



Woods Chips

January 4, 2010, No. 1

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that I write to you all to tell you that a project, which has been near and dear to my heart for some time, is now finally ready to share with the world. For years now I have felt very strongly that our troubled world desperately needs to hear what the Old Testament prophets proclaimed—a message which speaks of the dire necessity for people to change their behavior and priorities, while also reminding us of the astonishing hope and joy which we will experience if we listen and obey. In so many ways, we have become lost as the ancient Israelites were. We need the prophetic Word of God to open our eyes and ears once again. But very few people spend much time reading the prophets any more. People seem to think either that Christ's good news made their prophecies old, irrelevant news, or that the texts themselves make too confusing or depressing reading to undertake.

Then about five years ago, the Holy Spirit gave me an idea. What if the beauty and power of the prophets' message, including the call for change and the promise of hope, could be made more readily accessible and entertaining? What if people could see contemporary illustrations of what the prophets were talking about so that they could really understand why the texts are still very much about us? This thought ultimately led me to award-winning actor, Brad Sherrill, who performed his one-man show of the *Gospel of John* to a sold-out house at Woods shortly after I arrived here, with the idea for a brand new kind of show. I chose the texts each prophet is known for that are essential for people to hear and know, and equipped Brad with the resources necessary to write a script that would be a "Cliff-Notes" version of the prophets in the best sense. Brad, using a lifetime of experience in classical and theological theater, wrote an amazingly powerful, clever and moving script. Then videographer Mark Hickman came on board to



create bold and eye-catching videos of contemporary illustrations of the prophets' message to weave throughout the show. The result was a full multimedia dramatic performance which is deeply true to the text, entertaining, spiritually transforming, and conveys in a unique and memorable way the Word of God we so badly need to hear as people of faith.

This Fall we jumped on a plane to take the show to one of the world's greatest Old Testament scholars, Walter Brueggemann, for a private viewing in Cincinnati. His overwhelmingly positive response told us that indeed, we had something special. Here's what Brueggemann's first impression was:

"PROPHETS" is marked by courage, imagination and a passion for truth-telling. Brad Sherrill has used shrewdness in selecting his texts, wisdom in weaving them into a compelling unity and imagination in presenting them in contemporary ways. His performance is a faithful and evocative rendering of the prophets. Powerful.

With his endorsement in hand, we have chosen Woods to be the site for the national premiere for PROPHETS. I realize that we have had lots of shows here at Woods, some better than others. But this is the first that I have worked on, the first that I have felt truly called to share. You will see a great actor take the greatest of texts, and with the help of amazing visuals, bring them to life in a transforming way. Just reading the texts cannot give you that. So please give yourself a gift and come to the premiere. I would love to have a full house again. The show is Jan. 24th at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale now. Hope to see you there!

In Christ,

Egale D. McLean



Families with Children's Ministry

Pam Fusting, Director &
Laura Albanese, Coordinator



Did we miss you?

Our December snow storm affected the distribution of our teacher gifts. We are truly grateful for all who share their time and talents with our Sunday School ministry. In celebration of Christ's birth, we have a seasonal treat for you. If you have not yet received yours, please stop by the information desk to retrieve it.

Rotation Workshop Calendar:

Workshop Unit on Jesus at the Synagogue 1/3 - 1/24

Main Idea- Jesus was the promised Messiah, the one sent by God to bring good news to all people. As Jesus' followers, we too can tell the good news of God's love for everyone.

9:30 am

Grade	1/10	1/17
1 st	Science	Cooking
2 nd	Story/Game	Science
3 rd	Art	Story/Game
4 th	Computers	Art
5 th	Cooking	Computers

11:00 am

PreK-1 st Young	Young
Children in Worship	Children in Worship

2 nd -5 th	Computers	Cooking
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Sunday School Workshop Leaders Still Needed!

