

# The CONNECTOR

Jim Yoe  
Jr. Warden

Karen Timmons  
Editor



The Rev. David G. Showers, Rector  
The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, Asst. Rector  
The Rev. Skip Steiner, Adjunct Clergy

## DECEMBER 2017

### *Love Bright and Wild*

I recently came across an Advent poem by Madeleine L'Engle that stirred my attention as we approach this season of hopeful expectation.

#### **After Annunciation**

This is the irrational season  
When love blooms bright and wild.  
Had Mary been filled with reason  
There'd have been no room for the child.

This poem expands my understanding of this season where our readings, music, and prayers invite us to watch, wait, and prepare for Jesus to come among us. We watch and wait for the story of Emmanuel, God with us, crying out from the manger. We watch and wait for Christ to come again, for God's Kingdom to come into its fullness on earth as it is in heaven.

L'Engle's poem reminds me that part of the preparation and waiting we intentionally focus on during Advent is also the willingness to say "Yes." Yes to the unexpected and the irrational. Yes to the

inbreaking of love bright and wild into which God calls us. Mary, Joseph, Isaiah, John the Baptist, and others speak to us in our Advent readings with voices that said yes to God in their own way and time. Yes to resisting fear, as they risked and trusted their lives with God.

I'm someone who likes to know what's going to happen next, and often try to prepare for things in such a way that there's little room for something to go awry. Be it planning for a trip, a date night, liturgy, or an afternoon of errands. What's the game plan? What's plan B? What do I know? What can I expect? I'll probably always continue to be this way to some extent. Yet, this poem and this season in the church year remind me that amidst (and perhaps despite) my efforts to prepare and plan, love bright and wild will still show up. And will do so in some way that doesn't fit into my plan for how something is supposed to go.

Sometimes I resist and resent these moments. They can feel like untimely distractions, and I say no. But in those moments when I do set my own agenda aside, and say yes to what's right in front of me, there is often more than enough room, time, and energy for whatever holy detour the Spirit is sending me down. This happens when someone walks through the doors here at Middleham and St. Peter's struggling to make in need of gas, and hopes someone will listen to them. It happens when one of our youth asks a question that I've never thought of before. Love bright and wild shows up when the food distribution delivery is late, and everyone's more than a little on edge. Then we pause for a moment to take one another's hands in prayer.

God loves us with an irrational kind of love. It often invites us to do irrational things, to say yes to that love in ways large and small. What are your "yes" moments? Jesus came into our midst as Emmanuel, as the ultimate "yes" to humanity, reconciliation, and hope. God is with us. God is calling us into love bright and wild. Advent offers us an opportunity to remember this anew.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell



A very special thank you to Sarabeth Smith who has made a substantial donation to the Parish enabling us to pay off the mortgage on the Parish Hall! This generous gift has enabled the parish to be debt free for the first time in over 20 years. Sarabeth has made this donation in memory of her husband Don who died in 2010. Sarabeth (and Don, before his death) are long-time members of Middleham and St. Peter's and have supported the parish generously. This gift enables us to devote more to the support of various ministries in the church and community.

# Treasurer's Corner



This year seems to have flown by and it is already December 2017. Our Stewardship Campaign was a huge success from my way of thinking. I personally thank Laura Carpenter and Colleen Davies for their excellent planning and execution and I really like our new shirts. They are so comfortable. "Thanks for Giving" is not just a slogan, but a sincere Thank You to all of you for your generosity of time, talent and treasure.

Now to our 2018 budget. As this writing, our potential total income is \$371,066 with potential expenses is \$373,907, which shows a shortage of \$2,841 (rounded). This shortage may be reduced because Anne Gross estimates that we have 73 pledges for 2018 – we hope more come in during December. Our budget is pretty tight and the vestry tries really hard to make sure we follow within it's guidelines. The Finance Committee also reviews monthly reports on our funds and operating income and expenses. Your pledge is 86% of our income with the rest coming from fundraising, facility rentals, cash donations, and other miscellaneous income. So, your pledge is important to keeping our parish vital and strong within the community. Thank you, and you are an amazing group of people!!

***Jackie Vos, Treasurer***

# AMAZON.SMILE.COM



In addition to pledging your support on a monthly basis, please remember that you can give to Middleham and St. Peter's every time you buy something from Amazon.com

Middleham and St. Peter's has an account on AMAZON.SMILE. Click the link for program information if you have not setup Middleham and St. Peter's Parish for your purchase donation.

