



HORIZONS

The Newsletter of the People of Heritage Presbyterian Church

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Christmas on Sunday, A Wedding and A New Year!

Christmas on Sunday

This year Christmas is on a Sunday. I'm sure most of us would rather stay home that day in our pajamas, sitting in the midst of family and torn wrapping paper, enjoying the delicious smells from the kitchen and sipping eggnog. Believe me, I understand.

Why would anyone want to have to leave the material things we find under the tree and go to the trouble of putting on clothes to go to church yet again? This is our battle every day — our own desires versus God's call on our lives! We are called by God to daily choose him over every other thing. We are challenged to consider what and who is most important. When we drop everything and put him first, we are fulfilling our very purpose of life on this earth...to give God glory.

I know, I know...you can glorify God in your pajamas at home. But perhaps this year you can make a bold statement to yourself, your neighbor, your child, and your spouse...I choose to honor God with worship this day of all days, the day he sent the Savior into the world. *I'll see you there!*

A Wedding

We're getting married! That is, our son, Keller is getting married on December 29, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Keller and Kate have recently moved to Seattle where Kate is a first year seminary student. Keller continues to work for Zondervan as the web developer for BibleGateway. We are extremely thankful for them both.

Van and I have been remembering how exciting it was to be newly married. There is so much discovery, passion for each day and dreaming for the future. Why is it the older we grow, the less we seem to be fully alive to the possibilities of each day?

I don't think God is finished with me or you just yet, no matter what our age. God says, "For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11, *NLT*). Maybe part of that plan includes living like a newlywed — full of discovery and passion and dreams.

*Why is it the
older we grow,
the less we seem
to be fully alive
to the possibilities
of each day?*

A New Year

Are you looking forward to 2012? Do you need a new beginning...a fresh start...brand new opportunities to learn something new, make a new friend or explore a place you've never been before?

In 2 Samuel 22, David praises God for a new beginning by composing a song to include these words: "God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him. When I cleaned up my act, he gave me a **fresh start**. Indeed, I've kept alert to God's ways; I haven't taken God for granted. Every day I review the ways he works, I try not to miss a trick. I feel put back together, and I'm watching my step. God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes" (*The Message*).

Together let's keep alert to what God is doing each and every day...and may your Christmas and New Year be full of great joy!

PASTOR HOLLY

2011 SESSION

Sam Armstrong
Clerk of Session

Kari Ann McDonald
*Children's Christian
Education / Youth*

Romelda Guglielmo
Communications & Media

Mary Oliver
Congregation Care

Diana Johannes
Congregational Life

Chris Stirewalt
Discipleship

Bill Sams
Finance & Stewardship

Susan Palmer
Missions

Peggy Russo
Personnel

Richard Peterson
Property

Jim Ferguson
Worship / Evangelism

Pastor Holly Davis
Associate Pastor

Pastor Bill Teng
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Finance & Stewardship, Elder Bill Sams

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful and thankful Thanksgiving with family and friends and honored the Giver-of-All-Good-Gifts! Except for the dark evening commutes from Dulles (I'm thankful for podcasts!) this is one of my favorite times of the year, as I anticipate spending warm times with family and friends and heading into the Advent season.

One of my favorite December memories is of a luau Sara and I attended in Hawaii on a vacation with friends. After the sumptuous feast, the classic Polynesian entertainment began with pounding drums, athletic men, twirling torches, and lovely ladies in grass skirts. Our hearts now pounding from the thrilling dances and acrobatic displays, the evening gave way to a quieter and gentler type of Hawaiian music and the relaxing visual language of the hula. To our surprise and delight, the story told via hula was the Nativity story; and to our further amazement, the performers went on to point to the cross of the Christ. The wonderful performers used their unique gifts and talents to share God's Story in one of the most beautiful ways I'd ever seen. It makes me ask, how do I use my unique gifts and talents to do the same?

Our giving of financial support is not quite as poetic as a hula, but I do typically use this space to give a report, so here it goes: As of November 20, we have received 54 pledges, a couple more than we had at this time last year. The Finance & Stewardship Committee would be grateful if all pledge intentions could be sent to the church by December 4, so that we have a good idea how best to estimate income for 2012. You may mail your pledge form to — **Attention: Financial Recording Secretary, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22308**, or drop it by the church Office in a sealed envelope at any time. If you need a pledge form, you may download the 2011 PDF version from <http://www.heritagechurchva.org/serve/stewardship.html> or request one from **Denise Hayden** in the Office by phone or email.