We are still looking to fill a few open workshop leader spots in early 2010. Workshop leaders commit to a 4-5 week session and teach the same lesson each week to a different grade. Curriculum and support are provided! Please contact Pam Fusting pfusting@woodschurch.org to see where you can help. Remember the only qualifications needed are a love of God and a willingness to share it with His youngest followers.



Family Fun Friday!

Friday, January 15, 6:30-8pm -

Family Fun Friday- January 15, 6:30-8pm
Join us for Family Game Night!! Spend an evening in fellowship as we play Bible

Jeopardy, Bingo and dine on pizza. Cost is \$5 per family to help cover the cost of the pizza. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday or email lalbanese@woodschurch.org with the number attending from your family by January 13th.

Great fun for ALL!

Adult Ministry, Rev. Elizabeth McLean



The new Winter term of classes has begun! You should have received the new brochure by e-mail. But you can also pick up a copy in Fellowship Hall.

- 8:00 am Men's Bible- Studying *The Book of Acts* – Founder's Room.
- 8:00 am Women's Bible- Studying *The Book of Acts* – Rm. 152.
- 9:30 am "*The Book of Daniel*"- A Bible study led by Dr. John Belcher which will help you understand the literary nature of this text, and what important message about discipleship it offers us all. Office Conference Room.
- 11:00 am "*Sisters, Saints and Society: Examining the role of Christian women and the shaping of gender identity from the Early Church through the Reformation*" In this history class for men and women, Rod McCaslin will open your eyes to a characters from church history you may not yet know but will be glad to discover. Founders Room.

PROPHETS is coming - As I said in my Dear Friends article, you won't want to miss the national premiere of a new incredible 90 minute dramatic performance: Sunday night January 24th at 7:00 pm. You'll be blown away by the visuals and inspired by the Word of God. Tickets go on sale today in Fellowship Hall: \$6 for adults/ \$4 teens (show not suited for children under 10). Infant/toddler childcare available upon advanced request. A reception will follow the show.

After the PROPHETS' premier, I will be leading an 8-week Sunday evening class "Prophets: A Call for Change, A Promise of Hope" for any and all who want to spend more time learning about who the prophets were and what their central message was. Go see the show, and then come to this class to discover the texts for yourself – you'll be glad you did!

Check out Woods Web Site

www.woodschurch.org

Sunday sermons are available online
(text and audio).



Local & World Ministry

Sheila McPhee, Director



When we first agreed to host the Winter Relief Shelter at Woods during Christmas week, we worried about whether we would have enough volunteers at such a busy time of year. There was no need to worry – 285 members of the congregation volunteered to help. Whether it was driving our guests to and from the Day Center in Glen Burnie, preparing breakfasts, bag lunches, snacks and evening meals, cleaning bathrooms, chaperoning in the evening or overnight, escorting guests to and

from the Community Center for showers, doing laundry, bringing in sewing machines to do clothing repairs – the list goes on. Many others also wanted to help and put their names on a reserve list to step in should any volunteer be unable to help after all. Even Santa managed some time on his busy schedule to visit us on Christmas Day!

The effect of all of this can be summed up in an email received on Christmas Eve from Phil Bailey who is the Program Director at Arundel House of Hope Day Center where our guests report each day and receive help to turn their lives around:

“It is a few minutes before 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve and sixty of God’s children have just walked out of the Day center, not into the cold but on their way to a loving, welcoming place. I tell you it is impossible not to feel the presence of a living, loving God when I witness men, women and children of our Winter Relief churches answer his call to serve.”

Thank you to all who served and to those who provided support in other ways.

Thank you for Advent Giving

Throughout the Advent Season, members of Woods embraced the many opportunities to turn their energies toward helping others. It was wonderful to see the love shared as we looked for ways to honor the greatest gift to us all, Christ.