Your purchases on AMAZON.SMILE provides.05% sent to MSP. It's the same place with all the good stuff, but you must begin at AMAZON.SMILE.

[Amazon Smile](#)

**Holiday shopping may be on your doorstep if not already begun.**

*Support us when you shop this holiday*

Amazon donates when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).



The complex block contains a promotional message for Amazon Smile. It features the text "Support us when you shop this holiday" in a green, cursive font. Below this, it says "Amazon donates when you shop at smile.amazon.com." in a smaller, sans-serif font. At the bottom left is the Amazon Smile logo, and at the bottom right are three wrapped gifts in orange, red, and green.

# BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

## What has been done in 2017 at MSPP:

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One of the objectives of our Capital Campaign was to make necessary repairs to the Chapels and the Parish Hall. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to carry out that wish at each of the facilities this year. In addition to routine maintenance we have accomplished the following:

### St. Peter's Chapel-

- Repaired Roof leak at the chimney
- New heating system
- New Hot Water system

### Middleham Chapel-

- Painted windows and doors
- Made emergent repairs to heating and ventilating system
- Began installing new energy efficient lighting inside
- Scheduled roof repairs to be completed by the end of the year

### Parish Hall-

- Increased the Parking area behind the Parish Hall with the help of a Grant from SMILE
- Replaced the sign at the entrance
- Installed new energy efficient windows
- Repaired basement leaks
- Abated insect damage found during the window replacement
- Installed much needed AC/Heat in basement
- Purchased and installed a new stove with Grant money
- Completed emergent AC/Heat repairs in the office area
- Currently completing roof repairs which included fixing leaks, addition of new soffits and fascia and new gutters and downspouts on south side of the building.

This has been a very busy year. Moving into 2018 our plans include a Kitchen Renovation, which will be completed with mainly volunteer support. More to come on this project as dates are finalized. Thanks again to everyone for their help and support in completing these much-needed projects.

***Jim Yoe, Junior Warden***



## Grounds Cleanup



# We need your help!

**Mark your calendar to help with the grounds cleanup on Sunday December 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. We will meet at Middleham Chapel. Bring rakes and tarps (and pickup trucks if possible). We will clean up the cemetery and rake the leaves. Those who help may have their hours of work credited to their youth program activities or other parish ministries at the rate of \$10 per hour.**

**Contact Hugh Davies with questions at [daviesh@comcast.net](mailto:daviesh@comcast.net) or 410-326-0370.**



MIDDLEHAM AND ST. PETER'S PARISH

# Bring a Friend

When I explain to my grandchildren what Jesus teaches us, it is really simple – love God and love your neighbor. Loving your neighbor is the essence of our Welcome\*Connect\*Strengthen project. Through this project, we encourage all parishioners to bring a friend or neighbor to any of the ministries and activities. There will be lots of opportunities over the next few months – here are a few ideas –

- ❖ Middleham Chapel is open from Noon – 1:00 PM on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays and 4:00 – 5:00 PM on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. Bring a friend to see and appreciate the chapel.
- ❖ Bring a friend to the Big Conversation movie on Sunday December 3.
- ❖ The food drop is on the second Tuesday – help is always needed and it's a great way to show someone how we reach out to the community.
- ❖ Bring a friend to Bible study on Tuesdays or to the monthly Asbury fellowship on the third Monday.
- ❖ Bring a friend to the chili bowl in January
- ❖ Bring a friend to the Solomons Christmas walk on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and end up in St. Peter's Chapel.
- ❖ Bring a friend to church on Christmas Eve.

And this is just a start. Make December the month when you bring a friend to a church event. You will be strengthening the parish and living into Jesus' teaching us to love our neighbor.

*Hugh Davies for the Vitality Team and Welcome\*Connect\*Strengthen*





# Two Events not to be Missed

Father Richard Rohr asks, "If we believe that God operates as me, God operates as thee too and his playing field for all is level, then why do racism and privilege still exist in our communities?" This is the context for the three parts of the Annual Big Conversation this year. Each part is designed to be independent of the others.

