

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Children's Thanksgiving Offering

Your contributions to the Thanksgiving Offering on Sunday, November 25, ensure that families in need will be served throughout the year, from pediatric hospice to temporary and long-term residential care, and from educational programs to family counseling.

The Thanksgiving Offering has supported three agencies in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic for over 50 years: the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, HumanKind (formerly Presbyterian Homes and Family Services), and Edmarc Hospice.

Please write "Thanksgiving Offering" on your envelope or on the memo line of your check.

Concert with a Cause on Friday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Come enjoy a magical evening of Christmas music with the Select Choirs of William Tennent High School in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Led by Music Director Julie Flack and known for their classical style, the Select Choirs have performed in several countries throughout Europe, including the 2012 London Olympics and the 2014 Paris Choral Festival. In 2017, they toured New York; sang at the Statue of Liberty and Mass at St. Malachy's Actor's Chapel; and performed for Vice President Joseph Biden.

The concert of 35 singers will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. There will be a free-will offering to benefit Rise Against Hunger and a reception for the members of the choirs and the audience following the performance. For more information about Rise Against Hunger, see the article on page 7.

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.

FALL BACK: Daylight Saving Time Ends November 4



MEETING HOUSE STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Robert R. Laha, Jr.
Senior Pastor
rlaha@opmh.org

The Rev. Katherine A. Stanford
Associate Pastor
kstanford@opmh.org

The Rev. Ann E. Herlin
Associate Pastor
aherlin@opmh.org

Mrs. Noelle Castin
Director of Christian Education
ncastin@opmh.org

Mr. Samuel Baker
Director of Music/Organist
sbaker@opmh.org

Mrs. Mary Pratt Perry
Youth Director
mpratt@opmh.org

Mr. Aaron Siirila
Church Business Administrator
aaron@opmh.org

Mrs. Ellen Haas
Computer Specialist
ehaas@opmh.org

Mr. Mark Wills
Office and Communications Manager
mwills@opmh.org

Mrs. Tania Ryan
MHCP Director
taniaryan@aol.com

Mr. David Heiby
Superintendent, Presbyterian
Cemetery & Columbarium
dheiby@cox.net

Please submit materials for the newsletter through your ministry leadership for inclusion in the newsletter. The deadline for the November issue is November 16.

13th Annual Stockings for Soldiers

The Meeting House youth would like to send some Christmas cheer to military personnel overseas. Simply pick up a stocking and stuff it with goodies for the holiday—and don't forget a Christmas card and personal note to let the troops know they are not alone. Children's drawings are a real hit! Pick up a stocking to stuff (or purchase a stocking yourself!) from our youth after worship services on November 4, November 11, or November 18, and return stockings to the church before November 25. We also ask that you donate \$5–\$10 to cover shipping costs. (It can be pinned to the stocking, or placed in the marked can.) Thank you for helping send “tidings of comfort and joy” to homesick soldiers! If you have an address of a friend or a relative serving abroad who would like to receive a stocking, have questions, or want to help, please contact Allyson Hazzard (ahazzard@comcast.net).



Suggested Items

“wicking” socks	disposable razors	personal tissue packets
canned fruit (peel-off lid)	disposable cameras	power hard candy
powdered drink mix	bars	beef jerky, Slim Jims
mint chewing gum	foot powder	dried fruit, nuts
mint Lifesavers or Altoids	Q-tips	personal notes
international phone cards	toothbrushes, toothpaste	baby/hand wipes
cookies	AA batteries	hand sanitizer
stamps, postcards, notecards	little bottles of shampoo	magazines, etc.
sun creen		

4rd Annual ALIVE! Empty Bowls Alexandria: Fill a bowl, fill a need.



Join ALIVE! on Saturday, November 10, 6:00–8:30 p.m., at the Durant Arts Center on 1605 Cameron Street in Alexandria for supper, raffle, and entertainment at Empty Bowls Alexandria.