At the time of this writing, our November 2011 income is tracking slightly lower than November 2010 which, due to finishing October 2011 with a \$5,300 deficit, likely means we'll be entering December with a year-to-date operating deficit. It is entirely possible we can make that up with a typically strong December finish. However, we have \$14,000 in year-end Missions support commitments that we will meet out of December income and our Reserve Fund if need be. If you have met your 2011 pledge or giving intent we are grateful. If you have not but still can, it would help us finish 2011 in the black. If you have been waiting to see how the year ended, please know that the need is present now and any additional contribution in December will help, be appreciated and be well applied. And lastly, if you are one of our extended *HORIZONS* subscribers, why not consider remembering Heritage in your year-end giving?

Mahalo Nui Loa and a Mele Kalikimaka!

Financial Snapshot

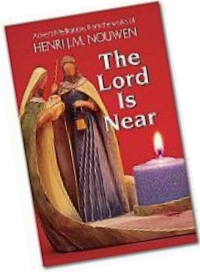


| 2011 Stewardship | Oct. | YTD | Budget |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Operating Fund Revenues | \$33,976 | \$333,790 | \$419,433 |
| Operating Expenses | \$34,358 | \$339,145 | |
| Over (Under) | (\$382) | (\$5,355) | |
| Giving* | | | |
| Tithes and Offerings | \$30,778 | \$290,812 | |
| Special Offerings | \$1,507 | \$9,636 | |
| Building Fund | \$235 | \$1,760 | |

*Tithes and Offerings in regular (white) envelopes apply toward the 2011 Budget of \$419,433 unless otherwise notated. Special-Envelope Offerings (e.g., One Great Hour of Sharing) and Special Appeals (e.g., Disaster Relief) are free will offerings over and above pledged amounts and do not support the operations of Heritage but are passed through to various missions.

*The Session and Staff at Heritage wish everyone
a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled 2012!*

Christian Education, Pastor Holly Davis



Advent Devotional

It's not too late to pick up a copy of the Advent meditations *The Lord is Near* by **Henri Nouwen**. Let's prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. You'll find the books near each church exit.

Christian Education Matters

Children's Sunday School

Sunday, Dec. 11 — Combined K-5 Advent Sunday School

Sunday, Dec. 18 — Special Christmas Celebration
in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1st — No Sunday School

Youth

Sunday, Dec. 4 — **Christmas Party!** 5:30 P.M. at HPC

Sunday, Dec. 11 — Advent Middle & High Youth Class

Sunday, Dec. 18 — Christmas Skit by Youth
in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 25 & Jan 1st — No Classes

Hope & Healing

The next **Hope & Healing** gathering is on Sunday, **December 11**, at 5:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Please know all are invited for a time of worship and prayer. Come to leave your burdens with God, have your hope renewed and your heart refreshed.



Jenny Kennedy teaches the Middle School youth on Sunday morning.

LOOKING AHEAD to 2012...

Hope & Healing — Sunday, **January 8**, at **5:00 P.M.** in the Sanctuary.

Pastors Class — *NEW!* **Pastor Bill** begins a new series on **Monday, January 9**, from **7:30-8:30 P.M.** in the Library.

Youth Group — Don't forget we meet **Sunday, January 15**, at **5:30 P.M.** — Start looking for clues about this unforgettable evening.

Family Night — I know you can't wait for this fun family evening together — The entire church family is invited to come on **Friday, January 20**, at **6:00 P.M.** *Mark your calendars now!*

Lectionary Readings for Sundays in December 2011

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Dec. 4 | Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8 |
| Dec. 11 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126:1-6 or Luke 1:47-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 |
| Dec. 18 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 |
| Dec. 24 | Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:1-13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) |
| Dec. 25 | At Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97:1-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20; Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-9; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14 |

Lectionary Readings for Sundays in January 2012

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Jan. 1 | Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40 |
| Jan. 6 | Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12 |
| Jan. 8 | Genesis. 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11; |
| Jan. 15 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51 |
| Jan. 22 | Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20 |
| Jan. 29 | Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28 |

Around the Parish



- ◆ **Chris Battle** (friend of Rich Cooper)
- ◆ **Ed Davis** (Van's father)
- ◆ **James Ebert** (Syvia Wasylyk's brother-in-law)
- ◆ **Franklin Harris** (Jean Swinbank's father)
- ◆ **Walt Hubbell**
- ◆ **Dr. "Babe" Loughridge** (Jeff's father)
- ◆ **Rick McIntosh** (Mac & Eve's son)
- ◆ **Ramona Newsome** (Romelda Guglielmo's sister)
- ◆ **Myrna Oliver**
- ◆ **Glenna & Dorsie Page**
- ◆ **Sylvia Wasylyk**
- ◆ **William Wasylyk** (Sylvia's uncle)

Please remember **Ann Wood** and family in your prayers as her husband, **Rev. Carol A. Wood**, founding pastor of Heritage, died on November 9 in Ohio. A memorial service was held on November 19 at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati.