**Part I: The Book Study** on *Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* edited by Catherine Meeks was a huge success. Over sixty people from the parish and the community participated with an average Sunday attendance of 35. The group was diverse in race and age. The Wednesday online Facebook discussion group had 22 register with an average of 9 participating per week. Much of the success of the book study sessions is directly attributed to the guest discussion leaders who were well prepared and brought a variety of insights to the conversation. The leaders were: David Deaderick, Vicki and Dusty Rhoades, Nancy Briggs, Josh Bowen, Megan Lewis, Laretta Grier, Hugh and Diane Davies. The author/editor Catherine Meeks joined the last Sunday session, by phone, to answer questions. The Sunday sessions ended with participants expressing the desire to continue the conversation, many stating that they rarely had an opportunity to discuss racism with the "other" and wanting to learn more.

**Part II: The Movie "13", December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Happening this week. A free screening of the documentary/film "13<sup>th</sup>" on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2 -5 p.m. in the Great Hall. An audience discussion of the film, led by members of the Community Mediation Group of Calvert Count, will follow. Child care is available by pre-registering by December 1: please contact the Parish office (410-326-4948).

The documentary film "13<sup>th</sup>" explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States. It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This highly acclaimed documentary received numerous awards, including a nomination for an Academy Award. It offers a special opportunity to more deeply understand the background of today's issues concerning race, justice and the prison system. The film was created from the book, *The New Jim Crow* by Ava DuVernay, who directed "Selma".

### **Part III: The Annual Big Conversation, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Over the past seven years, Middleham and St. Peter's has offered an annual Big Conversation to its parishioners and the Southern Maryland community. The concept is to offer an opportunity to explore a national issue at our local level in an atmosphere of safe, civil discourse. Local leaders are invited to present their perspective on the issue and the audience has an opportunity to question and respond. The concept is to listen, talk and learn from one another in a respectful, civil manner. Many positive outcomes, that have improved the lives of people living in our communities, have evolved from these Big Conversations.

The title of this year's annual Big Conversation is, **"I Didn't Know...Exploring Racism and Privilege in our Community"**. The Big Conversation Committee announced in 2016 that it was taking a year to study and learn about racism in Southern Maryland. As they did so, one expression continually came forth, "I didn't know that." We began to realize that many in our community were also unaware of daily racism. We also became aware that many of us rarely have the opportunity for an extended conversation about racism with "each other – Black and White". Thus evolved, **"I Didn't Know...Exploring Racism and Privilege in our Community"**.

#### **The Annual Big Conversation is on Sunday, January 14, 2018 in the Great Hall from 2-5p.m.**

Community leaders will set the stage by briefly presenting their perspectives. Then, in small groups, participants will have the opportunity to talk and listen to one another, sharing their experiences and telling their stories. In the groups, we will learn about how racism and privilege operate in Southern Maryland and what is being or can be done. Trained facilitators from the Community Mediation Groups of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties will lead the groups. Finally, returning to the large group, we will look toward establishing next steps.

Child care is available by pre-registering by January 12, 2018: please contact the Parish office (410-326-4948).

The Big Conversation Committee is pleased to announce partnerships with several organizations in both Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. They include: The Community Mediation Centers of Calvert County and St. Mary's County, Calvert County NAACP, St. Mary's County NAACP, Calvert Library and Concerned Black Women of Calvert County.

Please make every effort to attend these two events and bring a friend.

For more information see the parish website or contact The Big Conversation Committee at 410-326-4948.



A Civil Discussion  
on  
**Dismantling Racism**

Part 2: Free viewing and discussion of the film

# “13<sup>th</sup>”



**Sunday December 3 at 2:00 pm**  
**At Middleham and St. Peter's Parish Hall**  
**10210 H.G. Trueman Rd., Lusby, Maryland**

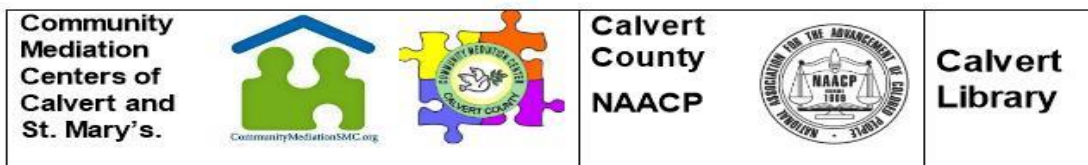
The documentary film “13<sup>th</sup>” explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States. It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This highly acclaimed documentary received numerous awards, including a nomination for an Academy Award. It offers a special opportunity to understand the background of today’s issues concerning race, justice, and the prison system.

