

# THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital  
PRESBYTERY  
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

*November 21, 2019*



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*John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter*

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*Tara Spuhler McCabe, TDirector of Congregational Dev. & Mission*

### **Arlington Presbyterian Church ~ Gilliam Place**

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#### **Community Thanksgiving Service**

*(with combined choir)*

*November 26 – Heritage Presbyterian Church*

#### **One Starry Night in Bethlehem**

*Experience Christmas*

*December 6 & 7 – Ashburn Presbyterian Church*

#### **Silent Retreat - Blessings**

*December 6-8 – Lost River, West Virginia*

#### **Alternative Gift Market**

*December 15 – John Calvin Presbyterian Church*

#### **Save the Dates:**

##### **CALM to the Waves: A Winter Retreat**

*guest presenter: The Rev. Melanie Jones*

*sponsored by the Care Team of Committee on Ministry*

*February 3-5, 2020 – Dunes Manor, Ocean City, MD*

***On-line Registration now available***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Messiah Concert with a Cause - Sunday, December 1 - 3 p.m. - Old Presbyterian Meeting House** (323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314) - The Meeting House Choir, soloists, and orchestra—under the direction of Music Director Dr. Steven Seigart—present Messiah, the immortal 1741 oratorio by G. F. Handel, featuring his famous “Hallelujah” chorus and some of the composer’s greatest arias.

**Noonday Noëls -Old Presbyterian Meeting House -Wednesday, December 4 - 12:05 p.m.–1:35 p.m.**

Our popular Noonday Noëls series kicks off with the Brethren Men’s Choir (Patrick Vaughn, director). Join us for lunch after the concert in Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit the Meeting House’s Music Fund.

**Noonday Noëls - Old Presbyterian Meeting House - Wednesday, December 11 - 12:05 p.m.–1:35 p.m.**

Our popular Noonday Noëls series continues with the Meeting House Singers (Steven Seigart, director), who will be presenting “David Willcocks at 100: Celebrating the Famed King’s College composer.” Join us for lunch after the concert in Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit the Meeting House’s Music Fund.

**Noonday Noëls - Wednesday, December 18 - 12:05 p.m.–1:35 p.m.**

Our popular Noonday Noëls series concludes with the Annandale Singers and Women’s Chamber Ensemble (Patrick Vaughn, director). Join us for lunch after the concert in Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit the Meeting House’s Music Fund.

**National Capital Presbytery is committed to supporting clergy.** NCP expects that all clergy would be in some kind of support group and NCP does provide some funds for clergy support groups. The Care Team is collecting information about Clergy Support Groups to help clergy who want to be in a group but haven't been able to identify one.

Are you currently in a Clergy Support Group? How long has your group existed? Are you open to receiving new members? We'd like your feedback!

Please help our crowd sourcing efforts by responding to Fay Acker at [fayacker@gmail.com](mailto:fayacker@gmail.com) and Nancy Clark at [revnjbclark@gmail.com](mailto:revnjbclark@gmail.com). Thank you.



Greetings!

I had visions of grandeur about how I was going to use my paternity leave. Of course I was going to bond with my newborn son, which I did, but I was also going to finish a bunch of projects around the house, catch up on some reading, and pick up a new hobby; all while having an infant strapped to my chest while my brain was operating on 3 hour intervals of sleep. Needless to say, all those things didn't happen. I got one and half of them done. I bonded with Otis and I attempted a new hobby during my last week.

I want to start baking bread at home. Which means I needed to create a "starter" for my bread making (and that's currently how far I've gotten). In my head, bread making was a long and complicated process. I thought I was going to need to get a long list of supplies and equipment to pull this off. Turns out that's not the case. Bread, in its the truest form, is only 3 ingredients.

***Flour, salt, and water. That's it!***

With those three ingredients plus a little time, exposure to air; the bacteria that's all around us, and heat, you can transform elements that by themselves cannot sustain life to something that can not only sustain life but can feed a community.

Over the years we found it easier and more profitable to take some short cuts in our bread making. We replaced time with manufactured ingredients to speed up the process and allow a longer shelf-life. This process then created unforeseen problems in the way people digest something that we as humanity haven't had a problem with for thousands of years. We over complicated something that initially was very simple.

This is also true in our work as ***The Church***. It can seem daunting and complicated. We think we don't have the right equipment. All the things we've added over the years, thinking it would help, has only created more problems.