Please pray for those who need gainful employment in this depressive economy and for the safety and protection of the men and women serving our country in the Armed Forces.

Lunch Bunch

Heritage's Lunch Bunch traditionally enjoys the final lunch of the year at the **Mount Vernon Inn**. This year is no exception. Lunch will take place in the "Tavern" on **Wednesday, December 7, at Noon**. Look at the menu options at www.mountvernon.org/visit/dining/index.cfm/pid/3/. We need to provide management with our count in advance, so please RSVP **Elders Vivien or Richard Peterson** by Sunday, December 4, at 703-660-6988 or email Viviene703@aol.com. After great food and fellowship, don't forget to explore the beautiful decorations, and pick up fabulous items in the gift shop. Important information and reminders: Separate checks will not be available; Mount Vernon discount cards are for gift shop purchases only.

Let's begin the New Year at a favorite restaurant! Meet us on **Wednesday, January 4, at Thai Na Korn**, 8733F Cooper Road, one block east of Richmond Highway. Come and explore their wonderful new menu with fabulous dishes for everyone's taste. Remember, you don't have to have "hot and spicy." Each dish is made to your taste! Please RSVP by Monday, January 2. In the meantime — *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you and your families!*

The Conversation Continues...

In December, the Small Group will meet in the church library on **Tuesday, December 6, at 9:00 A.M.**, as we talk about the command to "be kind to one another" (Ephesians 4:31-32). On **December 20**, the group will meet at the home of **Pat and Mary Oliver** for breakfast and fellowship. Small group is always open for new participants.

Into the New Year, the discussion continues to be led by the *One Anothering* book series by Richard Meyer as we examine the "one anothering" passages of teaching, living in harmony, forgiving, do not envy, being hospitable and honoring. Small group works to build a spiritual community as a group studying, caring and praying together. Dates for the study for January will be decided at the upcoming meeting and announced in the church bulletin. Contact **Elder Mary Oliver** at 703-341-6179 for more information.

Annual Reports

Attention: Committee & organization chairs! The time between now and the Annual Congregational Meeting in late January goes very quickly. Please set aside time now to write your *Annual Report*. The deadline is **Monday, January 9, 2012**. Please send reports via email to the Office Manager at office@heritagechurchva.org. *Thank you for your kind cooperation!*

"Lessons & Carols"

Our worship service on **December 11** promises to be a rich display of musical talent, all from within our congregation and will include our **Sanctuary Choir, Heritage Ringers**, and other musical guests for a special Advent celebration. A congregational luncheon will follow immediately. *Spread the word and come join us!*

Christmas Poinsettia

Christmas Poinsettias will again adorn our Sanctuary during the last week of Advent and Christmas. If you would like to purchase one or more in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out an order form available on the bulletin board in the hallway, or contact the Office Manager at 703-360-9546, or via email at office@heritagechurchva.org.

Search and You Will Find on Our Website!

Have you taken a look at our website lately? It is full of information on all the great things we are doing here at Heritage. The homepage includes a list of Upcoming Events, and the site features our church calendar so you won't miss a single activity. And thanks to the talent of our own **Elder Bill Sams**, the website is now completely search-able. Powered by Google, the new search feature can help you find anything you need on our site. Be sure to bookmark www.heritagechurchva.org and visit often!

Heritage Presbyterian Women, Elder Mary Oliver

Presbyterian Women offers opportunities for study, sharing and service for all women of the church. In December, the **Made By The Bell Sale** is created, staffed and supported by the women of Heritage to raise funds to support projects supporting women and children. The sale is **December 2 and 3 in the Fellowship Hall**. A big thank you to **Jenny Kennedy** for her devotion to making MBTB a success and all those who meet and fellowship in the craft meetings throughout the year. *Together we serve!*

On **December 11**, following our special Lessons and Carols worship service, Heritage Presbyterian Women (HPW) will host the Fellowship Hour. Arrangements are being made by our Fellowship coordinators: **Anne Ferguson** and **Nancy Worden**. Please contact Anne or Nancy if you are able to assist.

HPW will again serve an evening meal to the **Fairfax County Nurturing Parents** program meeting at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church on **Monday, January 30**. We are in need of volunteers to assist with portions of the meal and a few people to help with serving the meal. Please check the sign up sheet outside the Fellowship Hall in January, or at the Circle meetings, or contact **Elder Mary Oliver** to help. *Many hands work in service — please consider this valuable ministry!*

Thank you, **Eve McIntosh**, for bringing our Heritage Presbyterian Memorial Plaque up to date! This plaque, which hangs in the church Library, list the names of departed HPW members.