The viewing will be followed by audience discussion.

Child care provided upon request by 12/1. Call 410-326-4948.

More information: [www.middlehamandstpeters.org](http://www.middlehamandstpeters.org)

*The Big Conversation is sponsored by Middleham & St. Peter's Episcopal Church in partnership with:*



# Christian Formation

This month, the Advent season of expectation and hope will guide our learning on Sunday mornings. Sunday School for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade continues from 10:30am-11:30am in the Parish Hall using the Spark! Curriculum. Our middle and high youth gather in the lower-level classrooms during that same time to explore intersections of faith and life.

Check out the offerings below for ways to engage your faith life this month!

## Special December Children and Youth Activities

### **Friday 12/1 and Saturday 12/2 (7-9pm)**

#### **Christmas Carols, Ornament Making, and Cookies in St. Peter's Chapel**

St. Peter's Chapel will be open during the Solomons Christmas Walk. Stop by to warm up with some Christmas hymns, sweet treats, and special activities for kids. This annual holiday event sponsored by the Solomons Business Association is a favorite of many!

### **Sunday 12/3 Advent Wreath Making**—All ages welcome!

Following the 9:30am service, all are invited to make an advent wreath as an intergenerational activity. Supplies for one family will be provided. Resources will be available for how to pray and engage the season of Advent as individuals and



Advent wreath per you might families.

### **Sunday 12/17 Youth Group** (5-7pm)

Middle and high school youth meet in the Parish Hall Sunday evening to celebrate the Advent season by sharing a meal together, decorating Christmas cookies to share with those in need in our community, and playing holiday themed games.


## Christmas Eve


### **Single Morning Service 8:30am in St. Peter's Chapel**


### **Christmas Eve Family Service 6:30pm (Tree Decoration begins at 6pm)**

Our Christmas celebrations begin with this service in the Parish Hall. This service is ideal for families with younger children. Starting at 6pm, we will have refreshments and decorate the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall. The service begins at 6:30pm. All children present are invited to help create our manger scene with creche characters. Holy Communion will follow, and the bell choir will join us for this festive celebration. *There will also be Holy Eucharist at 10pm at St. Peter's Chapel on 12/24, and one service at 10am at Middleham Chapel on Christmas Day.*


# Adult Christian Formation

 **Coffee and Conversation** continues on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30am in the Parish Hall Conference Room. All are welcome!

 **Asbury Solomons Episcopal Fellowship** will meet on Monday December 18, 2017, in the Asbury Riverview Dining Room at Noon. Fr. David Showers, rector of Middleham and St. Peter's and Larry Whitbeck, retired church musician, will present a program of Christmas music. Please respond to Russ Horton by December 14, 2017 @ 410-394-3216 or at [jrhortonsr@comcast.net](mailto:jrhortonsr@comcast.net).

 **Advent Wednesday Evening Series - "The Gifts of Christmas"**, This Season, you and your friends, family, and neighbors are invited to an unforgettable Christmas celebration starting with our Advent Series. Advent Series facilitated by Fr. David Showers & Karen Timmons.

 **The Gifts of Christmas: Hope, Joy & Love"**, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:15 Optional Pot Luck Supper, 7:00 – 8:00 Presentation

 **Advent Quiet Day - "The Gift of Peace" – Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – Noon**  
Advent Quiet day facilitated by Fr. David Showers & Karen Timmons



**Have questions?**

Contact Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell [assistant.rector@middlehamandstpeters.org](mailto:assistant.rector@middlehamandstpeters.org)

Contact Fr. David Showers [rector@middlehamstpeters.org](mailto:rector@middlehamstpeters.org)

Or the office at 410-326-4948



## **Advent 2017 Wednesday Evening Series & Quiet Day Celebrate The Gifts of Christmas: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace**

**This Season, you and your friends, family, and neighbors are invited to an unforgettable Christmas celebration.**

**It's the most wonderful time of the year, or so the old song goes. Yet it doesn't always feel that way-the hectic holiday schedule, family pressures, and emotional wounds are just a few reasons. But Middleham and St. Peter's Episcopal Parish sees the Christmas season as one that offers a unique opportunity to experience God's love and grace in the midst of real life.**

**That is the reason for "The Gifts of Christmas" Advent Series celebration-to experience what the true gifts of Christmas mean for our lives today.**

In a season often marked by frenzied busyness, Advent is an opportunity to set aside time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The relevant messages in this series are designed to help us place our focus on a far greater story than our own-the story of God's redeeming love for our world.