- Hundreds of Gifts for Our Neighbors were shared. Thank you for purchasing food baskets for 10 families and gifts for 52 children which were distributed through SPAN. The donation of 54 personal care baskets for low income and disabled adults at Pinewood Village was greatly appreciated as were the gifts for our 60 homeless guests in the Winter Relief Shelter.
- Many crafts were purchased through our SERRV + Native American Crafts shop, thus helping artisans here in the United States and from around the world move toward self-sufficiency.
- Many Alternative Gifts were given to friends and families instead of traditional gifts, helping Heifer Project International, Ministry of Hope in Malawi, and Winds of Hope, Winds of Healing.
- We sold many “Africa Bags” eco-friendly reusable shopping bags benefiting the villagers in Malawi where the bags were hand made.
- Many large boxes were filled with white gifts of non-perishable food on Christmas Eve to nourish local families through SPAN.
- Cash donations were given to SPAN and Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake as a result of the generous offering at our Advent Concert.

Thank you to all who through these acts of kindness helped bring Christ into Christmas for our neighbors.

Looking for an Exciting New Year’s Resolution?

Tired of promising to eat better or go to the gym or lose those extra pounds? **Consider making another resolution this year - join the Peace and Justice Committee** as it begins its program for 2010. If you’ve been wanting to get involved in something where your voice can make a difference, this may be the perfect place for you. As members of the Presbyterian Church USA, each of us is called to be a force for justice and peace. This committee will be tackling some of the big issues of our time, locally, nationally, and internationally, trying to make a difference, guided by the positions that PCUSA has taken. Attend the first meeting of 2010, as we set the agenda for the New Year – **Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 7:30 pm at Woods Church.** For more information, please call Joan Tiernan, 410-544-1131.



Youth News

Middle School Youth

Sunday School Classes for 6th-8th grades
Sunday Mornings 9:30 am in the Holy Grounds Building.
Forms can be found at www.woodschurch.org.
Click on Youth page. Any questions e-mail Christie
ccory@woodschurch.org.

High School Youth

Sunday High School Bible Study for 10th -12th grades.
Sunday mornings 9:30 am in the Youth Room.
Any questions e-mail Christie ccory@woodschurch.org !



High School and Middle School Youth

Ice Skating at the Naval Academy

Sunday, January 10th 4:00 pm-7:00 pm ****Note Times****
Just \$12 for Skating, Skate Rental and bus Ride.
Please bring extra money if you want to buy snacks!

Confirmation 2009-2010

January 10th-Small Group

Community Center-Class 9:30-10:45am

Any questions e-mail Brandon
bbrewer@woodschurch.org

Wood Piles "Food for fuel & food for thought"

Wood Piles is our small group ministry for our High School youth to encourage conversation and fellowship while building community and learning more about the Bible. We seek to tackle issues that are relevant to your lives as High School Youth and how your faith can play a major role in your approach to these situations.

This time of gathering will include: small groups, dinner, engaging lessons and video clips, open and honest discussion, an opportunity to learn more about yourself and your friends, build community with others and much more.

Join us each Tuesday night at 6:30 pm, at the home of Christie Cory. For more information about Wood Piles, contact Brandon Brewer at 410-647-2550 or bbrewer@woodschurch.org **Also, if you are an adult advisor and are interested in leadership with small group ministry, please feel free to contact us and/or stop by and take part in Wood Piles!

Check out the Woods Youth News

www.woodschurch.org

Stay up to date with what's happening in Youth Ministry at Woods.



Art in the Gallery at Woods



Photography by Ginny Kuhn

An exhibit of photographs by local artist Ginny Kuhn is on display in the Gallery until February 7th. A reception for the artist, which will be open to the public, will be held on January 16th, from 3:30 until 5:00 pm. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-9:00 pm, Fridays 9:00 am-5:00 pm and weekends by appointment by calling the church office at 410-647-2550.

Ginny Engleman Kuhn grew up in Annapolis and with her husband, Philip, an acoustical engineer, pursued photography as a hobby. As photography evolved from film to digital, she discovered how she could make a photograph come alive, enhanced with color, light and creative artistry. She often will take a photograph of a scene and produce only a small section of it, focusing on a portion of the pallet, and bring it to life with angles, color and light.