A few of the women from Dorcas Circle: Mary Lyons, Elizabeth Tolles, Joan Coe, Pat Carvellas and Karen Christenson.



A few of the women from Rebecca Circle: Winnie Larson, Pat Meeks, Gail Trimble, Rea Ayers, Susan Palmer, Joan McLellan, Romelda Guglielmo, Ann Perkins and Eve McIntosh.

The 50th Anniversary of Heritage was put together on over 60 pages of memories at the November 5 **Family Album** gathering. It was a time of sharing stories with both long-term members and new arrivals to the Heritage family, as photos were sorted and pasted and a meal was shared. It truly was a time of family as a church. *Thank you to all who attended!*

A highlight of the day was the wonderful timeline brought by charter member, **John Hayes**. The timeline was prepared for the 30th Anniversary in 1992. *Thank you, John!* Please check out the timeline in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in helping to fill in the 20 years to our current celebration, contact **Elder Mary Oliver**. There are still more pages to be completed, as we work to get these albums ready for Heritage's 50th anniversary celebration in April.

Dorcas Circle will meet on **Tuesday, December 6**, at the home of **Tina Adamson** for their Christmas meeting. The January meeting will be hosted by **Pat Carvellas** on **January 3**. Dorcas Circle meets in the evenings on the first Tuesday of the month in members' homes. Circle leaders are **Elizabeth Tolles** and **Pat Carvellas**. In December, **Rebecca Circle** will

meet in the church Library with **Susan Palmer** leading the lesson, devotion by **Winnie Larson** and hosted by me. On **January 11**, the circle meeting lesson will be led by **Rachel Messman**, with **Gail Trimble** offering the devotion and **Winnie Larson** hosting. Rebecca Circle meets monthly on the second Wednesday morning in the church Library. **Susan Palmer** is the Circle leader. Both Bible study circles are studying *Confessing the Beatitudes*. Study guides are still available.

Presbyterian Women of the National Capital Presbytery will hold their **Annual Breakfast** — Join in fellowship with women throughout the Metropolitan Washington area at the Annual PW Breakfast, on **Saturday, January 29**, at the **National Presbyterian Church in DC**. It is a time of inspiration, sharing. Watch for more information and a sign up sheet to carpool to the breakfast.

Presbyterian Women — Alone we work, together we work miracles.

Together in study, service and fellowship committed to building an inclusive, caring community of women.

December Celebrations



Birthdays

- 2 Alexandra Cooper
- Rose Guglielmo
- 7 John Zazworsky
- 8 Bert Japikse
- 9 Holly Davis
- 10 Monica Reed
- 11 Sylvia Larkin
- 12 Diana Newman
- 14 Adrienne Magnuson
- 15 Beth Azer
- Owen Sauer
- 17 Chris Geren
- 18 Kayleigh Palmer
- 20 Carolyn Liebeck
- 21 Jane Brown
- 23 Barbara Jones
- 28 Kathy Gordon
- Dennis Myers
- 29 Walt Hubbell
- Heather Thompson
- 30 Bill Teng
- Ed McClelland
- 31 Gabe Guglielmo

and

Marty Anderson
Cathy Johns



Anniversaries

Mary & Chris Stirewalt
Nancy & David Rubel
DeJuana & Charles Jones
Marge & Jess Hernandez
Elizabeth & Bill Tolles
Mary & Pat Oliver
Diana & Stephen Martin
Ann & Fred Frederick
Holly & Van Davis
Pam & Charley Budde

Local & World Outreach

Meals on Wheels — Easier, Faster, and More Efficient!

What do these people and groups have in common — **Romelda Guglielmo, Sam & Beth Armstrong, Winnie Larson, Nancy Warden, Anne Ferguson, Aaron & Jennifer, Claudia and Camille Santa Anna, Kitty St. John, John Kohout, Wolfgang Maier, Susan Palmer, Mary & Pat Oliver, Rachel Messman, Rachel Sloan, Kala Thompson** and members of the **Missions Committee** and **Small Bible Groups**? They have all volunteered to deliver meals for the Meals on Wheels (MOW) this year. A lot of these gracious volunteers have been very generous with their time and have volunteered more than once this year (you know who you are). *Thank you!* It has been a particularly trying year for our MOW volunteers because of all the changes made by Fairfax County.

Most of our volunteers have been grandfathered in and do not need to go through the new training program and background check that the county now requires for all MOW volunteers. Nametags provided by the county are now required to be worn by all volunteers. Please see **Jennifer Santa Anna** if you have not received your nametag and lanyard. If you have ever volunteered in the past for MOW, she should have one for you.

