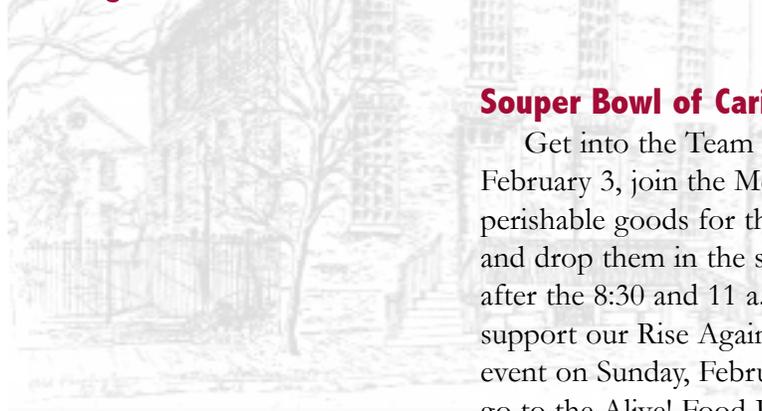


## Old Presbyterian Meeting House



### Souper Bowl of Caring and Cents-ability offering on February 3

Get into the Team Spirit with the Souper Bowl of Caring! On Sunday, February 3, join the Meeting House youth as they collect money and non-perishable goods for those in need! Bring your donations (cash or check) and drop them in the soup pots held by the youth as you depart church after the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services. The money raised will be used to support our Rise Against Hunger (formerly known as Stop Hunger Now) event on Sunday, February 10. And non-perishable food that is collected will go to the Alive! Food Pantry.

More than 29 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those that do not have a bowl of soup to eat.” Since that day, more than \$136 million has been raised across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money, and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.



The Meeting House joins other churches, schools, organizations, and individuals across the country to fight hunger and poverty by collecting dollars in soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday each year. Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

And don’t forget to bring your Cents-ability cup on February 3. We’ll collect the money deposited into your Cents-ability cups to be given to Rise Against Hunger for the purchase of ingredients for packaged meals to be distributed worldwide. As we gather at the Lord’s table to be fed and nourished physically and spiritually, we remember the many families who are hungry.

323 South Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3716  
703.549.6670  
opmh.org

Office Hours:  
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Mon.–Fri.

The Old Presbyterian Meeting House is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the National Capital Presbytery, and a Covenant Network congregation.

### Women’s Breakfast, Saturday, February 2

All Meeting House women and friends are invited to the Women’s Breakfast on Saturday, February 2, at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Allyson McKinney Timm, the founder and executive director of Justice Revival as well as an ordained Ruling Elder in the PC(USA), will be our speaker. She will present “From Eleanor Roosevelt to R.B.G.: The Long Arc of Gender Justice in America.” Please register at [bit.ly/2019womensbreakfast](http://bit.ly/2019womensbreakfast).

## MEETING HOUSE STAFF

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The Rev. Katherine A. Stanford  
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Please submit materials for the newsletter through your ministry leadership for inclusion in the newsletter. [The deadline for the March issue is February 20.](#)

## A Musical Transition and an Invitation and Opportunities for You to Help

As you know by now, Sam Baker, our Director of Music for the past 12 years, is retiring at the end of February. His last Sunday with us will be February 24, and the Worship and Administration Ministries will be hosting a farewell reception after the 11 a.m. service that day in honor of his exceptional musical contributions to OPMH.

In addition to joining us for the reception, there are two ways in which you can help make this a memorable occasion. First, if you would like to contribute toward a retirement gift for Sam, just place a check in a pew envelope marked “Sam’s retirement” in the offering plate or call or write Aaron Siirila (asiirila@opmh.org), at the church office. Second, if you would like to help in providing food for the reception, email Laura Osman (osmanalexandria@comcast.net) or George Bostick (ghbostick@gmail.com).

Following Sam’s retirement, we will welcome our new Director of Music, Steven Seigart, who is scheduled to join us at the beginning of March (see p. 6). Steven’s arrival will offer another way in which you may be able to help. Steven’s lease on his and his wife’s apartment runs until May 1. To avoid rent on two places simultaneously (an expenditure that most church musicians can ill afford), we would like to find accommodations for him during March and some or all of April. His wife, Suzanne, will keep her job in New York during this period but will visit when she can. If you have an unused in-law suite, apartment or other accommodations that you would be able to share for some or all of March and April, please contact Rocky Laha for further information.



### Rise Against Hunger on February 10

Come pack 10,000 nutritious meals in less than two hours for Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now) on Sunday, February 10, at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served between the end of the 11 a.m. worship service and the meal-packing event. Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief agency that distributes food and other lifesaving aid to children and families in countries all over the world. The meals are distributed through school feeding programs, vocational training centers, child development programs, orphanages, or medical clinics.