She is a member of the Maryland Federation of Art where she has won several awards, and is also a member of the Rehoboth Art League. "I am a traditional photographer who takes great joy in incorporating the modern technology into my work. It is my passion," she says. Her work is printed on Archival stock paper and the mats are acid free.

Woods Church offers a program of art displays in its gallery as an affirmation of the relationship between the arts and religion. Work by groups of artists or individuals are exhibited throughout the year. For more information on exhibiting at Woods, contact Nancy Saarlus at 410-647-0135.

Thank You

The Book of Saints

The Deacons are working on a project called *The Book of Saints*. We are going back into the Church history to contact families of deceased members and asking them to submit a one page biography, with photo, of their family member. As we work backwards from present time, we are pleased with the response that we have gotten thus far.

The Book of Saints will be permanently available for viewing, on a podium near the sanctuary entrance. This project will take quite a long time, so if you would like to submit a write up before we contact you, please call Judy Smith (410-647-4769) or leave a note in her office box, so we can get the instructions to you. The family of the founders of Woods Church have submitted biographies which tell how it came to be established. We hope you will take time to look at the Book of Saints and read about those who brought this church to where it is today.

Hilltoppers

January 17th, 4:00-6:00 pm - A warm welcome is extended, by Jim & Maxine Underwood, to enjoy snacks and beverages while strolling through their lighted villages. For more information and directions, please call 410-315-8695.



Blood Pressure Screening

Blood Pressure Screening will take place on Sunday, January 17, 2010. This service is offered by licensed health professionals. Please take advantage of this opportunity to monitor your blood pressure.

Thank you to all who served in the 2009 Children's Christmas Eve Cast. The pageant was a wonderful and beautiful way to tell the Christmas story to the youngest members of our congregation and their families.

Thanks to the Cato and Yokanovich Families for being our Holy Families, to Dennis Balog (Luke), Mark Clayton (Centurion), Tom Fusting (Innkeeper), Scott Levitt (angel Gabriel), Barry Lauver, John Robinson, and Brandon Brewer (Three Kings), Brad Schoener (shepherd and Joseph), Tom Weissinger (Shepherd), Otha Hamlett (page and shepherd), Fiona Schoener (page and angel), Lauren Schoener (shepherd), Abbey Cotton (shepherd), Annabelle Cotton (angel), Andrew Weissinger (shepherd), Allison Weissinger (angel), Courtney and Amanda Fusting (angels), Bradley Fusting (shepherd), Amy Cory (baby holder), Christie Cory (backstage help), Leslie Schoener (costumes) Tom Lerario (sound, projectionist) Marcia Slenz Whalen (organist).

From the Church Garden



Sassafras trees, from seedlings to mature trees, pop up all over the grounds at Woods.

These trees have three different kinds of leaves (one looks like a mitten), and three different kinds of fragrances: citrus (leaves), medicinal (wood), and root beer (roots). Indians, pioneers, and others used sassafras tea for many purposes, until the FDA said it could not be used for flavoring, as rats, if given great quantities of it, developed liver cancer.



Woods New Member/Inquirer Classes

Dessert Social

Monday, February 1st at 7:00 pm.

Classes:

Sunday, February 7th & 14th at 9:30 until 10:30 am

OR Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 until 9:00 pm

New Members/Elders Dinner

Wednesday, February 24th

Welcomed into Membership

Sunday, February 28th at the 9:30 or 11:00 worship services

During your first year as a member of Woods, we will offer and guide you to several opportunities in which you may discern and enrich your spiritual growth. For more information, contact Rev. Nancy Lincoln Reynolds at 410-647-2550.



News from Music Ministry

Choir Ministry at Woods Church



For all of you who enjoyed our Christmas Concert and would like to be a part of the Music Ministry at Woods, now is the

time for you or your children to come aboard. You will learn how God can use your personality, passion, abilities, time, and spiritual gifts to serve God by singing, praising, and giving your soul to God. You will enjoy fellowship and spiritual growth, as well as, learning and building musical abilities and skills in a nice and warm family-like atmosphere. If interested, please call or e-mail Director, Dong-Hyuk Lee at (DongHyukLee@woodschurch.org).