The location of pick up has also been changed from the Hospital to Gum Springs Community Center on Fordson Road. This location is easier for volunteers, as you do not have to contend with the parking/pick up problems that were sometimes encountered at the hospital parking lot. The Community Center is also smaller and easier to navigate and enter/exit than the larger, more complicated hospital location. Since INOVA did not renew their contract with the county, this means that there is also a new catering company supplying the food. The new meals are supposed to be healthier and better tasting than the “hospital food” provided in the past. They are also packed for you, so there is no counting out of meals or beverages as in the past. This seems to make the job easier and more efficient. So please keep this in mind when you are deciding to help with MOW this year — *easier, faster and more efficient volunteerism!* Please contact **Jennifer Santa Anna** with any questions.

Christmas Joy Offering

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the **Christmas Joy Offering** is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Today, this offering is distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at the six Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Although its roots trace back many years, this special offering remains just as essential today. Money given by Presbyterians across the country during the Christmas season has helped ministers of the PC(USA) and their families in times of unusual need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. And **Christmas Joy Offering** funds also provide scholarship assistance to hundreds of minority students otherwise unable to access the educational benefits of the racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). Help support our faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and great promise. More information about the **Christmas Joy Offering** may be found on the Missions Committee bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. As Presbyterians we can celebrate the love of God exemplified at Christmas by giving generously to this Offering. This year, the **Christmas Joy Offering** will be collected on **Sunday, December 18.**

Volunteers Needed for Hypothermia Outreach Program

Heritage is again joining with other churches in the Mount Vernon area to support the **Ventures In Community Hypothermia Outreach Program**, an emergency shelter program designed to reduce the wintertime health and safety risks of homeless persons in the Route 1 corridor. We will need more volunteers for this winter. **Elder Howard Borgstrom** is organizing the schedule for volunteers. Please contact him at 703-329-1059 or borgstrom@cox.net, if you're able to help out.

Heritage — Helping Those in Need

On Wednesday, October 26, members of Heritage's Missions Committee (left to right) **John Kohout**, **Joan Coe**, **Susan Palmer** and **Bob Trimble** presented United Community Ministries' Executive Director, **Cynthia N. Hull**, with a donation of \$1,000 to provide assistance to those impacted by flooding in the Huntington area of Fairfax County in September.

United Community Ministries (UCM) is assisting flood victims by providing replacements for home items and appliances that were ruined by flooding earlier in the fall. Individuals who were living in basement apartments were particularly hard hit by the disaster. UCM is working in collaboration with the local faith community, other area organizations and Coordinated Services Planning of Fairfax County to provide support to those affected by the floods. (As a member of the Fairfax County Community Chaplains Corp, **Pastor Bill Teng** was deployed by the county during that time to assist the flood victims as well.)

UCM is one of the largest providers of human services in Fairfax County. Established in 1969, it provides comprehensive assistance programs for low-income individuals, families and neighborhoods. In its fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, UCM provided life-changing assistance to 13,000 people from 5,000 families in Fairfax County.



Thanksgiving Dinner Bags

Thanks to everyone who participated in our annual Thanksgiving Dinner Bags collection. Over 60 bags of food, weighing 585 pounds, was delivered to UCM along with fifty \$10 gift cards for Shoppers Food Warehouse. A special thanks to **Elder Joan Coe** for coordinating the collection and to **Elder Susan Palmer** for loading up all those bags and delivering them to UCM.



To commemorate our **50th Anniversary**

A small, wooden replica of the church is available for \$15.00 each. Please contact the church Office to place your order.

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DON'T YOU ALL UNDERSTAND ... IT'S ONLY A FEW WEEKS UNTIL JESUS' BIRTHDAY AND HOW WOULD IT LOOK IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE NEW FUZZBO2000 FOR LITTLE BILLY?!?

*You are cordially invited to
the Ordination of
Stephen William Martin
on Sunday, the eleventh of December
in the year two thousand eleven
at four o'clock in the afternoon.
Bishop Michael W. Rinehart
of the
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
will preside.
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
4930 W. Bellfort Ave.
Houston, Texas*

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Stephen Martin**, a member of Heritage, who will be ordained into the gospel ministry on December 11 in Houston. Endorsed and supported by the Heritage Session, Stephen graduated from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa last May, and will be a commissioned chaplain in the Army National Guard. Please continue to pray for him and his wife, **Diana**.