## February Adult Education

### The Art of Compassion

February 3: Evan Kuester, 3D Systems

Mr. Kuester is a senior advanced applications engineer specializing in custom 3D-printed prosthetic and assistive devices. He’ll discuss his current work and his experiences with Limbitless Solutions, a nonprofit organization devoted to building a generation of innovators who use their skills and passion to improve the world around them and innovate with compassion.

### Jesus & the Disinherited

February 10, 17, and 24

Therese Taylor-Stinson, Founding Managing Member, Spiritual Directors of Color Network, Ltd.

Through the work of Howard Thurman’s book by the same name, originally written 70 years ago, we will explore how Thurman’s words, though dated in terms of language and history, still ring true in the lives of the disinherited of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Using Thurman’s broad categories of Inward Reflection; “the hounds of hell” (Fear, Deception, and Hate); and our sure remedy, Love, we will reflect on current events and the lives of the disinherited in present circumstances, making our own inward journey to overcome dominance and oppression. This is not a book review, but an invitation to a deeper reflection of our own lives.

Adult Education classes meet Sunday morning from 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Heritage Hall. Coffee and refreshments are available.

## News on the Burial Ground

The Burial Ground committee has planned work this year that is only partly complete at this time. Two flat tablet stones, which previously had been located near the east end of Flounder House, were subject to damage from those accessing the water valve and workmen servicing the A/C condenser. We elected to move them to the top of the burial ground where they could be better appreciated. Our records show that these stones had already been moved at least once. The final phase of the planned work is to repair and restore the two tabletop stone markers at the western edge of the Burial Ground. The committee discussed options for repair and elected to have these four-legged tabletops rebuilt as box tombs, which we have photographic evidence to support as their original configuration.

Weather has greatly impacted work progress this Fall, but we hope the contractor can complete all work soon. The Christmas Cookie Walk netted about \$1,700 this year for the conservation of the Burial Ground, and we’re grateful to everyone for their continuing support!

### Men’s Breakfast, Saturday, March 2

All Meeting House men and friends are invited to the Men’s Breakfast on Saturday, March 2, at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Hugh Van Horn—longtime Meeting House member, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, editor, and author—will speak on the intersection between faith and science. Please register at [bit.ly/2019mensbreakfast](http://bit.ly/2019mensbreakfast).

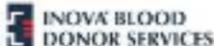
### Donors Wanted!

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Inova blood drive sponsored by the Board of Deacons will be on Sunday, February 24th from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. To sign up online go to [bit.ly/2CdGkGI](http://bit.ly/2CdGkGI) OR email Tim Elmore at [twelmore@gmail.com](mailto:twelmore@gmail.com).

**GIVE BLOOD.**  
**February 24, 2019**



**Sign up online.**  
<https://bit.ly/2CdGkGI>

OPMH Deacons  INOVA BLOOD  
DONOR SERVICES

## Senior Sidebar



### Staying Connected in Your Community

Come learn about the many ways to get connected in the City of Alexandria to meet new friends, learn about our history, and get involved! There will be representatives from the Office of Historic Alexandria, Northern Virginia Community College, the Office of Public Information and Volunteer Alexandria. This free event will be held on Thursday, February 14 from 9:30am-noon at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. A light breakfast will be served and reservations may be made online at [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or by calling 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

### Dental health is important to overall health and wellness

The Northern Virginia Dental Clinic (NVDC) assists eligible individuals access to oral health services through an established network of social service agencies. For eligibility requirements and additional information, Alexandria residents should contact the Department of Human Services 703-746-5700 or Neighborhood Health 703-535-5568 or visit [www.novadentalclinic.org](http://www.novadentalclinic.org).



### Community Coalition for Haiti Thank You and Trip Opportunities

OPMH once again put the “fun” in fundraising last month when the church teamed up with the Community Coalition for Haiti in December’s alternative giving market. Thanks to everyone who bought Haitian artwork or a “gift for good” livestock item for a family in Haiti last month. These funds will be used to further CCH’s mission of transforming lives through education, healthcare and community development.

CCH is also thrilled to announce the opening of a new larger facility in Jacmel that allows CCH to expand its Primary Care, PT/ Rehab and Surgical Clinics, thus expanding, in turn, their capacity to provide high-quality medical care to the men, women and children of Haiti. CCH is also excited to share two upcoming trip opportunities: May 25–June 1 and October 5–12, 2019. These are open for anyone wishing to volunteer in Haiti. Contact Abby Gwaltney ([abby@cchaiti.org](mailto:abby@cchaiti.org)) for more information. There’s always something exciting happening at CCH, so please check our website ([www.cchaiti.org](http://www.cchaiti.org)) for the latest updates.