First Friend

It's Fun! It's Interesting! And It Takes Very Little Time...

Be a First Friend to a new member at Woods. First Friends shepherd new members during their first few months at Woods, helping them connect to people and activities. Meet your new member during one class and sit with him/her at the Elder-New Member Dinner. Beyond that, it's simply making sure your new friend doesn't get lost in this large, happy, crowd at Woods. Call or e-mail Nancy Sullivan, 410-647-2550; nsullivan@woodschurch.org.



Presbyterian Women of Woods (PWOW)

Are you a Presbyterian? Are you a woman? If you can answer "yes" to both, then you are a PW. PW is not something you join – it's something you ARE.

And as a Presbyterian Woman of Woods (PWOW), you also have an opportunity to participate in one of the five PWOW Circles. These Circles meet once a month from September through May for Bible study, prayer, mission support and fellowship. For more information about the circles of PWOW please contact Tiffany Dean at 410-315-7811 or email tiffanymdean@hotmail.com.

Circle News

Esther Circle will meet Thursday morning Jan.7 at 9:30 in the Founder's Room—401. Kathy Harris will lead us in Lesson # 4 and Trudy Weaver will bring refreshments. Start the new year by joining a small group. Esther Circle might be just right for you. Jean Parker 410-647-4754.

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 12th, from 10 'til noon in Room 152. Please read Chapter 4 of "Joshua". We will study it together. As usual, we will meet for lunch at Romilo's following the lesson. Questions? Please call Barbie Willis at 410-544-0057 or charsmom@aol.com.

Congratulations to:

- Larry and Sarah Atkinson Miller, on the birth of their son, Cameron Daniel Miller, on December 19, 2009. Dan and Sher Atkinson are the proud grandparents.



The love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to:

- Margaret MacFarlane and family on the death of her sister, Wilmar Lennox.
- Family and friends of Louise Grauch who died on Christmas morning.

Service of Wholeness

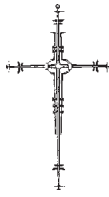
A Service of Wholeness will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary. Woods is offering this Service of Wholeness for those experiencing serious emotional or physical illness. This brief service, led by the Pastors, includes prayers, laying on of hands and anointing. If you would like to attend, please call the church office.



Library News

Make a New Year's Resolution to visit your church library!!

WEEKLY CALENDAR



Thursday, January 7th

6:00 am Men's Fraternity
8:00 am REHABS (Retired Handipersons)
9:00 am Library Committee
9:30 am ChristCare (J. Donnelly)
9:30 am Esther Circle
11:30 am Harundale Free Lunch Program
5:30 pm Choir School
5:30 pm ChristCare (S. Donnelly)
6:30 pm Choir Dinner
7:00 pm ChristCare (Haines)
7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal
7:30 pm Lumberjacks
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 8th

9:15 am ChristCare (Parker)

Saturday, January 9th

7:30 am Men's Fraternity
8:30 pm AA Meeting

Sunday, January 10th

Communion Sunday

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
8:00 am Women's Bible Study
8:00 am Communion Service
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Adult Ed Class - Daniel
9:30 am Confirmation Class
9:30 am Praise Band Rehearsal
9:30 am High School Bible Study
9:30 am Middle School Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am High School Bible Study
11:00 am Contemporary Service
11:00 am Adult Ed - Women in Church History
4:00 pm Middle & High School Ice Skating
6:00 pm ChristCare (Atkinson)

Monday, January 11th

6:45 pm Disciple I
6:45 pm Disciple IV
7:00 pm WoodsWork Committee
7:30 pm Children's Christian Ed Meeting
7:30 pm ChristCare (Sickels)
7:30 pm ChristCare (Hillier)
7:30 pm Coordinating Cabinet