January Celebrations



Birthdays

- 3 Pearl Azer
Danny Zazworsky
 - 6 Marcella Magruder
Lisa Taylor
Williamson
 - 8 DeJauna Jones
 - 11 Mikayla Clopper
 - 12 Bill Walker
 - 17 Nancy Worden
 - 18 Carl Liebeck
Mary Stirewalt
 - 20 Gary Larson
 - 21 Dean Kern
 - 22 Vern Coombs
Keller Davis
Anne Ferguson
 - 24 Russel Perkins
 - 28 Martha Scott Alford
 - 29 Carolyn McDonald
Ann Perkins
- and*
- Tanya Anderson
 - Terrie Causley
 - Mildred Denney
 - Rich Johns
 - Jacob Morris
 - Dorsie Page, Jr.
 - Amanda Williams



Anniversaries

- Kathy & Jim Boswell
- Bill & Kay Lee
- Dew & Mike Sheehy

50th Anniversary Committee, Elder Krieger Henderson

FLASHBACK: A Pastoral Letter of 1987!



Resurrected in the November 5 HPW scrapbook activity was a **Rev. Larry Glassco** letter to the congregation about our annual tradition of a candlelighting ceremony associated with the hanging of an Advent Wreath. Couched in the Glassco humor that we all came to know and love, the 50th Anniversary Committee deemed that the approaching Advent Season warrants bringing this letter to the congregation's attention. Herewith, it is reproduced, verbatim in its entirety:

Each year when the Worship Committee discusses plans for the Christmas season the decision made to continue the ceremony of the Candle-Lighting of the Advent Wreath. That appears to be a tradition of our Advent worship that everyone agrees should not be discontinued! The giant wreath is very impressive, and hanging it in its prominent position over the communion table, it adds a great deal to our sense of community and wonder at Christmas time, as well as providing an opportunity for us to hear about some of the symbolism of the Old and New Testament Advent expectations.

Over the years our Advent Wreath has developed some traditions of its own. Each year it must be hung — and then taken down again. **John Hayes** owns the only ladder that is high enough for the job. It takes two people to hold it while the adventurous climber makes the perilous ascent. (I have observed that our church has more “high-ladder-holders” than “high-ladder-climbers!”) I offered to do the aerial work this year for John, but he claimed the “privilege” and up he went to hang the wreath for us again.

The actual lighting of the candles is a task that focuses the attention of everyone in the congregation on the wreath. If the person who is lighting the candles is too short, the whole congregation “stretches” to help him/her reach the candle with the sputtering lighter. Sometimes a problem occurs when the candle-lighter accidentally hits the wreath and starts it rotating on its single supporting wire. Then the lighter has to “chase” the spinning candles, while the whole congregation holds its breath until the tiny flame eventually flickers alive. (I usually stand by to be a “wreath stopper” in case I am needed.) And sometimes the wicks just refuse to light — and again the whole congregation becomes involved in the breathtaking task of coaxing the tiny flame to life. The candle-lighting ceremony certainly draws our congregation together!

However, the suspense is not always over after the candles are lit. The blower for the heating system is just above the brick wall over my head, and sometimes even after I have turned the blower off, the moving air in the sanctuary causes the flames to flicker and the candles to burn unevenly. If they are not of the “slow-burning” variety, or if they are too short to begin with, they may burn down so low that it appears that they may become dangerous! If that happens during the sermon — I usually know it because I notice that the attention of most of the congregation is riveted above my head!

Other problems may occur when I sit right under the wreath during communion — and can't see the candles burning low, or when the acolyte forgets to leave the candle-lighter in the front of the church at the beginning of the service, or when the acolyte has problems extinguishing the candles after the benediction — while the organist is waiting patiently to begin the postlude.

In spite of all the attendant problems, the people of our church love the annual Advent Candle-Lighting Ceremony. The idea of lighting candles and giving new light to the world is one of the oldest and most meaningful symbolic ways of proclaiming the Advent Message and telling the Christmas story. The opportunity for families, including both children and adults, to share in the leading of our worship is heartwarming, and it helps build an atmosphere of community in our church. The Advent Candle-Lighting Ceremony each December has become a very meaningful part of our “Heritage Tradition” over the years.