**Watch for more information.**

**December 6th, Wednesday - "The Gift of Hope" - Optional Pot Luck @ 6:15 - Program begins @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM.**

**December 9th, Saturday - Quiet Day - 9:00 AM - Noon - The Gift of Peace"**

A light breakfast will be available at 9:00, include coffee, tea and juice. Peace is defined as "freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility." But it is often in situations that are exactly the opposite that we most recognize our need for peace and the power of the peace God provides. We see peace most clearly not in the absence of noise, suffering, and conflict but in the midst of it. We will be exploring "The Gift of Hope", during our Advent Quiet Day, and close with prayer and reflection in our Historic Middleham Chapel.

**December 13th, Wednesday - "The Gift of Love" - Optional Pot Luck @ 6:15 - Program begins @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM.**

**December 20th, Wednesday - "The Gift of Joy" - Optional Pot Luck @ 6:15 - Program begins @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM.**



# OUTREACH

**Wishing you all a joyous Christmas! A lot of children and seafarers will be happy with the many decorated boxes of goodies we sent worldwide. Many thanks to Sharleen Wagner for spearheading the effort and making sure they got to Baltimore.**

**We received this lovely email from, (The Rev.) Mary Davisson, Director Baltimore International Seafarers' Center.**

**“ Hope you can share these e-thanks with all involved in the 12 generous gifts kindly delivered by Sharleen and John Wagner today. This is the hardest time of year for seafarers, so tangible signs that somebody cares are very important to them. It's also a demanding time of year for every congregation, and we greatly appreciate the gift of time and financial resources devoted to these gifts. Thank you for helping us help seafarers!”**

**God bless,**

**Mary**

**MSP provides dinner for the ECHO homeless shelter in Prince Frederic the fourth Monday of every month.**

**If you are interested in helping call Anne Gross at 410-326-4948.**



**Don't forget the Alternative Giving Market for your last minute shopping! Shopping lists are available in the Sunday bulletin in this Connector and also in the weekly email.**

**The next Outreach meeting is January 23<sup>rd</sup> , 2017 at 6:30 in the conference room. Please think about joining us. We are always open to suggestions and new ideas.**

**Soon it will be time to get the turkey in the oven and wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

*Blessings to all,*

*Nancy Favor*

*For the Outreach Committee*



**Boy Scout Troop 1684**

**Roy Rogers Spirit Night**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> 5pm - 8pm**

**Dine In or Drive Thru**

**(Please ask the boy scouts for a ticket)**

**Join our Boy Scouts on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> between 5 - 8pm for our Roy Roger's Spirit Night. Drive thru or dine in, just hand the cashier your token slip so our troop gets credit for your meal. Token slips are available at the door or drive in window.**

**Just ask for one when you get there!**

**Thank you for your support!**

**Robb Hupp, Scoutmaster, Troop 1684**

# Helpful Harvest 2017

## Garden

Garden is in winter mode [no production]. Upcoming activities will include soil sampling and amending soil. The garden has in the past produced approx. 10,000 lbs. of fresh produce for SMILE and other pantries, consider helping out.

## Food Drop

Thanks to everyone who helped with the November 14 Food Drop. 9,200 lbs. of meat and produce were distributed benefiting 600 individuals including 180 Children, 305 Adults, and 115 Seniors.

Consider helping out at next Food Drop, which will be Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Additional help needed to distribute food items after food has been prepped [takes about 1 hour].

# HeartFELT



The Heart FELT backpack program is enjoying a season of plenty! We are the benefactors of many wonderful donations in addition to our own congregation's gifts. First, we received 161 pounds of food from a grant provided by End Hunger of Calvert County. Second, we received a \$4000 grant from the Community Life Center allowing us to feed 13 children for a full year! Third, we received 7 boxes of food from a Boy Scout holiday food drive in Prince Frederick. Our shelves are stocked which is perfect for the Holiday season. Our Thanksgiving backpacks included full sized items of pasta, sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, vegetables, and more. Our goal is to provide a bit more during school holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break. Thanks for your giving, your volunteer support and your prayers.