Choose a bowl handmade by local artists and enjoy a simple supper provided by area restaurants and bakeries. Keep your bowl as a reminder that you are helping to fill bowls, alleviate suffering, and build stronger futures for children, families and individuals living in poverty and with hunger in the City of Alexandria. All proceeds will provide food, shelter, emergency help, and education for at-risk Alexandrians.

Tickets are \$50 per person, but attendees may make larger-gift donations if so moved. To register online, go to www.alive-inc.org. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to ALIVE! Questions? Contact Joan Moser (Joanmoser1947@gmail.com or 703-203-9236).

Tour the Presbyterian Cemetery, Learn About Our History

Eager to learn more about an important part of OPMH's unique legacy? Join Dave Heiby, Superintendent of the historic Presbyterian Cemetery and lifelong OPMH member, on Sunday, November 11 at 3 p.m. for a fascinating tour of the historic grounds of the Presbyterian Cemetery.

We'll start in the Meeting House sanctuary, then proceed to the Wilkes Street grounds and learn about many historic people buried or connected with the grounds. Highlights include The Female Stranger's grave; the grave of Wilmar Mclean, whose houses were involved in the beginning and ending of the American Civil War; George Washington's pallbearers; the reason we have “The Star-Spangled Banner”; pursuers of John Wilkes Booth; a Federal Cemetery older than Arlington; and Omar Bradley's personal secretary.

The tour lasts about 90 minutes, so be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. To sign up or get more information, please contact Sandy Davis (571-384-0922 or sandydavis629@gmail.com).



Donate Gifts to the Toy Drive or Gift Cards to Holiday Sharing

Each year, many of the families eligible to be sponsored through the Holiday Sharing Program are not matched with sponsors because there are not enough people who volunteer to sponsor families. Adults in the remaining families can visit a local recreation center in mid-December and choose toys and other gifts for their children from the Alexandria Toy Drive, a big city-wide collection. Please consider donating new, unwrapped toys, books, sports equipment and other items for kids ages 0–13 to the Alexandria Toy Drive collection box in the church office by Sunday, December 9. If you include your name, we can thank you for your donation.



Grocery gift cards to Shoppers, Safeway, Giant and Aldi, and gift cards to Target and Walmart are always needed by the Holiday Sharing Program. Amounts of \$25 and \$50 are most useful. If you would like to donate gift cards, please contact Margaret Rizzi (rizzifamily1@cox.net) or Anna Davis (adavis5018@aol.com) and turn them in to the church office by Sunday, December 9.

Tabarak Olabi, the mother of the Syrian refugee family OPMH helped settle in the area, started a business called Sham Rose Dish Catering. Beyond making great food, the Olabis' business is an important step toward their independence in the U.S.



If interested in catering, please contact her (571-888-4932) or Alan Matney (703-362-2346).

Please keep those who are attending the All Church retreat in Massanetta this weekend in your thoughts and prayers.



Service Sunday 2018

On Sunday, September 30, approximately 100 Meeting House members spread out to four locations to serve our community. Each participant was provided with a bag lunch prepared by a team of Meeting House volunteers. The lunches were identical to the ones our members prepared every week for distribution to needy Alexandrians at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church. *photos by Tim Elmore, Jenn Cranford, and David Heiby*

Fellowship Hall

An intergenerational group worked on three projects in Fellowship Hall. Children made Christmas cards and drawings to be given to Holiday Sharing gifts. At another table, children and adults colored and decorated gift bags for donated shampoo and body wash that will be given to Alexandria's homeless adults during the Christmas season. Another group of Meeting House members filled gift bags, with cosmetics/personal health supplies and gift cards to be given to approximately 50 older foster children as part of Holiday Sharing.