Let there be light,
Larry

Heritage Presbyterian Church ~ December 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| 27 <i>Advent 1</i> 9:30a Sunday School for All Ages 10:55a Worship with Communion 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship 5:30p Youth Group | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 2 5p Christmas Craft Sale 8:30p AA Meeting | 3 7a Men's Prayer Breakfast @Denny's 9a Christmas Craft Sale 5:30p Hispanic Worship |
| 4 <i>Advent 2</i> 9:30a Sunday School for All Ages 10:55a Worship with Communion 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship 5:30p Youth Group | 5 7:30p Pastors Class | 6 9a Small Group 7p Dorcas Circle | 7 Noon – Lunch Bunch @ MV Inn | 8 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 9 8:30p AA Meeting | 10 5:30p Hispanic Worship |
| 11 <i>Advent 3</i> 9:30a Sunday School for All Ages 10:55a Lessons & Carols 12:15p Fellowship Luncheon 2:30p Hispanic Worship 5p Hope & Healing | 12 7:30p Pastors Class | 13 7p All-Committee Night | 14 9:30a Rebecca Circle | 15 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 16 8:30p AA Meeting | 17 7a Men's Prayer Breakfast (@Denny's) 5:30p Hispanic Worship |
| 18 <i>Advent 4</i> 9:30a Sunday School for all ages 10:55a Worship 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship | 19 | 20 9a Small Group 7p Session | 21 | 22 MOW 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 23 8:30p AA Meeting | 24 5:30p Hispanic Worship 6p Christmas Eve Service |
| 25 <i>Christmas</i> 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:55a Worship 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship | 26 <div style="border: 1px dashed black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> | 27 | 28 <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Office Closed</div> | 29 6p Hispanic Worship | 30 8:30p AA Meeting | 31 5:30p Hispanic Worship |

To add meetings or events to the calendar please contact the church office: 703-360-9546 or office@heritagechurchva.org

MOW= Meals on Wheels

Deadline for submitting articles and announcements for Horizons is the 15th of each month.

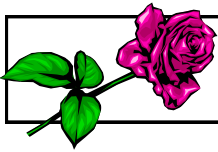
Heritage Presbyterian Church ~ January 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 <i>Christmas 1</i> 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:55a Worship with Communion 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship | 2 | 3 9a Small Group 7p Dorcas Circle | 4 Noon – Lunch Bunch | 5 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 6 8:30p AA Meeting | 7 7a Men's Prayer Breakfast @Denny's 5:30p Hispanic Worship |
| 8 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 9:30a Sunday School for All Ages 10:55a Worship 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship 5p Hope & Healing | 9 9:30a HPW Mtg. 7:30p Pastors Class | 10 7p All-Committee Night | 11 9:30a Rebecca Circle | 12 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 13 8:30p AA Meeting | 14 5:30p Hispanic Worship |
| 15 9:30a Sunday School for All Ages 10:55a Worship 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship | 16 7:30p Pastors Class | 17 9a Small Group | 18 | 19 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 20 6p Family Night 8:30p AA Meeting | 21 7a Men's Prayer Breakfast (@Denny's) 5:30p Hispanic Worship |
| 22 9:30a Sunday School for all ages 10:55a Worship 12:15p Fellowship 2:30p Hispanic Worship | 23 7:30p Pastors Class | 24 7p Session | 25 12:30p Newsletter Mailing | 26 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 27 MOW 8:30p AA Meeting | 28 5:30p Hispanic Worship |
| 29 9:30a Sunday School for all ages 10:55a Worship 12:15p Souper Lunch & Annual Congregational Meeting 2:30p Hispanic Worship | 30 5p Nurturing Parents Dinner 7:30p Pastors Class | 31 | 1 Noon – Lunch Bunch | 2 6p Hispanic Worship 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 3 8:30p AA Meeting | 4 7a Men's Prayer Breakfast (@Denny's) 5:30p Hispanic Worship |

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Smellin' the Roses, Elder Marge Hernandez

Seems that all too often these days we are saying a sad farewell to another of our favorite people. This time it is our beloved **Bill Sengel**. Nineteen or so years ago, following the retirement of Heritage's much loved **Pastor Larry Glassco**, Bill came to be our Interim. And a whale of a job he did do! When he and **Marian** departed, they left a huge fan club at Heritage. Over the years we have continued to share our ups and our downs with him and with Marian, and on occasion they have returned to visit with us. Recently they have been in residence at the Presbyterian retirement community, Westminster at Lake Ridge. And it was there that he died, and also where his funeral took place in October. Bill, we love you. Marian we love you, and we send you our hugs and our sympathy... Unfortunately, another part of Heritage's great past also left us recently. The **Reverend Carol Wood**, our founding pastor, died in Ohio, in November. Now those 50th Anniversary stories and excerpts from the church newsletters of 1962 will have a bit more meaning, and perhaps sadness, knowing that Carol Wood is gone. Some of Heritage's folks still remember the Wood family, as they recount those days of church services on uncomfortable metal folding chairs in the Waynewood School facilities. Big hugs and much love go to Ann and to the rest of the Wood family... After a big-time biopsy, **Anne Ferguson** has been given an all clear. No cancer!! Thank you God!!.. Also, **Anne & Jim Ferguson**, what was the significance of the big balloons tied in your front yard recently? Seems that more congratulations might be in order!... Great big congratulations to **Eve & Dick McIntosh** on their wedding anniversary. Does anyone know how many years those kids have been married?? Try 68!! And yes, they were in kindergarten at the time of the wedding... **Holly & Van Davis** are on a countdown now, happily anticipating the wedding of son **Keller**, during the holidays. The wedding's in Michigan, so as our gift to the Davises, we all might want to think thoughts of NO SNOWSTORMS for the week after Christmas!.. **Howard Borgstrom** was about to have knee replacement surgery, when, guess what!! He had surgery okay, but it was heart surgery instead, and on very short notice! His fan club is most thankful that he's okay and on his way to a full recovery!!.. How many of you had noticed the slightly decrepit roofing on the tool shed in the HPC back yard?? Seems that it took a direct hit a while back when a pretty large tree took aim on that little building when it fell. Well, now you can go and take another look, because the shed has a new look! A beautiful new roof is in place, just in time for the wintry blasts of the coming season... Congratulations to **Anna Johannes**, a swimmer representing the United States in the recent Pan Am Para Games in Mexico. Cheering her on were proud Mom and Dad, **Diana & Kent Johannes**!!.. And, as we know, the Marine Corps Marathon took place on a recent Sunday morning in the local area. Among the participants were brother and sister, **Tommy and Jenny Jones**. Yaaayyyy