*Elizabeth Broadus, HeartFELT Coordinator For Middleham and St. Peter's*

# Alternative Giving Market



Shopping for gifts can be a real challenge. What can you give someone who really needs nothing? What will be meaningful to that person? An “alternative gift” might be the answer you need! 2018 is the thirteenth year Middleham and St. Peter’s has sponsored an Alternative Giving Market.

When you support the Alternative Giving Market, at least two things happen: a charity or outreach project gets needed financial support, and you get a unique Christmas present for that person on your list who has it all. Would your uncle or aunt appreciate that you have made a donation towards providing Mosquito Nets in Africa or supporting SMILE in their name? Maybe your grandchildren would appreciate knowing that a donation in their names was made to provide food for a weekend for a needy child in our community through the backpack program.

Please look at the Alternative Giving Market order blank elsewhere in the Connector for a list of items supported. Please contact the parish office, 410-326-4948, if you have comments or questions.

## Middleham and St. Peter's Parish

### Alternative Giving Market – Shopping List 2018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The Alternative Giving Market is a wonderful opportunity to see how dollars can be spent to give a meaningful gift. You may drop your order form and payment into the collection plate any Sunday or mail it to the parish office. Checks should be made out to Middleham and St. Peter's Parish, with AGM marked in the memo field. When you select an "item" to "buy", you can get a gift card to give to a friend, co-worker, or family member. If your donations will be Christmas presents, please indicate how many gift cards you would like at the bottom of this form.

<b>Ministry Area</b>	<b>Suggested Donation</b>	<b>Donated</b>
<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b> <i>Supplies such as linens for our altars, candle supplies, and acolyte vestments. \$20 will buy a purificator. \$70 will buy a cassock for an acolyte.</i>	\$20 - \$70	
<b>CHRISTIAN FORMATION:</b> <i>Materials and programs for Sunday school, youth programs, VBS, Adult Education, and the Big Conversation. \$25 will buy supplies for a class.</i>	\$15 - \$50	
<b>ECHO HOUSE:</b> <i>\$40 can reimburse a parishioner for a portion of the cost of preparing a meal for the county homeless shelter.</i>	\$20 - \$40	
<b>ERD (EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT):</b> <i>\$12 will buy one mosquito net. \$15 will pay for someone to visit a Health Clinic. \$100 will buy a pig for a family.</i>	\$12 - \$100	
<b>FOOD DISTRIBUTION:</b> <i>Each month we distribute food to the poor in our community. The food is free to those in need.</i>	\$50 - \$500	
<b>HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:</b> <i>Build houses in Southern Maryland. \$25 can buy nails to build a home, \$50 can buy some of the roof shingles needed for a home.</i>	\$25 - \$200	
<b>HAITI SCHOOL NURSE PROJECT:</b> <i>We are working to start a new program serving three schools and 600 children in Leogane, Haiti.</i>	\$20 - \$50	
<b>HEALTH MINISTRY:</b> <i>Work to advocate and inform parishioners about stewardship of our bodies through exercise programs and to others less fortunate through Health Fair screenings.</i>	\$10 - \$50	
<b>HEART FELT BACKPACK MINISTRY:</b> <i>Funds to purchase food to fill backpacks for children in our area who otherwise would not have food over the weekends.</i>	\$10 - \$25	
<b>HOSPICE HOUSE:</b> <i>Support the work of Calvert County's Hospice House.</i>	\$10 - \$40	
<b>MISSION TRIPS:</b> <i>Funds to support the Middleham and St. Peter's annual mission trips to depressed areas. Our missionaries rehabilitate housing for those in need.</i>	\$20 - \$50	
<b>MSP GARDEN:</b> <i>The garden has been fantastically productive and has provided thousands of pounds of fresh produce for SMILE and other food pantries. Seeds, starter plants, and a variety of equipment are needed to keep it going.</i>	\$5 - \$20	
<b>MUSIC PROGRAM:</b> <i>\$50 will buy a new anthem for the choir. \$150 will provide a stipend for a guest vocalist or instrumentalist.</i>	\$10 - \$50	
<b>SMILE:</b> <i>Enable SMILE to help our neighbors in need and to purchase food for the needy in our community.</i>	\$10 - \$100	
<b>OUTREACH:</b> <i>\$25 will be used to support one of our outreach programs.</i>	\$25 - \$50	
I would like ____ gift cards.	<b>Total Donated:</b>	

