

The Herald

May 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

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

We are beginning the next step of the ongoing faith journey of First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ. I give thanks to God that I will be in your midst to minister to and with you. It has already been a joy to be with you in our brief time together. And, in this time of transition, I am aware of both the excitement and the anxiety that attend this next chapter of your church life. Change can be wonderful - and frightening. In the face of that, I believe that your profound faithfulness as the Body of Christ and my deep desire to serve God with you will lead us forward together, guided always by Christ's Spirit.

There is a wonderful prayer/poem by Ted Loder in his book, *Guerillas of Grace* (Innisfree Press; Dec. 1984) entitled, "I Tremble on the Edge of a Maybe." I took the liberty of adapting it by changing it to the first person plural.

O God of beginnings, as your Spirit moved over the face of the deep on the first day of creation, move with us now in our time of beginnings, when the air is rain-washed, the bloom is on the bush, and the world seems fresh and full of possibilities, and we feel ready and full. / We tremble on the edge of a maybe, a first time, a new thing, a tentative start, and the wonder of it lays its finger on our lips. / In silence, Lord, we share now our eagerness and our uneasiness about this something different we would be or do; / and we listen for your leading to help us separate the light from the darkness in the change we seek to shape and which is shaping us.

In this time of continued service to God - and of change - I am reminded of Paul's words (1 Corinthians 25-26 from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson) which tell us that, in the face of both uncertainty and excitement, our common life together as the Body of Christ sustains and nurtures us. *"The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't."*

If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."

In this next chapter of our journey of faith, let us comfort and support one another, and rejoice together. Praise be to God!

Terry

Stone Soup Luncheon May 22

The Pastor Relations Committee appreciates all the good food brought in for Linda's going away lunch.

For a **welcome lunch for Pastor Terry**, we'd like to have a Stone Soup luncheon after church on May 22. People are encouraged to bring any soup ingredients they would like to create two soups (one vegetarian) to church that Sunday. We will also need drinks, breads or crackers. The luncheon will be a nice opportunity to spend some time with our new pastor. Other chances to visit with her will be announced later.

Thank you,
Rachel Ezell



Painting Anyone? May 7, 8:30-1

We will be painting the pastor's office. Please call Greg Snyder at 410-823-5351 if you would like to help.

Supper Club

The serving date for May is **Wed., the 18th**. We will be serving **chicken nuggets**, vegetables, macaroni & cheese. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room to indicate what you will contribute.



Church Directory

The new church directory will be available by Sunday, May 15th.

Dorothy Richmond can now be contacted at: 443-546-4644/
 10101 Governor Warfield Parkway #262
 Columbia, MD 21044
Dorothy is enjoying her 1-1/2-year-old grandson who is making her life full and wonderful.

Consistory Meeting

The next meeting is on **Sunday, May 22**, following the Stone Soup Luncheon.

Church Picnic - Oregon Ridge

Hold the date! for the church picnic to be held this year on **Sunday, July 10 from 12-5 p.m.**

Lectionary Study - Wednesdays in the Gathering Room at noon. Bring a bag lunch.

8th Day Group - The group will resume on **June 3** in the Gathering Room with Peggy Cook leading a Kinesthetic Prayer Group. Details on the page 4 of the newsletter.

**Consistory person for May
 Greg Snyder**

May Needs for ACTC

- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly



Vacation Church School

June 27-30 at 6 p.m.
 We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate VCS. Please contact the church office if you would like to help.

Readers & Lectionary		
May 8	Jacquie Perry	Acts 2:14, 32-42; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 (Peggy Cook preaching)
May 15	Peggy Cook	Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23; 1 Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10 (Alex Vishio preaching)
May 22	Bill Ingram	Acts 7:55-16; Ps 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
May 29	Jack Boltz	Acts 17:22-31; Ps 66:8-20; 1 Pet 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

UCC issues \$250,000 Appeal for Spring Storms

April 29, 2011

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal in response to severe flooding and to what authorities describe as the worst-single stretch of tornadoes in more than four decades. Over 200 deaths have already been reported.

