



# NEWSLETTER

## Boyd's Presbyterian Church

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### Family Advent Service

December 19 at 9:30 a.m.

In the James P. Kerr Fellowship Hall  
Sunday School children will participate



### Christmas Eve Services

5:30 p.m. family service

7:00 p.m. family candlelight

11:00 p.m. candlelight/communion

## An Advent Meditation

**Lesson:** *In all this, remember how critical the moment is. It is time for you to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore throw off the deeds of darkness and put on our armor as soldiers of the light. Let us behave with decency ... Let Christ Jesus himself be the armor that you wear ...* (Romans 13:11-14)

**Reflection:** "Faith walks simply, childlike, between the darkness of human life and the hope of what is to come." ---Catherine de Hueck Doherty, Poustinia

### Let Us Begin ... Again

In Cyril Harris' novel, Street Of Knives, a man comes upon the Squire who is leaning on the handrail of a bridge and asks him if he is looking for something down in the water. The Squire asks, "Do you see this handrail?" When the man acknowledges that he does,

the Squire replies: "Well, that's what I've lost. Something to hold me back when I get too near to the edge ... People call it God. I'm looking for it." Advent is a season on the Christian calendar when people are called upon to look for God coming; a time to hope in finding God; a time of alertness and preparation for God's coming; a time to begin again the faith journey in search of renewal and restoration. There is no better time to find God than the present time, no better time to begin again than now. Time is of the essence, for we know not the hour when we will stand before our Creator. Therefore, we must always be prepared; always preparing for that time that will come to all of us. The apostle Paul recognized that many people live in the dark like that Squire; people who are "looking" for God. So Paul challenges those who have found faith to live as children, not of the dark, but of the day, people who in Christ have found God.

There is a story about the life of a famous English painter, who received hospitably at his home a woman visitor from the United States, who had done some painting. Unfortunately, she labored under the delusion that she was quite a good artist. The master painter endured it with great patience, and finally asked her if she cared to look at some of his paintings before she left. The woman eagerly agreed. The master painter took her into his studio and she looked intently at the paintings. She was enough of an artist to know true art when she saw it and was hushed into silence. When bidding her farewell the English painter said in a kindly voice, "And now, my dear, what do you mean to do with your art?" She bowed her head and replied quietly, "I mean to begin again."

Advent is a time for Christians, who are snug and complacent in their faith, to step back and take a good, hard look. We may find ourselves off the path, or

even not so far along the journey of faith that we thought we were. Advent is a time of honesty concerning our relationship with God through Christ. Advent is a new time, a new opportunity for renewal and growth. Advent is the dawn of a new day in our pilgrimage of faith.

Advent is somewhat like the movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray. We need the repetition because, like the jaded weatherman in the movie, we need plenty of opportunity to get it right. We need to go through all that backdoor activity day after day, year after year, taking out the garbage and keeping our shoes clean. And when it comes time to say, "Oh look, Jesus is born!" we have to learn how to say it -- not with ho-hum sarcasm, not sentimental pretense, but with some kind of apprehension about what it all means for us. And for most of us this takes a lifetime. It is within this necessary repetition of Advent that we come to learn how to welcome in all the surprises. Some of them are pleasant and some are not! But thank God the church has given us a tradition within which we can act out the splendid surprise of Advent again and again --- until we get it right!

**Advent Thought:** The spiritual life is a life in which we wait, actively present to the moment, trusting that new things will happen to us, new things that are far beyond our own imagination, fantasy, or prediction.

---Henri Nouwen, *Weavings*, January, 1987



## Announcements



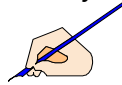
The Session has called a special **congregational meeting** to be held on Sunday, December 5, at 10:45 a.m. (*between the worship services*) for the purpose of electing church officers. The Nominating Committee will present the following candidates for nominating: for the office of elder for a three year term --- Doug Fiedler and Todd Jewell; for the office of Deacon for a three year term --- Everett Shupe, Audrey Spring and Kim Lockett; for the office of Trustee for a three year term - Bill Graf, Bill Neeb, and Sarah Gamage; for the office of treasurer for a two year term - Sarah Gamage.