# Christmas Decorations



**If you would like to contribute to the beautification of the Chapels and the Great Hall for Christmas, please provide the information below. Contributions may be made in any amount.**

**Name of Donor (as you would like it listed in the Christmas bulletin):**

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**Amount donated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate: Flowers are in memory of / in honor of / in thanksgiving for / etc.**

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**Please place your form along with your donation in the collection plate or deliver it to the church office no later than Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**You may use the form in your Sunday Bulletin or print out this page.**

**For more information, please contact the Parish Office (410-326-4948).**

# Parish Health Ministry



Deaconess  
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE  
Ministries

## ***December- a Time of Memories and Cheer?***

*December can also be a time many find as very sad- perhaps you are remembering those loved ones you have lost or a holiday memory that might not be happy.*

*Certainly, you can always talk with the clergy or a counselor, but you can also take that moment, not to reflect on those memories, but make new ones. One way is to always give to others- helping at the food drop, volunteering at SMILE or in one of the church sponsored ministries. Our church gives us many ways to "Pay it forward". Our community has many resources to help- here are a couple:*

*Hospice has a Drop-In Grief Support Group at Southern Pines Senior Center- 20 Appeal Lane in Lusby.*

***Meetings:*** 2nd Tuesday of every month from 1 – 2 pm.

***Cost:*** Free

***Pre-registration:*** Not required



*The Health Department also has a Crisis hotline #410-535-1121 and a teen helpline #410-257-2216.*

*Please let us know if you need any help- church office or a member of the Parish Health Committee. Blessings, Dale Yoe- [yoeda@comcast.net](mailto:yoeda@comcast.net)*

# Blue Christmas Service



**Friday, December 8,  
2017**

**3:00 PM**

**Asbury Solomons Auditorium  
(11100 Asbury Circle,  
Solomons)**

**Christmas isn't always "Merry" when you've experienced a death  
or other loss in your life.**

**You are invited to a brief service which remembers the holiday  
quietly, creating a safe place for true emotions, whatever they  
are.**

**(You do not need to let us know you are coming ... just come.)**





## Planning for a New School Nursing Program in Haiti Under Way

The parish's Haiti School Nurse team is pleased to announce that planning is under way for nursing to be provided to students at three schools in Leogane, Haiti. The new program is being undertaken through an agreement between our parish and the Episcopal Nursing School in Leogane. The school's name in French is Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti, or FSIL, which is much easier to pronounce and remember.

This new project builds on the three years that the parish supported a school nursing program in La Resurrection Parish in Gros Morne. The new program comes after extensive study by the team, including meetings and conversations with officials at the George Washington U. School of Nursing, the University of Michigan School of Nursing and the Haiti Nursing Foundation. FSIL is the top nursing school in Haiti and the only four-year baccalaureate program. Initial plans are for a two-year project bringing health care to 600 children. Led by a certified nurse and graduate of FSIL, health care will also be provided by third year students in their community health course. Over the coming three months, full detail for the program will be developed. The health care for children will begin with the school year in October. The program design calls for 1) immediate care for students, 2) health assessments for all students, 3) health education for students and parents, and 4) linking students and families to other health resources.

The development of the project has benefited greatly from the support of FSIL Dean Hilda Alcindor and Board Chair Dr. Jessie Colon. Information on FSIL and the Haiti Nursing Foundation can be found at <https://www.haitinursing.org/>. Information about Dr. Colon can be found at <https://www.barry.edu/health-sciences/faculty/jcolin.html>.

The long-term objective of this project is to model how school nursing can bring health care to children in Haiti. Children in Haiti have the worst health conditions of any country in the Western Hemisphere. One in five children do not live to the age of five. Our initial three-year project resulted in two new school nurse programs starting in Hinche and Bondeau. Longer term we hope many more schools will adopt school nursing.

We will keep you informed as the project continues.

