer wrote of Bach), "the tones do lead."


Opportunities for Service

7-3-8 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 Gobbert, spence.gobbert@stclare.org

Community Club — A one-wish—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 Kurt and Shumika Bradley at director@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 selects proposals and awards grants to grassroots nonprofit 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, jsraul@scgbusiness.com or (202) 735-5003.

Radioactive 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 Robin, robins.eleanor@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 of the flower and planter beds along the church walk, we meet 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month. Contact Loretta Peterson, petersonlilo12@gmail.com or Barry Tindall, ytindall@verizon.net

NYAF’s Young Adults — Most Sundays, those in their 20s/30s (body or heart!) causae 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 (matt.asada@gmail.com)

Celebration of Worship

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

December 8, 2013 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent

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

O Root of Jesse, O Peace, set up Your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of Your eternal presence in creation, for You live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.

I. The Community Gatherings for Worship

Prelude

"Uns ist ein Kind geboren," Cantata BWV 142 J. S. Bach

David Brown, Joanna Tay, Sheyna Burt, Peter Orte, and Caroline Beethquer, Orchestra

Introit 8:45 "Uns ist ein Kind geboren," Chorus J. S. Bach

11:00 "Dein Geburstag ist erschienen" David Williams, baritone solo

*Lincoln Chimes

*The Lighting of Advent Candles

The Peace Candle and Call to Worship

Leader: We light 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 light 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.

All: We light the second candle of Advent for all peacemakers, who envision the wolf living with the lamb.

Leader: We light the second candle of Advent for ourselves, for we, too, are given the task to bear the peace of Christ in the world.

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

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

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Welcoming God, have mercy on Your people. We confess that we do not hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. We do not prepare for Your coming and we keep our paths crooked. We do not heed Your word of peace each day in all that we do and say. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom You have made. In Your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and want to bear worthy fruit. We pray that You would gather us to You and show us Your way of peace.

*Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

*Please stand, if able
*Response

#88 (verse 7), "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Veni Emmanuel
O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*A Brief Statement of Faith  
(Pages 37-38, "Glory to God" hymnal)

II.  The Community Hears the Word of God

First Lesson
Isaiah 11:1-10, page 602, NRSV

Leader:    This is the word of the Lord.
People:    Thanks be to God.

Anthem  
"Ich will den Namen Gottes loben"

Time for Children

Second Lesson
Romans 15:4-13, page 153, NRSV

Leader:    This is the word of the Lord.
People:    Thanks be to God.

Sermon  
"With One Voice"
Rev. Roger J. Gench

III.  The Community Responds to the Word

*Sermon Hymn
11:00  During the singing of this hymn, the congregation is invited to come forward and turn in their Commitment Cards, indicating a renewed commitment to one another and this church in the year ahead.

#105, "People Look East"
Benediction

1 People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength to seek the nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Concerns of the Church

Minutes for Mission
Giving of Morning Tithes and Offerings

Offertory
8:45  * As We Gather Around the Table for Giving and Prayer at the conclusion of the service, we renew our commitments to this congregation as we mark and turn in our Commitment Cards.
11:00  "Jesu, dir sei Dank gesungen"  
Ian Elder, tenor solo

*Response  
#607, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

We give thanks, Holy One, for all good things for this universe and for the Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for food and water, for light and darkness. Lord Christ, Prince of Peace, in our gifts let Your kingdom come, let Your peace come. Turn our offerings to Your good will, and turn us always to You in gratitude. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

*Passing of the Peace  

*Sending Hymn

# 106, "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Benedicte, viâg fôr herren
1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O best is Christ who came in God's most holy name.