A special **Advent Study Group** will meet on Thursdays, December 2, 9 and 16 at 8:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. An Advent Daily Devotional is included with this newsletter to help you prepare spiritual for Christmas.



**The Community Tree Lighting** in front of the Boyds Post Office is scheduled for Friday, December 3 at 7 p.m.



The **Writer's Group** meets on the last Tuesday of each month; the next meeting is **Tuesday, December 28 at 7:30 p.m.** in Pollock-Williams Hall. Come and find support for what you have written or hope to write. For information: Ginger Gibson, 301-428-0671.



The **Creative Spirit** fellowship meets on the first and third Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Pollock-Williams Hall. The next meetings are Saturdays, **December 4 and December 18**. For information call Jennie Broadwell at 301-407-0037.



**First Friday Friends:** is an adult fellowship for women who enjoy spending time together. Come for the conversation, plus you're welcome to bring any projects you'd like to work on, such as scrap booking, crafts, or sewing. For more information contact Brenda Jones, 301-972-7750 or Karen Unruh, 301-540-7306 ([keunruh@comcast.net](mailto:keunruh@comcast.net)).



## Address Changes

**Fitzwater, Mary and Mac**  
4310 Elm Drive  
Mount Airy, MD 21771  
301-829-2663

**Latona, Pat**  
11700 Barnswallow Place  
New Market, MD 21774  
301-865-3320

**Lawson, James and Mabel**  
4250 North Marine Drive Apt #435  
Chicago, IL 60613-1762

**Smith, Ray and Pam**  
37 Holmehurst Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21228



## **Stewardship**

... a partnership with God!

November 14<sup>th</sup>, **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**, was another wonderful celebration of the Lord's work in and through Boyds Presbyterian. Approximately 140 people attended the Thanksgiving Dinner. To date, **64 pledges** have been received totaling **\$143,184**. The challenge goal is \$160,000. We would like to conclude this year's campaign by Dec. 12, in order to prepare the 2005 Proposed Budget and distribute the 2005 boxes of offering envelopes that will be placed in the church vestibule. A warm thank you goes to Edna Reffit for coordinating the dinner, along with those who helped her in the kitchen: Mary Virts, Betty Allnutt, Marie Allnutt, Grace Turner, Jeannie Warfield, Kay Curtis, and Dick Ernst; as well as those who helped set up: Bill Graf, Dick Ernst, Michael Jones, Steve and Ginger Gibson, and all those who cleaned up.

*\*\*\*A message from Erik Johnson, the church's financial advisor, who manages the church's trust funds:*

### **Consider Donating Highly Appreciated Stocks or Funds.**

As the year winds down and tax planning season starts, you may consider donating shares of stock or mutual funds that have large gains. The church is able to sell these shares and pay no taxes. The donor receives a tax deduction for the amount of the sale. This is a very effective way to recognize gains and minimize taxes. It also helps the church raise funds to continue our mission to the community. If you are interested in pursuing

a stock or mutual fund donation please contact Sarah Gamage, treasurer, and the church will facilitate the process for you.



One of the church's 2005 goals is to renovate the kitchen in Kerr Fellowship Hall. To that end, a church family has anonymously challenged the congregation by their willingness to match the sum total donated by the congregation as a whole up to \$10,000. If you would like to make a yearend special gift towards this challenge, simply memo or add a note to your check and the treasurer will be sure your gift is credited towards this renovation project.

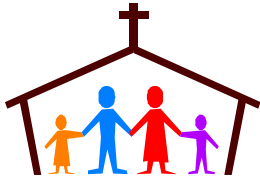


**A special note of appreciation and thank you:** to those who donated their used glasses for "Sight Night" --- 70 pairs were collected. Lens Crafters and Lions Club International sponsor "Sight Night." The glasses are repaired and given to people in developing countries who cannot afford them otherwise. Thank you Catherine Doherty, who volunteered to collect the glasses; Dwight Mote for raking the leaves off the church lawn; Hurshel Deavours for un-boxing the new fellowship tables and putting the classroom tables together; Lisa Evans for coordinating the Children's Christmas Workshop and Lisa Fiedler for coordinating the Craft and Home Product Show; Linda and Rowland New, and Pat Latona for coordinating the 2005 Pictorial Directory.