We too have been given a list of simple ingredients like building community through discipleship; living out The Gospel in everything we do; and rooting ourselves in love. If we do those few things, let them get exposed to the air/wind/Spirit and voila... you have ***The Church***.

It's amazing how something as simple as flour, water, and salt can transform and multiply in size with a little time and trust. Let's do the same with the things given to us from God for the glory of the church.

John



Greetings,

Lately my office that I sit in has been spending a lot of time meeting with you! Leadership in our congregations. The NCP Leadership Training held at Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church was impressive. You all came from FAR and NEAR! What I recognize is that we all deserve a time of training, listening, sharing, and fellowship. WE want to be together! Hallelujah! Your attendance tells us that you want more. We hope to put together another training for the first half of 2020. Thank you for your participation and enthusiasm. Thank you to Black Presbyterians United (BPU) and NEXT for co-organizing this opportunity.

I have also been meeting with leadership groups in specific churches to discuss “the future”. Have you ever needed to navigate a transition? You are not alone! Amid transitions: personal, professional, and congregational we can all work with similar tools of hellos and good-byes. What are the things you need to let go of and can say good-bye to in order to say hello and welcome what is before you to do or embrace? This is work we all get to do, and we want to make sure you can do it with others.

NCP works with coaches, pastors, lay leaders and consultants to support the transitional work that all of us can be within our respective congregations. You are not alone! Being in transition still takes time and work, from all of us. Remember that hard work towards the championship I lifted previously...This is our hard work. We need to constantly be in the spiritual disposition of hellos and goodbyes while grounded in the Living Word. What scripture supports you in this constant work? For me, it always is a kaleidoscope of verses and stories. This season, I find myself praying with the Parable of the Prodigal Son/Loving Father and Zacchaeus’ encounter with Jesus. These stories bring up conversations in me of how people need to adjust their perspectives and positions in order to be in or filled with the abundance of God...amazing things happen!

What scripture supports you, so that you are sustained in the work of church and discipleship? Remember, you are not alone. Transitions and Transitional are the working realities and titles in our midst these days. Let us have fun with it and continue to be grounded in the Living Word with this energy.

Peace and Courage,

Tara

# Arlington Presbyterian Church returns home in a new configuration at Gilliam Place

Arlington, Virginia, November 19, 2019—On Sunday, November 17, Arlington Presbyterian Church (APC) celebrated their homecoming. APC returned to their former site opening a new worship, office and multi-use space on the ground-floor of Gilliam Place, a 173-unit affordable housing community developed by the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) along Columbia Pike.

APC's move back to their former property where they worshipped for over a century, completes an 8-year journey for their congregation in discerning new ways they might be called to be church in the community. After their bold decision to sell their existing church building and property to APAH for the development of affordable housing in 2014, the congregation returned to lease a portion of the ground-floor retail space from APAH in the completed building. "APC's new worship space is a communal, Spirit-filled gathering area that invites participation, creativity, and equality for the sake of South Arlington," said Pastor Ashley Goff. The brand-new multi-use building is named in honor of Ronda A. Gilliam, APC's first African-American elder, a community leader and clothing ministry founder.



In the spring of 2017, APC purchased back from APAH two single-family home lots preserving open space for the neighborhood. APC is committed to using this space as gathering, garden and prayer space available for all the neighbors to use. "We were called to create a sacred green space for our neighbors and our community. Our garden is an evolving landscape. **Our desire is to offer this garden as a place of restoration: a place where life, people, and native plants can find stillness, peace, and healing,**" said Susan Etherton, Elder.

APC also looks forward to strengthening their support of La Cocina VA, a nonprofit, bilingual culinary training program for low-income individuals, who will move in next door to APC on the ground floor of Gilliam Place. "We discovered in La Cocina, a like-hearted, mission-oriented non-profit who along with us desires South Arlington to be a place of zero barriers to justice and equality. We're excited to grow alongside them," said Susan Etherton.

For over 100 years, Arlington Presbyterian Church has been a place where people of vision, connected with the community, have heard and responded to the needs of our neighbors along Columbia Pike. **Arlington Presbyterian Church is also a More Light congregation working towards the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) -- and in society.** For more information on Arlington Presbyterian Church, visit [www.arlingtonpresbyterian.org](http://www.arlingtonpresbyterian.org), for more information on Gilliam Place and APAH, visit [www.apah.org](http://www.apah.org).



