Adult Education Classes

Sundays 8:00 a.m. Classes
Men's Bible Study (Founders Room)
Women's Bible Study (Office Conference Room)

Sundays 9:30 a.m. Class
Adult Bible Study (Office Conference Room)
Join us for bible study Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Sundays 11:00 a.m. Class
Embracing an Adult Faith: What It Means to Be Christian
January 6 - February 3 (Office Conference Room)
Author and Bible scholar Marcus Borg revisits Christianity’s most fundamental questions: Who is God? What does salvation mean? What place does Jesus hold in contemporary Christian faith? In this five-session, faith-formation resource, participants enjoy the privilege of witnessing Marcus in dialogue with a small, diverse group of adults as they honestly -- and sometimes painfully -- confront the big questions and work together toward authentic answers. Each session includes a video presentation followed by group discussion. The study addresses fundamental questions that adults struggle with as faith matures. Come to any session. Facilitated by Adult Education.

Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Class
Women's Bible Study, Heart-to-Heart Room 208
1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:30.
This fall we will be studying the book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs aims to help us live lives that bless others and honor God. It celebrates those who live toward wisdom and are willing to learn from life. For more information contact: Kathy Lohff, kathylohff@msn.com or Lindsey Hemelstrand, lindseygrunwald@gmail.com. Signup for this class at http://bit.ly/WoodsHeart.

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. Class
Pastor's Bible Study
Join Dr. Susan DeWyngaert and The Rev. Marie Sheldon as we consider each of the scripture readings in advance of the Sunday when it will be presented in worship, thus giving us a new understanding of scripture, and enhancing our worship experience.
Welcome New Members

Following our November New Member Class, we have three new members! Please greet and make them feel at home. They are:

Meghan Briggs
Meghan is originally from Baltimore and now lives in Arnold. She has a daughter, Annemarie, 18 months old. Meghan is working on becoming a veterinary technician. She loves taking care of animals, airplanes, and spending time with her daughter. She attended preschool at Woods and has family here.

James Engleman
James lives in Arnold. He is manager of an independently owned company at the Port of Baltimore. He enjoys boating and fishing; he’s interested in cars and large trucks. He especially loves playing with his 18 month old daughter, Annemarie. James found Woods through his girlfriend, Megan Briggs and her stepmom.

Nancy Gontkof
Nancy grew up in Westminster, Maryland. She and her husband, Tom, have lived in Pasadena for 22 years. They have seven grown children and six grandchildren. She has been a stay-at-home mom and now a Sunday school teacher for the last three years. Nancy is interested in the Noah’s Ark Ministry. She loves being with her grandchildren.

Membership Class:
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17 AT 9:30 a.m. IN FOUNDERS ROOM

Dinner with the Elders:
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20 AT 6:00 p.m. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Intro to the Congregation:
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24 AT THE 9:30 a.m. OR 11:00 a.m. SERVICES

For More Information:
Rachel Lunde
rlunde@woodschurch.org
410.647.2550
Exactly what does your per capita do?

Per capita is an amount of money per member this year, $35.75 that Woods pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Essentially, per capita contributions are part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

How important is per capita? Here are some examples:

Woods benefits from relationships and cooperation with other Presbyterian churches across the country. Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterians gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.

- We want to be involved in mission work throughout the world, sharing the gospel in all parts of the earth. In many places in our world, it is difficult to “do mission” except by working ecumenically with other churches. Your per capita helps to pay for meetings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those ties for mission.

- Woods benefits from helpful Presbyterian resources such as the Book of Order and The Book of Confessions. Your per capita pays for producing these basic resources, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.

- We want future generations to learn about our present work. Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society – preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.

- We want pastors who are well prepared to lead our congregation. Your per capita funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.

- We want well-trained leaders for our presbyteries and more. Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.

In addition, your per capita pays for the travel expenses of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as they make their way across the church to share with and listen to folks like you about the exciting things God is doing in our midst.