Tommy!! Yaaayyyy Jenny!!... Thanks and congratulations to newly-elected HPC Elders, **Emily Perez-Reyes, Christie Perryman, Howard Borgstrom, Mike Larkin, Bill Sams** and **Glenn St. John**... And **Walt Hubbell**, please get all okay very soon. We have been seriously worried about you after your bad fall at home and med-evac flight up to Bethesda... **Sylvia Wasylyk**, we are rootin' for you too. It's been nice to see you back in church recently. Keep up the good work!.. **DeJuana & Charles Jones** spent several weeks in Arizona in October and November. They report seeing beautiful sights, and enjoying lovely days wherever they went. Sounds heavenly!.. Last month we were invited to attend a meeting of the Stratford Landing Women's Club, in our Fellowship Hall, to hear a special presentation. Most of us missed it, and it was our loss. The speaker, **Mike Bohn**, a neighbor in Waynewood, talked about the history of our neighbor-hoods. It was truly interesting. If you should happen to have another opportunity to hear this presentation, do consider attending... **Beth Armstrong**, it's been good to see you out and about again... Thank you to **Karen & Bill Teng** for agreeing to host the coffee hour following the Christmas Day worship service... **Karen & John Christensen** were off recently on a wonderful cruise on the Danube, visiting Christmas markets in many little European villages. Ask them about it!.. Did you happen to see in the GAZETTE a photo of **Andrew Adamson** on voting day. Hope we all got out there and enjoyed our privileges of voting... And what's coming up very soon? The Craft Sale of clever and lovely articles Made By The Bell, under the guidance of **Jenny Kennedy**. You do not want to miss this!! And best get there early so you can pick up several jars of Heritage Soup Mix!!.. Now, with the coming of Advent, and the happiness that is Christmas, settle back, get your Christmas cards mailed, shop early and avoid the crunch, enjoy decorating, and then come out for some of the special events at Heritage and in the area, and enjoy the Christmas season. Or, at least, let's try to do that! Christmas is too precious a time to waste... *Merry Christmas to all our loved ones at this special place called Heritage Church!*



Save your Christmas Card Covers for Made By The Bell and place in the box above the coat closet.

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Salvation Army Angel Tree Project

Heritage Presbyterian Women's (HPW) Salvation Army Angel Tree project is underway again this Advent season. HPW is collecting children's gifts and money for food baskets for six local families in need. There are 24 little angels (children) out there and their families who will have a brighter Christmas with our help. The deadline for returning unwrapped gifts and contributing money towards the food baskets is **Sunday, December 11**. Please follow the guidelines and bring no more than four, *unwrapped* gifts with the Angel tag with number attached in a plastic bag. Please see **Jennifer Santa Anna**, if you need a large plastic bag or have any questions. This is such a worthwhile and heartwarming mission that benefits children and families in our own area. Thank you to all who have participated this year. *You are all angels!*



**Candlelight
Christmas Eve
Worship Service**
6:00 P.M. (for all ages)

Bring your family, friends & neighbors to participate in this meditative and reflective worship service to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Blood Drive

On **Saturday, December 10, from 7:00 A.M. to Noon**, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church will host a blood drive with a Pancake Breakfast! Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome. Make your life-saving appointment today. Visit inova.org/donateblood, click on Donate Blood 2x and use sponsor code 0431 or contact **Jenny Kennedy** at 703-360-9420 or jenny.kennedy@att.net.

Mark Your Calendar
Souper Lunch &
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29, at 12:15 P.M.

For all the latest news and a full-colored edition of HORIZONS, visit our website at www.heritagechurchva.org.