From left: Sam, Ailih, Keyah, Jack, Sara, and Langley

# Thank you, NCP!

The 2019-2020 DC YAVs appreciate NCP's financial support, your prayers, and your words of encouragement. We are so glad to spend this year as a part of the NCP community. We're only just getting started, and your continued encouragement and support will help us make the most of the rest of our YAV year!

## WANT TO SUPPORT YAVS?

Address checks to:

11300 Rockville Pike, Suite 1009,  
Rockville, MD 20852

And be sure to note that it is for the  
DC YAV program on the memo line!

Want to learn more about the YAV program? We can visit your church! Contact Blair Moorhead ([bmoorhead@gmail.com](mailto:bmoorhead@gmail.com)) about arranging a visit.



● MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN ● MT. VERNON UNITARIAN ● NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ●

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ● MT. VERNON STAKE, CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST ● ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL ● RISING HOPE UNITED METHODIST MISSION CHURCH

*We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing...*

You're invited to a

# *Community Thanksgiving Service*

*with combined choir*

Tuesday, November 26, at 7:00 P.M.



**Heritage Presbyterian Church**

**8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22308**

**All are welcome!**

● ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL ● MT. VERNON UNITED METHODIST ● BUSH HILL PRESBYTERIAN ●



**A FREE  
Christmas  
Event**  
for your whole  
Family!



**One Starry  
Night**  
in Bethlehem

*Experience*  
**CHRISTMAS**

**in a whole new way this year!**

**I** magine walking through Bethlehem and smelling fresh baked bread, working in a wood shop, eating from the marketplace...then suddenly, shepherds appear to tell you the great news...a Savior has been born! You then meet Mary and Joseph and see the Baby Jesus with your own eyes.

You'll surely remember this Christmas as your family spends One Starry Night in Bethlehem!

**December 6th & 7th, 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM**

Ashburn Presbyterian Church  
20962 Ashburn Road, Ashburn, VA • 703-729-2012  
[www.ashburnpresbyterian.org](http://www.ashburnpresbyterian.org)

# Silent Retreat

## Blessings

December 6-8, 2019

**Spend a weekend in silence in Lost River, West Virginia.**

"I have come to see with greater and greater clarity that a blessing is at its most potent in times of disaster, devastation, and loss. When God's providence seems most difficult to find, a blessing helps us perceive the grace that threads through our lives. A blessing does not explain away our loss or justify devastation. It does not make light of grief or provide a simple fix for the rending. It does not compel us to 'move on'. Instead, a blessing meets us in the place of our deepest loss. In that place, it offers us a glimpse of wholeness and claims that wholeness here and now. **A blessing helps us to keep breathing—to abide this moment, and the next moment, and the one after that**".

*Introduction to The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief*  
by Jan Richardson



**Myra Bridgforth**

is a poet and a practicing psychotherapist in private practice in Vienna, Virginia



**Diane Walton Hendricks**

is a spiritual director, retreat and small group leader, and an associate pastor at Falls Church Presbyterian Church

To register and for more information

<https://myrabinnbridgforth.wixsite.com/silent-retreat>

# Visit Our Gift Market!

Details Below



CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE GIFT AT A TIME

John Calvin Presbyterian Church  
6531 Columbia Pike, Annandale VA 22003  
Sunday, December 15  
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Give an alternative gift of food, medicine, livestock or education in honor of a friend or relative. These special gifts support outreach projects that relieve suffering worldwide through outreach programs and locally through the Annandale Christian community Action (ACCA).

Come, shop, enjoy baked treats and help our world!  
Cash, Checks, Credit Cards accepted!

SAVE THE DATE  
February 3-5, 2020

## ***CALM to the Waves: A Winter Retreat***

***“Igniting Education” with guest presenter the Rev. Melanie Jones***  
*For NCP Minister Members, Christian Educators,  
NCP Staff and their Spouses*

**Monday, February 3—Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

**Dunes Manor Hotel**

**2800 Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842**

Join members of the Care Team of NCP’S Committee on Ministry for:  
Two nights Oceanfront Room accommodations; 2 breakfast buffets; 2 plated lunches;  
and 2 plated dinners!

*What to Expect: Restoring Rest and Free Time*

**COST: \$50.00 per person – ONLINE REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT OPTION [HERE!](#)**



**Teacher and activist: Rev. Melanie Jones**, Instructor of Ethics, Theology and Culture / Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is a Doctor of Philosophy candidate at Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) studying ethics, theology, and culture. Her doctoral dissertation entitled “Up Against a Crooked Gospel: Black Women’s Bodies and the Politics of Character in Religion and Society”



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