We do not believe in being lone rangers in the PC(USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we benefit from the gifts, skills, vision, and ministry of each other in this place, so, too, do we benefit from an even wider array of gifts and ministry of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters across the church. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share of $35.75. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the mission of Woods Church in this community. If you haven’t yet contributed, we hope you will consider doing so.
**Missions Opportunities**

**Upcoming Missions Opportunities**

- **Sunday, January 13, 10:30 a.m.: Malawi Trip Interest Meeting** in Founders Room. Woods Church will be visiting Mission Partner Ministry of Hope in Malawi in July 2019. Come learn more about this trip even if you're not sure about going. Contact Karen Bennett for more details.

- **Wednesday, January 16, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: Visit to The Baltimore Station.** Visit our Mission Partner, The Baltimore Station to see all of the great work they do helping veterans experiencing homelessness. Let Bill Hadley know if you are interested and/or would like a ride. He will leave from the church parking lot at 10:45 a.m.

- **Monday, January 21, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Harundale Free Lunch.** Volunteer to help feed the hungry. You can also volunteer the first Thursday or the fourth Saturday of the month. Sign up at woodschurch.org/missions or contact Cynamon Butler for details.

- **Saturday, January 26: Harundale Free Lunch.** If interested in volunteering, sign up at woodschurch.org/missions or contact Jill Williamson for details.

- **Monday, January 28 - Monday, February 4: Winter Relief.** Please help us help those experiencing homeless. Sign-ups are every Sunday in Fellowship Hall up until we begin Winter Relief but don’t wait to sign up. If you want more information about Winter Relief and how you can help, please contact Scott Wiley at 410.353.1491.

- **Saturday, February 2, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Youth Habitat Picnic Table Build.** Woods Youth are building picnic tables for Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake that they will give to local Habitat families. Extra tables we build will either be sold in the Habitat Restore or taken on the WoodsWork Mission trip to be donated to the new Habitat homeowners. This is open to all Youth and their families although focused on Middle School Youth with leadership from the High School Youth. There are two shifts to accommodate your busy weekend schedule (9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. with lunch between the two shifts). Come for one or both (all are encouraged to come for both). No skill is required. Contact Scott Wiley if you have questions at 410.353.1491.

- **Thursday, February 7, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.: ACT (Anne Arundel Connecting Together) Steering Committee Meeting at St Phillip's Episcopal Church, 730 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis, MD. Contact Linda Eggbeer if interested.

*At Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

**Winter Relief**

Winter Relief at Woods will be Monday, January 28 through Monday, February 4 and sign-ups have started. You can go to Fellowship Hall after each worship service, or go online to woodschurch.org to sign up. There are opportunities for meal prep, brown bag lunch prep, evening and overnight chaperones, drivers, shower escorts, Stephens Ministers, laundry support, youth volunteers, and snack donations. Please help us help the homeless. If you need assistance getting signed up, please call Rhonda Greubel at 410.703.1653. If you want more information about Winter Relief and how you can help, please contact Scott Wiley at 410.353.1491.
Refugee Update

Several of you have asked how the Kdisaat family is doing since moving from the church cottage. Six months ago, they moved to their own apartment in Glen Burnie. The 3 younger children attend Marley elementary (2nd, 3rd and 5th grades) and the oldest boy attends the middle school (8th grade). The children are doing well in school and are involved in regular kid activities such as sports and music. Yazan plays piano and Ghazel is taking violin lessons at school. Nader continues to work at Giant on the over night restocking shift. Ramya is now working full-time at Capiche in the Harris Teeter shopping center. Since beginning her first outside of the home job last December, she has been promoted from food prep to cooking - a promotion she asked for by herself. She is becoming a great advocate for herself and her family. She is so proud to be a full-time employee and loves her job. The family is doing well in their new home.