Guest House

An enthusiastic group of about 20 Meeting House youth and adults spent the afternoon doing yard work and cleaning of the overstuffed Guest House garage. Led by Guest House Direct Kari Galloway, volunteers and Guest House residents moved lots of furniture and other stored items to the curb to give away and organized the now-very clean garage. Meanwhile, another task force of OPMH youth mowed and cleared the side yard. Later that evening, the youth group brought supper over to Guest House's other location and spent an evening eating and playing games with the women residing at that location. Our work and fellowship together strengthened the bonds between Guest House and Meeting House.



Presbyterian Cemetery

Thirty-eight volunteers aggressively tackled landscaping jobs in the historic southeast quadrant of the cemetery. That entailed the removal of invasive ivy, grapevines, overgrown brush, and other debris, which, in turn uncovered several long-lost grave sites and improved the overall condition of an area that hasn't seen much attention the past few years.

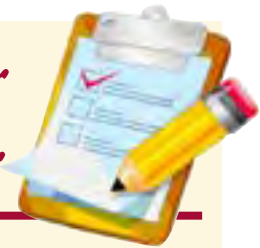
Several holly bushes being choked by weeds and trees also received attention. Additionally, 75 of the headstones in newer sections of the cemetery were cleaned. In total, over 100 person-hours were donated Sunday afternoon to improve the cemetery's overall condition.



Huntley Meadows Park

The invasive plant pull group of 16 at Huntley Meadows was a very enthusiastic one. To begin, a knowledgeable naturalist taught the group of Meeting House member how to recognize the high-priority plants to be pulled: Japanese stilt grass (a very easy plant to extract as the roots are very shallow and loose) and English ivy. (She also taught us how to recognize poison ivy for our safety.) As the volunteers moved down the trail, they learned to identify and extract other invasive plants, such as oriental bittersweet, porcelain berry, and multiflora rose. The group filled eight bags of invasive plants in around two hours. As a result, Huntley Meadows Park has more room for native plants and is on its way to becoming healthier.

Senior Sidebar



Seniors and Caregivers: How to Stay Fit & Safe at Home

Learn about physical changes and the importance of exercise as we age, how to prevent falls, proper use of medication, important home modifications, and scam preventions. Representatives from the Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance, Goodwin House at Home, and the Fairfax County Financial Exploitation Task Force will be on hand to answer your questions and share advice that will keep you safe and secure at home. Senior Services of Alexandria and NVPA are co-sponsoring this free event, Friday, November 2, from 9:30 a.m.–noon at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd. A light breakfast will be served. RSVP online at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

Free Medicare Part D Prescription Benefits Checkup

Are you paying too much for your prescription medications? Is your prescription plan covering all of your medications? Are you on the right Medicare Part D plan? Medicare Counselors from the Division of Aging and Adult Services and Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP) can help. Free Medicare Part D Counseling will be available December 1 from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Bring a list of your medications with you. RSVP to 703-746-5999 or daas@alexandriava.gov.

2018 Calendars for Prisoners!

After a record, 1,300-plus calendar extravaganza last year, we are now collecting 2019 calendars!

Last year, we sent calendars to the Alexandria Detention Center and ex-offender groups in Richmond. (New management at that jail has since ended our partnership there). We also distributed calendars through ALIVE's Last Saturday Food Distribution, and some were delivered to the Alexandria City Shelter and Carpenter's Shelter. Plus, teachers at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Alexandria gave out calendars at parent-teacher conferences.

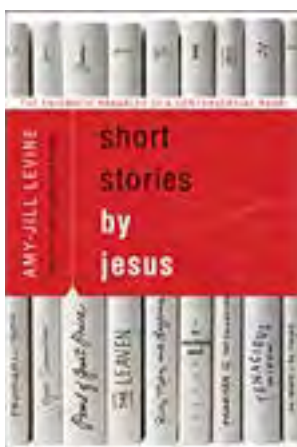
The collection box is in the church office, so please fill it with calendars for anyone who needs one! And if you have suggestions for additional outlets, please contact Gail Freunsch (gfre5@verizon.net or 703-303-6402).