Today, the United Church of Christ is issuing a US Spring Storms Appeal for \$250,000 in response to ongoing flooding and storms.

To date, six states have been severely impacted by flooding. States hit hardest by these devastating weather conditions are Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and North Dakota. Over 200 deaths have been reported.

The United Church of Christ's immediate response in working with local partners includes providing safety equipment (Tyvek suits, respirators, goggles, and gloves) to homeowners and volunteers cleaning up damaged homes. The cost of a dozen safety equipment kits is \$112.68.

The UCC's long-range response will include assisting communities to repair and rebuild safe and affordable homes. Volunteers interested in providing assistance in long-term disaster recovery should check our website regularly for information, updates and current needs. <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/disaster-recovery-volunteers/>.

Here are some ways you can help:

1. Pray for those impacted by natural disasters and emergency response personnel.
2. Make gifts payable to ERUCC and marked for US Spring Storms Appeal
3. Make a secure on-line donation. [Donate Now.](https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df_id=2141&2141.donation=form1&JServSessionIdr004=wvsykt3g5.app332a)
https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df_id=2141&2141.donation=form1&JServSessionIdr004=wvsykt3g5.app332a

Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback, Conference Minister
United Church of Christ Central Atlantic Conference
 916 S. Rolling Road, Baltimore, MD 21229
 410 788 410 (office); 443 253 2343 (cell)

The Widow and the Orphan:

Preparing Congregations to Welcome
 the Marginalized

May 10, 10-12 noon

**Koinonia Baptist Church, 5738 Belair Rd.
 Baltimore, MD 21206**

Join us for a seminar for clergy and laypersons on opening doors of their congregations to people marginalized by society.
 \$5 registration fee, paid at the door.
 Register by calling 410-522-0225.

The Woodbrook Players present

Steel Magnolias

Dessert Buffet included
Adults \$15, Students \$10, Under 12 free

Saturdays, May 7 & 14, 8 p.m.
Sundays, May 8 & 15, 3 p.m.

6200 North Charles Street—410-377-7232



**Happy
 Birthday**

May 1	John Barr
May 2	Cynthia Heese
May 6	Madeline Wharton
May 7	Roy Joellenbeck
May 13	Richard Arrington Emily Perl
May 25	David Smith
May 28	Jack Church

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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

KINESTHETIC PRAYER GROUP

Kinesthetic prayer is praying with the body.
It can take many forms, such as dancing, yoga, painting, clay molding, and the like.

Join us this summer as we practice the art of praying through writing, beading, and using color.
We will begin each session with a centering prayer exercise.

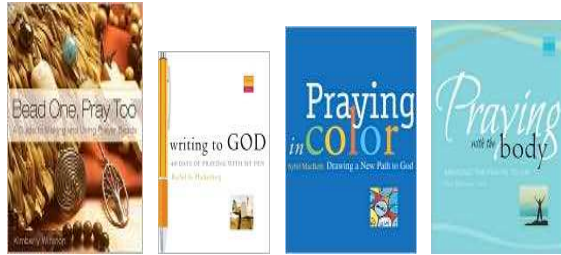
WHEN: Fridays, beginning June 3, from 10am to noon

WHERE: The Gathering Room

COST: \$10.00 for water colors, brushes, paper.

Those participating in beading are asked to purchase their own beading supplies.

OPTIONAL BOOKS:



Bead One, Pray Too - \$18.48

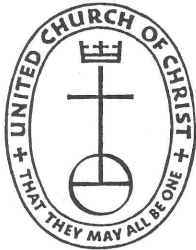
Writing to God - \$10.87

Praying in Color - \$11.53

Praying with the Body - \$12.23

(Prices are from amazon.com)

PLEASE REGISTER USING THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE GATHERING ROOM



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www.first-ststephens.org

Address Change Requested