Thank you to everyone who helped them over the past two and a half years. It takes all of us united to welcome and support refugees. The Kdisaat's new independence is a testament to the commitment of Woods Church.
Cuba Trip

Would you like to visit our sister church in Sancti Spiritus? A trip is being planned for May 29 - June 5, 2019. We will be part of the life of this very dynamic congregation, taking part in worship, home visits, and any other task with which we can help. Total cost of the trip: $1,200. Registration and deposit will be due by the end of February, so please contact Marty Clayton if you are interested.

Stand in the Gap for Cuba

Our Cuban brothers and sisters need our help! Please bring any of the following items into the church office during the month of January. These are medicines that are unavailable in Cuba! They will be distributed to the 13 Presbyterian churches in El Centro Presbytery, and the medicines are greatly appreciated!

- Extra strength Acetaminophen
- Adult multivitamins
- Children’s vitamins
- Pepto-Bismol chew tabs
- Children’s Tylenol
- Infant Tylenol
- Glucosamine/chondroitin
- Benedryl or generic, adult and child
- Preparation H ointment
- Tums
- Vitamin C
- Vitamin E
January is National Sex Trafficking Awareness Month

This January we again bring attention to the scourge of human trafficking - and in particular the sex trafficking of children and adult women throughout our country and around the world. According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and the International Labor Organization, world-wide human trafficking is now the second largest criminal enterprise in the world. This trafficking includes both forced labor and sexual exploitation, with the lion’s share consumed by sexual trafficking. It is tied with the international arms smuggling. Both are ranked second only after international drug trafficking. Many knowledgeable observers believe that human trafficking will overtake both arms smuggling and the drug trade in terms of size and the revenues generated during the next decade.

Many estimates place the profits from sexual trafficking at nearly $100 billion annually around the world. Worldwide, almost a third of all trafficking victims are children. But in some parts of the world, including Sub Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East, children make up the majority of sexually trafficked individuals. The victims of sexual exploitation are overwhelmingly women and under-aged girls.

Sexual trafficking victims typically see absolutely no income from their activities and are kept in bondage by their pimps. Their access to clothing, sanitation services, and even food is used by their pimps as a means to control their every movement. Young ladies brought into this trade are often tortured - some even physically branded—beaten, moved to locations far away from their families, and forced to become addicted to drugs or alcohol. Many others are kept in isolation, locked away in decrepit, falling down buildings, from which they are allowed to emerge only to service their johns. Their activities often sentence them to slow deaths from the violence they endure, their frequent addictions, and their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The United States Department of State, which regrettably first began monitoring this scourge only in 2010, has reached several extremely alarming conclusions.

- Upwards of 50,000 people are trafficked into the US. every year for sexual exploitation, principally from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.
- Traffickers in our country profit nearly $10 billion annually on sex trafficking.
- The U.S. is the number one consumer in the world for child sex trafficking, with many of the young girls recruited into this evil trade between 11 and 14 years of age.
- Some 300,000 American children are at risk every year for commercial sexual exploitation.
- Investigators and researchers estimate that the average predator in the U.S. can make more than $200,000 annually from the sexual exploitation of one young girl.

We are privileged at Woods to be a strong mission supporter to a Christian group known as The Samaritan Women (TSW). TSW, under the heroic leadership of Ms. Jeanne Allert, has established a therapeutic recovery center on a 23 acre campus in Catonsville, Maryland. Through its full-time Three - four year residency program, the young ladies housed there are offered a rare opportunity to become whole again after years of abuse at the hands of their most cruel traffickers. We at Woods participate in a range of volunteer services and financial support to TSW. We encourage you to stop by the table we will maintain at the entrance to Woods throughout January to learn more about TSW and perhaps even to become involved in supporting this Christian outreach.

This article is largely excerpted from the forthcoming book on sexual addiction by Woods Elder, Dr. Bill Hadley.
On May 17, 2019 we will be hosting a concert on Requiems. We will be comparing the requiems of: Mozart, Fauré, and Webber. This concert will include a full orchestra, and guest soloists, from the Baltimore and DC area. Look for more information as the date gets closer.

