

The Herald

July-August 2011

First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ
6915 York Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
410-377-5224 fax: 410-377-4910

Director of Music, Jeffery Beyers
Administrative Assistant, Joyce Kruse

Rev. Terry Fitzgerald, Pastor

CHURCH PICNIC **Sunday, July 10** **Oregon Ridge Park**

***Bring something to grill, a dish to share, your own table service,
and anything else you might want to bring to a picnic.***

We will be at the Pecos Tent.

The Pecos Tent is located on the field, in front of the playground, nearest the parking lot. To get to the parking lot, enter the park from Shawan Road, at the traffic light at Beaver Dam Road. Bear to the left and follow Beaver Dam to just past the BG&G station. Make a right and park in Area B to your left. A map and directions to the park are available in the Gathering Room.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it's only been a month and a half that I've been with you as your pastor. I have been warmly welcomed and already feel part of this faithful, caring church family. Meetings with the Lectionary Study group, the Eighth Day Book group, the parents of the Church School children, and the Consistory – as well as some visitation and participation with Supper Club – have allowed me to begin gaining insight into the work and ministry of this church family and to begin getting to know some of you better. It's been such a pleasure to do so!

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I know that summer brings a respite in people's schedules. There will be "comings and goings," and time set aside for personal and family re-creation and refreshment. I'm confident that whatever encounters we might have this summer will only serve to strengthen those connections that are beginning to form. In the meantime, I continue to entrust you into Christ's renewing and restoring embrace.

There is a prayer/poem by Edward Hays ([Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim](#), Forest of Peace Books, Inc., Leavenworth, KS: 1989) an excerpt of which I share with you. *God of rest, ... part of me is so grown-up, and knows how to be productive, to be responsible, and to achieve. I've learned to listen to that inner adult and how to successfully silence the echoes of childhood's play... I have forgotten how to vacate my work, to come out of my head and go out-of-doors, to play with you in the summer sun. (p. 114)*

I pray for you. May you vacate your work for a time, and go out-of-doors, and play with God (and with those whom you love) in the summer sun! May you be refreshed and renewed so that you may serve God and serve others with renewed vigor, enthusiasm, delight, and passion in the days ahead.

Blessings always,
Terry

EIGHTH DAY GROUP

The Eighth Day book study group is going strong this summer with a discussion of Marcus Borg's [The Heart of Christianity](#). As with all of Borg's writings, we discover a different, more understandable, and certainly, a more refreshing way of looking at our faith.

We have seven members in the group and we would love to see more of you join. You don't have to be present every week---just come when you can. We meet on Fridays from 10 to 11:30a.m. in the Gathering Room. We start off with a few minutes of centering prayer and then delve into our discussion.

[The Heart of Christianity](#) is available at amazon.com for \$8.92 plus shipping. It is also available in the Baltimore County Public Libraries as well as major book stores.

We'll be meeting through the end of August, so consider taking some time out this summer and join us for lively talk and fellowship.

Peggy Cook

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On May 29, parents and those involved in Children's Church School met to discuss plans for the future. Out of that meeting, many suggestions arose. Below are listed some of those ideas:

- Look again into the curriculum, "Seasons of the Spirit" which follows the lectionary readings. Children and parents might have more opportunity for discussion about what both heard and learned during the worship service.
- Include certain routines and rituals so that there would be some centering and familiarity, especially given that the children see different teachers each week.
- Invite folks from the congregation to share interest or lesson with the children.
- Greater involvement by the children in worship - as acolytes, readers, helping with the offering, singing, pageants, etc.
- The possibility of trying to have a fellowship time for the children from 10-10:30 (fun time for singing, crafts, etc.) and having Church School during the worship hour, following the Moment with Children.

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Other hours by appointment

SUPPER CLUB

The serving dates for Supper Club are **Wed., July 20** and **Wed. Aug. 17**. We will be needing hot dogs, hot dog rolls, and baked beans. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room to indicate what you will contribute.

JUSTICE & WITNESS


On June 19, we had a table at the Gay Pride Festival in Druid Hill Park. We had lots of folks stop by and take literature about First and St. Stephen's. About ten people left their contact information and Terry has sent notes to all of them. Thanks to all my helpers for making it a successful day.

Janice Galiani

CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please note the following changes/additions in your church directory:

- **Amanda Ajula:**
Email: amwilliams_milatz.com
- **Don Crary:**
3709 Delverne Rd.,
Baltimore, MD 21218
410-223-2950
Email: dcrary@aol.com
- **Nancy Heese:**
615 Chestnut Ave. Apt. 1103
Towson, MD 21204

		Happy Birthday	
July 10	Selwyn Marshall	August 14	Cheryl Goldsmith
July 27	Jessie Hulseberg	August 16	Julia Brinker
August 6	Benjamin Goldsmith	August 23	John Church
August 8	Janice Galiani	August 26	Jane Hawver
August 11	Lily Lindsay	August 26	Drunette Main Grace Marshall
August 13	Everett Snyder	August 29	Jacquie Perry

Consistory Person of the Month
Janice Galiani

Lectionary Readers	
Jul 3	Chelsea Haas
Jul 10	Greg Snyder
Jul 17	Martha Wharton
Jul 24	Bill Ingram
Jul 31	Linda Barr

Greeters	
Jul 3	Alvin Hauser
Jul 10	Jack Boltz
Jul 17	Amanda Ajula
Jul 24	Pat Glee
Jul 31	Bill Ingram

Assistance Center of Towson Churches

Please use the list below to help support ACTC. Items can be placed in the wagon in the narthex.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| CEREAL | Peanut Butter & Jelly |
| Pork & Beans | Tuna |
| Canned Fruit | Pasta Meals |
| Mac. & Cheese | Spaghetti & Sauce |

Women in Black Peace Vigil On September 11, 4-6 p.m.

The Peace Path was initiated 10 years ago as a reminder of PEACE and what it stands for.

Please come out to Charles St. & Gittings Lane and stand with us. Contact Janice Galiani for details at 410-252-8186.

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake Volunteer/Support Opportunities

For more information, please contact Dave Noppenberger



Shop

Building materials, appliances, cabinets, flooring & more!
Two locations open to the public
Mon.-Sat. 9-5 p.m.

505 Kane Street, Baltimore
MD 21224
410-633-0505

Donate

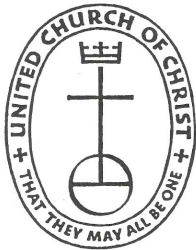
The ReStore offers free, easy pickup for eligible donations. Your donation is tax deductible.

410-633-0505

Volunteer

The ReStore needs volunteers to help out in our store and on our box trucks. Please visit our website for more information.

chesapeakestore.org



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United Church of Christ
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www.first-ststephens.org

Address Change Requested