Tuesday, January 12th

9:30 am Sarah Circle
9:30 am Priscilla Circle
10:00 am Ruth Circle
10:30 am ChristCare (Connolly)
11:00 am Stephen Ministry Peer Group
1:30 pm Art Committee
6:30 pm WoodPiles
7:00 pm ChristCare SEA (Borland)
7:30 pm Peace and Justice Committee

Wednesday, January 13th

10:00 am ChristCare (Borland/Jensen)
10:30 am Sunrise Bible Study
11:00 am Disciple I
7:00 pm ChristCare SEA (Borland)
7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting
7:00 pm ChristCare (Feldmann)
7:00 pm Computer Committee
7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Review

Thursday, January 14th

6:00 am Men's Fraternity
8:00 am REHABS (Retired Handipersons)
9:00 am Library Committee
9:30 am ChristCare (J. Donnelly)
5:30 pm Choir School
5:30 pm ChristCare (S. Donnelly)
6:30 pm Choir Dinner
7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal
7:00 pm ChristCare (Haines)
7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Review
7:30 pm Lumberjacks
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 15th

8:00 am ChristCare (Caldwell)
9:15 am ChristCare (Parker)
12:30 pm ChristCare (Lerario)
6:30 pm Family Fun Night
6:30 pm Ronald McDonald House

Saturday, January 16th

7:30 am Men's Fraternity
3:30 pm Art Reception
8:30 pm AA Meeting

Sunday, January 17th

Blood Pressure Screening

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
8:00 am Women's Bible Study
8:00 am Communion Service
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Adult Ed Class - Daniel
9:30 am Confirmation Class
9:30 am Praise Band Rehearsal
9:30 am High School Bible Study
9:30 am Middle School Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Contemporary Service
11:00 am Adult Ed - Women in Church History
4:00 pm Middle School Youth
5:00 pm ChristCare (P. Smith)
6:00 pm ChristCare (Atkinson)
6:30 pm High School Youth

7:00-8:30 am Monday-Friday-Private

Prayer /Meditation in Sanctuary

☺Indicates Child Care provided. Reservations required.

Please call 48 hours in advance.

Monday, January 18th

Church Office Closed
11:30 am Harundale Free Lunch Program
6:45 pm Disciple I
6:45 pm Disciple IV
7:00 pm Lydia Circle
7:30 pm ChristCare (Sickels)
7:30 pm ChristCare (Hillier)

Tuesday, January 19th

10:30 am ChristCare (Connolly)
6:30 pm Woods Piles Youth Group

Wednesday, January 20th

10:00 am ChristCare (Borland/Jensen)
10:30 am Sunrise Bible Study
11:00 am Disciple I
11:30 am Hilltoppers' Meeting
6:45 pm Wholeness Service
7:30 pm Session

Thursday, January 21st

6:00 am Men's Fraternity
8:00 am REHABS (Retired Handipersons)
9:00 am Library Committee
9:30 am ChristCare (J. Donnelly)
5:30 pm Choir School
5:30 pm ChristCare (S. Donnelly)
6:30 pm Choir Dinner
7:00 pm ChristCare (Haines)
7:30 pm Lumberjacks
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Woods Chips Schedule

Next Woods Chips will be mailed out January 19, 2010. Check Woods Web Site for info and updates at www.woodschurch.org.



Joy and Laughter Sunday

We will be continuing the Woods tradition of a Joy and Laughter Sunday on the Sunday following Easter this year. You are invited to send any good, clean, religious humor to me for consideration. Good – i.e., funny and respectful of persons and faith communities; Clean – goes without saying; Religious – touching on some aspect of faith or church-going. I have been collecting “holy humor” for over 15 years and have an abundant supply, but would love to hear from any of you who have a joke that makes you chuckle. E-mail to fchurn@woodschurch.org.

January 10, 2010

Baptism of our Lord Sunday

Communion Sunday

8:00 am Communion Service

9:30 am Traditional Service

11:00 am Contemporary Service

January 17, 2010

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blood Pressure Screening

8:00 am Communion Service

9:30 am Traditional Service

11:00 am Contemporary Service