Nativities Around the World

Do you have an interesting nativity/creche you've picked up in your travels around the world or the states? If so, we'd love to see it, and hear the story behind it. This informal, all-ages gathering will be a chance to see how people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth through their own, unique interpretations of the nativity scene, as well as a time for fellowship.

We'll meet Sunday, November 25, during the Education Hour in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in sharing your nativity and story, please contact Noelle Castin (ncastin@opmh.org).



Bible Study Kicks Off November 4

For six Sundays (November 4–December 9) at 9:40 a.m. in Westminster Hall, Meeting House lay leaders will facilitate study of the New Testament as well as renowned biblical scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Short Stories by Jesus*.

We'll examine the most popular of Jesus' teaching parables, how they've been misinterpreted over time, and how to make them come alive in today's world. To learn more, please contact Noelle Castin at ncastin@opmh.org.

Calling All Bakers!

Can you whip up a mean batch of cookies? Join us in Heritage Hall December 2 from noon–3 p.m. for the fifth annual Cookie Walk. Bring three-five dozen cookies (or any amount you're able to) and in any flavor or form you want. You can also drop off cookies a few days ahead of time.

Last year, we sold nearly 130 pounds of cookies and raised more than \$1,600 for the conservation of the burial ground and we hope to top both numbers this year.

Contact Andrea and Tobin Tracey at glenecho08@gmail.com for more information.



Alternative Giving Christmas Market at the Meeting House

Join us for a morning of good cheer while you shop for unique Christmas gifts and learn about our local and global Mission partners!

Consider a farm animal for a family in Haiti, scholarships for children in Pakistan or Kenya, a scarf or some books for Alexandria seniors, or the tutoring program for Alexandria students

You can support Rise Against Hunger, Open Table breakfasts, Neighborhood Health programs, and many

more organizations. For each purchase, you will receive a card to give your friend or relative to tell them of your gift.

On December 2, the market will be open after 11:00 a.m. worship in Fellowship Hall (noon–1 p.m.). On December 9, it will be open from 9:30

a.m.–1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or would like to volunteer at the Market, please contact Lois Rawson (908-246-8030 or loisrawson.va@gmail.com).



Rise Against Hunger on November 18

Help us pack 10,000 nutritious meals in less than two hours for Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, November 18, 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. The meals we packaged in April were shipped to the Democratic Republic of Congo to be distributed by Salesian Missions.

Save the Date

Noonday Noels

December 5

A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten

Caroline Gordon, *soprano*

Christina Phillips, *mezzo-soprano*

Elise Jenkins, *alto*

Gréta Asgeirsson, *harp*

December 12

Brethren Men's Choir

Patrick Vaughn, *director*

December 19

Annandale Singers and

Women's Chamber Ensemble

Patrick Vaughn, *director*



How can we help?

You're invited—Saturday, November 10th, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.—to a powerful workshop.

Join us for a BorderLinks immigration workshop hosted by the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria. We will explore how difficult it is for families and individuals to legally immigrate to the U.S., and learn more about the history of U.S. border enforcement and our nation's policies. The workshop will explore current immigration laws, practices, and recent events, and provide an opportunity for deeper discussion around the root causes of migration, especially at the U.S./Mexico borderlands.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at the Meeting House, on the S. Royal St. side of the campus. Parking is available in the church lot at 419 S. Royal St., as well as on the street. Please register by November 8 by emailing gerrycooper43@gmail.com. A light breakfast and lunch will be available. Donations are gratefully accepted. **BORDERLINKS** was founded 30 years ago as the educational arm of the New Sanctuary Movement. From its Tucson location, BorderLinks provides in depth experiential education about migration justice issues to church and school groups from around the country. Brian Best, executive director of BorderLinks, and Cathie Pacheco, education director of BorderLinks, will lead the workshop.

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www.opmh.org

To see a calendar of upcoming events, visit www.opmh.org and click on "Calendar."