Seven Last Words
Friday, April 19, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

On Good Friday the Adult choir with a chamber orchestra will present Michael John Trotta’s, Seven Last Words. A seven movement choral journey through the Passion, which delivers a powerful and captivating story encompassing a breathtaking palette of emotion, from intimate tenderness to majestic triumph.

Requiem Reborn
Friday, May 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

On May 17, 2019 we will be hosting a concert on Requiems. We will be comparing the requiems of: Mozart, Fauré, and Webber. This concert will include a full orchestra, and guest soloists, from the Baltimore and DC area. Look for more information as the date gets closer.
The Digital Photography Club of Annapolis is a diverse group of photographers from beginners, hobbyists, serious amateurs, and professionals who love to take and share their photographs. The club meets at Maryland Hall about every two weeks from September to June to share ideas, show our photos and improve our skills. Meetings feature well-known local speakers as well as members’ presentations, including technical talks on photographic tools and techniques. Showcases of members’ photos plus field trips, and shooting challenges are a frequent part of meeting activities. Each year the club presents several exhibitions of members’ photographs at various venues around the Annapolis area, open to all members.
Thank You,
Here is a great big shout out for the ChristCare Group VOWS (Venturing on With Service). Two men from this group came to my house and installed a much needed storm door. The two men who came to do this work were Harold Laque and Mark Clayton. Your help was much appreciated. Your group’s mission is a true blessing to the senior citizens of our congregation. Thanks so much.

If you find yourself in need of help with some small household job, the church can put you in touch with this group.

Blessings, Barbara Smith

Carolig,
A lovely little band of angels visited us Sunday afternoon December 9. Maureen and Mckenzie Adams, Nancy Nolan, and dog Gigi, also Nancy’s three grandchildren Everly, Keira, and Connor. Sherri Hayes, and Elizabeth and Morgan Stuelke also joined in the singing. What a delightful time we had singing carols and enjoying Gigi all dressed up like a little reindeer. Children always add a bit of joy and freshness to any group, especially at Christmas. The poinsettia brightened the family room and Bill was able to sing along a bit. A big “Thank you” to all who made that visit possible. The warmth and cheer they brought will continue to brighten the Season! God bless you all. Pat & Bill Moffitt

Woods Counseling & Care Center News

The Woods Counseling & Care Center is excited to announce that starting in January 2019 there will be a new provider offering counseling services. Dr. John E. Gibbons received his Ph. D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 1986, and was licensed as a psychologist in Maryland the following year. He has a wide range of experience in counseling older children, adolescents, and adults in both public and private settings. He was employed at the county mental health clinic in Annapolis from 1984 until 1997. As a school psychologist from 1997 until 2013, Dr. Gibbons gained additional experience in testing and assessment. He has had a private practice in Severna Park and Arnold since 1988. He is married with two grown children and looking forward to being a part of the team of providers at the Counseling Center.

The Woods Counseling & Care Center also has a new phone number 443.261.3289. Please make a note of this change and be sure to visit our new website at: woodsccl.org.

The Love and sympathy of the congregation *

❖ Sue Brayman, on the death of her husband, Ted Brayman
❖ Jill Florenz, on the death of her mother, Dorothy Baron
❖ Tom Fusting, on the death of his sister, Patricia Fusting
❖ Maynard Huddleston, on the death of his sister, Geraldine Grego
❖ Laurel Raymond, on the death of her father, Bob Fogerty
❖ Paul Roosa and family, on the death of their wife and mother, DD Roosa
❖ Friends and family of Herbert Slack
❖ Keeley West, on the death of her mother, Anne West

Congratulations for our newborns *

❖ Lorry and Steve Danko, on the birth of their great grandson, Oskar James Danko, Parents are Danny and Erica Danko

*Information is current as of December 25, 2018