



The Herald

February 2011

First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

6915 York Road

Baltimore, Maryland 21212

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Director of Music, Jeffery Beyers
Administrative Assistant, Joyce Kruse

Rev. Linda McFadden, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends,

One thing that has emerged during the past eighteen months is your interest in inviting and including others into the community that nurtures you. The conversation that has been hovering on the edges sprang to center stage during the recent Annual Congregational Meeting. To make space for that conversation, we will have a potluck lunch and forum after the worship service on **Sunday, February 13.**

Here's some fodder for thought in the meantime. Some UCC congregational development specialists have identified a core list of **things a church needs in order to succeed:**

- Excellent and passionate clergy leadership
- Empowered lay leadership
- A clear and unapologetic United Church of Christ identity
- A concise, focused mission statement
- Excellence in worship and music
- A clear and well-articulated sense of outreach and justice witness
- A focus on ministries to children and youth

This might be a place to start our discussion. How are we doing in these areas and where do we need to put our efforts?

I look forward to hearing what's on **your** mind.

Grace and peace,

Linda

FEB. NEEDS FOR ACTC:
CEREAL, BAKED BEANS,
SPAGHETTI SAUCE.

The Pastoral Search Committee

has been hard at work on your behalf over the last two weekends, hosting two outstanding final candidates, both from out of state. These weekends have been packed with further conversation, a tour of Baltimore and our neighborhood, looking at housing options, and experiencing the candidates' worship leadership and preaching. Each candidate has many strengths. Now it's time for discernment and prayer to seek the Spirit's guidance in selecting the person who will be your pastor.

New & Improved Directory

To help the new pastor connect names and faces, we'd like to put out a directory with photos. .

If you have a digital photo of yourself or your family we could use, please email it to the church at firststucc@aol.com. If you don't have a digital photo, please let Linda know and she will take one on a Sunday in February.

Church Office Hours - Monday, Wednesday, Friday (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Linda will be away Friday, Feb. 25—Monday, Feb. 28

Upcoming Events

Earl's Place - Feb. 7

Stoop Storytelling Series, "Gimme Shelter: Stories about finding, creating, and losing a home." Former Earl's Place resident Luke Wesby will be telling his story about moving from homelessness to owning his own home. Tickets: www.stoopstorytelling.com/shows/45.

Consistory - Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Evangelism & Lunch - Feb. 13

After-church potluck and forum to explore ways to invite people to our church.

Supper Club - Feb. 16

You can help by contributing meat loaves, canned fruit and vegetables (preferably institutional size) and instant mashed potatoes and gravy mix. Meat loaves can be left in the church freezer at your convenience. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room to help us plan our needs.

Dime a Drink Alcohol Tax Rally

The Central Maryland Ecumenical Council invites you to a rally in Annapolis on **Wed., Feb. 16**, to raise our voices in support of a "**Dime a Drink Alcohol Tax for Healthcare.**" The rally will take place at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church (Annapolis) and will be followed by a Press Conference.

Free buses leave Baltimore from Faith Presbyterian Church on Loch Raven Blvd at 8 a.m. and will return between 2-3 p.m. Box lunches will be provided. To register for the bus contact Gary Gillespie at 443-847-8989. For more information, visit www.cmecouncil.org.

Happy Birthday

February 11 - Mary Beth Brown

February 12 - Debbie Kavanagh

February 15 - Elizabeth Allen

February 23 - Hannah Lindsay

February 27 - Sharon Barr

Letter of Thanksgiving

Dear Friends:

Thank you! We really can't thank you enough. Thank you so much for the recent donation of \$272.00.

Your support means so much to all of us. Your gift allows us to continue to provide safe, supportive housing to men who are very unsure about their futures, but who know they want to change. We help them acquire the skills they need to regain their dignity and self worth and make their own contributions to our community. Last year, twelve men completed the program - men who would not have been able to move into permanent housing without the kindness of you and others like you who understand the importance of caring for our neighbors.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Sheila Helgerson

Readers & Lectionary		
Feb. 6	Alex Vishio	Psalm 112:1-9 (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-16, Matthew 5:13-20
Feb. 13	Len DuFauchard	Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37
Feb. 20	Janice Wood	Psalm 119:33-40, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23, Matthew 5:38-48
Feb. 27	David Noppenberger	Isaiah 49:8-16a, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Matthew 6:24-34
<i>Alex Vishio will be preaching on Feb. 27 while Linda is away.</i>		