**A special note:** *Thank you to all of the adults and youth helpers that volunteered to help with the Children's Christmas Craft Workshop on Nov. 20. It was a big success! There was lots of paint, glue, glitter and smiling faces. As you begin decorating your trees and homes this year, tuck away any inspired ideas for next year! I'm already making my list! Again thank you and much appreciation.*

---Lisa Evans

Each year, families or two to three people, pick a month to weekly **clean the church sanctuary**. The 2005 signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.



## Christian Education/Youth Ministries



During the month of December, as a mission project, the children will be **collecting non perishable food** items for Germantown HELP. There will be special boxes placed education building and Pollock-Williams Hall. Kim Lockett is coordinating this effort.

**Adult Education:** The Adult Sunday School Class meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the first room on the left in the education building. The lessons are posted weekly on the church's web site under "Activities" ([www.boydspc.org](http://www.boydspc.org)). You are invited to participate.

There is a special **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** event at Neelsville Presbyterian Church on Thursday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. for kids in Middle School and High School. Barbara Stunder has volunteered to chaperon this event. Those interested in attending will meet Barbara at 7:15 p.m. in the vestibule of the sanctuary at Neelsville, and then sit as a group. Parents can pick their children up at 9:00 p.m. from Neelsville. If you will be attending, contact Barbara at 301-916-6155 or email her at [stundmar@earthlink.net](mailto:stundmar@earthlink.net). There is ample parking available in the rear of the church.



This **Sunday, December 5**, the Senior High Sunday School Class has put together an 8 to 10 minutes slide presentation of the Local Mission projects of the church. The presentation will be

given at both services. This has been their fall class project. Then on **Sunday, December 12**, members of the Seneca Valley Friend's Society (Quakers) will give a minute for mission presentation. They worship in the James P. Kerr Fellowship Hall each Sunday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

**The Montgomery County Child Welfare Service** is seeking stable, loving individuals and couples to care for children who must temporarily or permanently separated from their own families. For more information contact "**The Information Line at 240-777-1664.**"



## Prayer List

Prayers for those who grieve: for the family of **Ed Pickrell** who died on November 29; for the family of **Corporal Kirk Bosselmann** who killed in action in Iraq on November 27; family of **Danny Sivert** who was killed in an accident on November 18; family of **Dorothy Dupree**, Liz Kitsoulis' mother, who died November 11; family of **Nicoli Lombardi**, Teri Yohn's grandfather; family of **Earl Reed**, who died November 15.

Prayers for those who need comfort and healing: **Wade Foreman**, Claudia Pleasants father; **Audrey France**, Karen Unruh's mother; **Aida Vail**; **Bill Long**, Jane Mote's brother-in-law; **Nonie Gorey**, Tom's mother; **Thelma DeFriece**, friend of Anne Davies; **Libby Barber**, Steve's mother; **John Breen**; **Dorothy Jones**, Marj Turbyfill's sister; **Betty and Ernst Hartline**; **Gail King**, Sarah Gamage's mother; **Larry Sullivan**, friend of the Schleichert's; **Anne Hertig**, Libby Schleichert's cousin. **Military Service personnel:** Brian Moore; Eric Martin, Will Adam, Bill Virts, Jerry Weinfeld, Nolan Kelley, Russell Jamison, and Nicolas Duncan; contract workers in Iraq; the men and woman recovering from their wounds; people of Iraq; people of Darfur, Sudan; people of Haiti; people of Afghanistan; peace between Palestine and Israel.

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## Some Humor for the Holidays

*3 reasons not to mess with a child*

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing, she would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want! God is watching the apples."

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'that's Michael, he's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead."



### Worship Attendance

<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2003</u>
7 <sup>th</sup>	74	5	0	79	79
14 <sup>th</sup>	104	8	1	113	84
21 <sup>st</sup>	107	2	7	116	147
28 <sup>th</sup>	109	3	2	115	108

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