### Calendars, Calendars, Calendars!

For the second year in a row, our calendar collection exceeded more than 1,300! We have already delivered to the Alexandria Sheriff’s office, and to ALIVE! for their December 2018 food distribution. Others have gone to Alexandria’s Patrick Henry Elementary School (thanks to school volunteer Linda Woodhouse) so parents can keep track of appointments. The remaining calendars will be distributed soon to ex-offender organizations here in Northern Virginia and/or Richmond.

Dana Lawhorne, Alexandria’s Sheriff, expressed his thanks for the donation of wall calendars and asked that we share his thanks with the congregation. He ended the letter with these two sentences: *“We are touched to be able to count on you and your congregation for the calendar donation. Thank you again for remembering our inmates and for sharing your generous spirit with them and our staff.”*

We are grateful to all who donated calendars this year, especially Fred and Susan Morhart, who again collected them from their many neighbors at Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads. If you know of an organization that would like to receive calendars next year (or, possibly, this year, depending on the quantity wanted), please contact Gail Freunsch ([gfre5@verizon.net](mailto:gfre5@verizon.net)).

## Come Sail Away For Family-to-Family OPMH Spring Gala and Silent Auction Saturday, March 30 6–9 p.m. Virginia Theological Seminary Sign up at [bit.ly/2019opmhgala](http://bit.ly/2019opmhgala)



Welcome aboard for the annual OPMH Spring Gala and Silent Auction! Enjoy food, entertainment, and fellowship as we gather to support the vital mission of OPMH’s Family-to-Family Ministry.

Family-to-Family provides emergency cash assistance to low-income area families facing unexpected medical bills, auto repairs, housing or utility expenses, or meeting other emergency needs. The gala/auction is a key source of urgently needed funds for this program.

How can you help?

- **Sign up to attend at [bit.ly/2019opmhgala](http://bit.ly/2019opmhgala).** The gala is just plain fun, as well as a chance to gather with your OPMH family for a great cause and to shake off the long-winter blues. Blue Book Value, a band fronted by Meeting House members Bill Winslow and Paul Gibson, will again rock the house. You can sign up online at <https://bit.ly/2019opmhgala> or look for signup tables after services and at coffee hour in the coming weeks. Tickets are \$40/adult and \$20/teens—and we’re providing free (yes, free), on-site childcare.

- **Donate items for the auction, be generous in your bidding at the gala—or both!** Past auction items have included stays at vacation homes, gourmet dinners, fine art, tutoring, and dog sitting. Be creative!
- **Consider becoming a Family-to-Family Angel Donor!** This option affords you the opportunity to make cash donations to support F2F—even if you can’t attend the gala!

More ship-to-shore messages are coming in the days and weeks ahead. Don’t be left stranded on Saturday, March 30, when our ship sails away for Family-to-Family!

For information on donating auction items, contact Catherine Davis ([daviskenimer@verizon.net](mailto:daviskenimer@verizon.net) or 703 836-2354). For information on becoming an Angel Donor, contact Anna Davis ([adavis5018@aol.com](mailto:adavis5018@aol.com) or 571-384-0698). For general information or questions about the gala, contact Sandy Davis ([sandydavis629@gmail.com](mailto:sandydavis629@gmail.com) or 571-384-0922).

### Calling All Angels!

OPMH Angels provide significant support for the F2F program. Last year, over 30 individuals/families pledged \$500 to support this critical ministry, with dozens more making sizable donations. It’s also a way for those who cannot attend the gala/auction to support F2F. The need is great and we can make a huge impact. Whether you can contribute \$5 or \$500, any amount helps, so please go to [bit.ly/2019opmhgala](http://bit.ly/2019opmhgala) to be an Angel!

For information on becoming an Angel Donor, contact Anna Davis ([adavis5018@aol.com](mailto:adavis5018@aol.com) or 571-384-0698).

## A New Director of Music for a New Year!



Last year, Sam Baker, our Director of Music and Organist for over 12 years, made known his desire to retire and relocate to Rochester, New York by the end of this year. Last May, a search committee was created to seek a fitting replacement for Sam. We knew that doing so would not be easy. The committee crafted a position description describing OPMH, the music program and the talents we sought and posted it through the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians websites. The committee carefully reviewed the resulting applications, supporting material, and recorded performances of 40 or so candidates whose background and experience indicated they might be capable of continuing and growing OPMH's strong music ministry. Successive meetings, interviews and discussions narrowed the committee's focus to ten, five and eventually two leading candidates. After more extensive discussions and demonstrations of the candidates' organ skills, the committee decided to make an offer to Dr. Steven Seigart. He has accepted our offer and will begin serving as our Director of Music and Organist at the beginning of March. Sam Baker has generously agreed to postpone his retirement until Steven is able to fulfill certain existing commitments in New York.

Dr. Seigart is currently the Music Director at the Church of Saint Joseph (Bronxville, NY), where in addition to weekend liturgies, he leads an active concert series with the Orchestra of Saint Joseph and Parish Choir. He previously held positions in churches across the northeast, including St. Paul's Cathedral (Syracuse, NY), Christ Church Episcopal (Rochester, NY), St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic Parish (Westwood, MA), and St. Stephen Lutheran Church (Silver Spring, MD).

After graduating from high school in the Syracuse, N.Y. area, Steven studied organ at the Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester) with David Higgs and William Porter, earning his Bachelor's degree in 2008. He specializes in improvisation of various styles, and his improvisations have been featured on NPR's "Pipedreams Live!" Among other awards, Steven was a semi-finalist in the 2012 National Competition in Organ Improvisation and the winner of the 15th annual L. Cameron Johnson Organ Competition (Storrs, CT).

Steven subsequently completed the Master of Sacred Music degree (involving course work in both theology and music) at Boston University, specializing in choral conducting. He also served as Assistant Conductor for the BU Tanglewood Institute Chorus for three consecutive summers.

In 2017, Dr. Seigart completed all degree requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts in the highly selective Choral Conducting program at the University of Maryland. There he served as co-conductor of the University Chorale, chorus master and assistant conductor for the Maryland Opera Studio, and assistant conductor of the internationally-renowned Chamber Singers, which he prepared for concerts with the National Symphony Orchestra and the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra. Steven has worked with a number of notable conductors, including Simon Carrington, Harry Christophers, Joshua Rifkin, Michael Tilson Thomas, and James Ross (the new conductor of the Alexandria Symphony). As an opera conductor/coach, Steven has served as the musical director/conductor for the Arezzo Opera Festival in Tuscany, Assistant Conductor/Coach for Opera Saratoga, and chorus master for the Boston University Opera Institute.

As a composer and arranger, Steven's works have been heard in the US and Europe. His anthem "Rejoice in the Lord Always" was the winning submission for the Eighth International Anthem Competition of First Baptist Church, Worcester, MA. He has written works

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## OPMH Chili Cook-Off

Calling all chili chefs! Have a new chili recipe you've been wanting to try out? Maybe an old favorite that deserves a wider audience? Meeting House youth would be thrilled to have you enter the OPMH Chili Cook-Off!

This is a fun event on Sunday, March 3, from noon–2 p.m. where the congregation gathers to taste chili, visit, and relax. It's hosted by our youth group and serves as a fundraiser for their programming, but the chili chefs are the spark that makes it all happen. Please sign up to bring a crockpot of chili (meat, turkey, or vegetarian all welcome), and enjoy a fabulous afternoon of fellowship, too.

To sign up, email Laura Campbell ([laura@lauracampbellarchitecture.com](mailto:laura@lauracampbellarchitecture.com)) or Shannon Lisecki ([slisecki@gmail.com](mailto:slisecki@gmail.com)), or fill out an entry form in the church office.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Vacation Bible School | July 8–12, 9 a.m.–noon**  
**\$50 per child, \$125 maximum per family**

Blast off with the first VBS to land on Mars! To Mars and Beyond invites children ages 3 (diaper free) through grade 5 to discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, memorable music, creative crafts, exciting science, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine!

Registration coming soon! Scholarships available upon request.

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for chorus, organ, handbells, harp, piano, and voice, and is published both by the University of Rochester Press and his own company.

Steven is also a committed music educator. He is currently the Professor and Director of Choirs at Manhattanville College, where he directs the college's two choirs and teaches conducting. He also taught choral music and musicianship at the Westminster Schools (Atlanta, GA), Saint Joseph's Parochial School (Bronxville, NY), Boston University, and the

University of Maryland. He is a member of the College Music Society and the National Collegiate Choral Organization.

For additional information and for samples of Steven's playing and choral conducting, visit [stevenseigart.com](http://stevenseigart.com) or [soundcloud.com/steven-seigart](https://soundcloud.com/steven-seigart).

The OPMH Director of Music Search Committee: George Bostick, Dana Chipman, Rocky Laha, Wendy Matney, Carolann Sharp, and Jane Hyatt Thorpe.

## The Art of Compassion, January 27 Adult Education Class



*Photos by Seneca Wells and Leigh Palmer*

## Old Presbyterian Meeting House

323 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3716

[www.opmh.org](http://www.opmh.org)

**To see a calendar of upcoming events, visit [www.opmh.org](http://www.opmh.org) and click on "Calendar."**