***Haiti School Nurse Team at Middleham and St. Peter's***



**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 Vitality Team Meeting**



**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - Staff Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup> - @ 11:00 AM - Bible Study in the small conference room.**

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> - @ Noon - 1:00 PM - Middleham Chapel Open to The Community. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) Personal Prayer, Reflection or Meditation**

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> - @ 6:30 - 8:00 PM - Evening Mindfulness Practice - in the Parish Hall - Open to all, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.**

**Wednesdays, "Soleful Strutters" - walking group, will resume in the the new year, watch for information on our website, facebook and in our weekly email**

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - The Southern Maryland Job Source Mobile Career Center (MCC) at SMILE**



**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> - @ 10:30 AM HeartFelt loading of backpacks**

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM Parish Health Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> - @ 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 1684**



**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:15 PM Bell Choir**

**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM - Education for Ministry (EFM).**



**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:15 PM - Choir Rehearsal**

**Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 AM - "Books, Banter & Brunch", meeting of the book club at Salsa's Mexican Cafe in Lusby. All are welcome, will be deciding on next selection. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month.**

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 - Noon - Advent Quiet Day**

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 – 4:00 PM – Clean Up Day Meet at Middleham Chapel

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM - Daughters of the King



Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM Food Distribution Prep time, volunteers needed



Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 – 5:00 PM - Middleham Chapel Open to The Community. (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays) Personal Prayer, Reflection or Meditation



Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM A Nurse Practitioner and the Health Van, sponsored by Calvert Memorial Hospital, will be at SMILE.



Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM SMILE Board Meeting

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ noon - Asbury Episcopal Fellowship in the Asbury Riverview Dining Room at Noon, cost is \$11.00 for your meal, reservations needed by Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Lessons & Carols Services located on page 29**



**Connector Article Deadline**

The deadline for submissions for **JANUARY** will be **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>** .

Due to the holidays that will give me a week and a half to finish.

Thanks so much, [Karen Timmons, Communications](#)

Submissions earlier as they are ready are most welcome.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Betty Eble	12/01
Tom Hogenson	12/02
Robert Swann	12/04
Debbie Chapman	12/07
Will Broadus	12/08
Debbie Bowen	12/11
David Arbuthnot	12/12
Mimi Rivers	12/13
Sara Shisler Goff	12/16
Skip Steiner	12/20
Matthew Truitt	12/21
Tom Surles	12/21
Mary Shea Converse	12/22
Joan Hogenson	12/22
Russ Horton	12/25
Dick Hu	12/25
Jeffrey Lewis	12/27
Emily Carpenter	12/28
Eileen Curley	12/31



**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Gordon & Leah Patten	12/15
Ricky & Anne Hayes	12/25
Paul & Julie Fuller	12/27
David & Sally Arbuthnot	12/29
Doug & Susan Smith	12/29
Bill & Dy-Anna Gallagher	12/31


# Middleham & St. Peter's Episcopal Parish




Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017

 8:30 AM – St. Peter's Chapel – Holy Eucharist Last Sunday of Advent

 6:00 PM – Great Hall – Decorating the Christmas Tree

 6:30 PM – Great Hall – Family Service, Holy Eucharist

 10:00 PM – St. Peter's Chapel – Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day, December 25, 2017

 10:00 AM – Middleham Chapel – Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 31, 2017

 9:30 AM – Parish Hall – Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>  6:30 PM Girl Scouts - 2762  7:00 - 9:00 PM Solomons Christmas Walk	<b>2</b>  7:00 - 9:00 PM Solomons Christmas Walk  10:00 AM Overeaters Anon 7:00 PM AA Meeting
<b>3</b> 8:30 AM HE St. Peter's 9:30 AM HE Great Hall 10:15 AM Christian Formation 11:15 AM HE Middleham 2:00 PM Big Conversation Documentary Film	<b>4</b>  3:30 PM Girl Scouts 5145 6:00 PM AA Meeting 6:30 PM Vitality Team Meeting	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Middleham Chapel Open 6:30 PM Meditation 8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM HE-St. Peter's 10-2:00 JobSource Van @SMILE 10:30 AM Heart FELT 1:00 PM Parish Health 6:15 Pot Luck 7:00 PM Advent Series 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - 1684	<b>7</b>  10:00 AM Big Conversation  6:15 PM Bells 7:00 PM EfM 7:15 PM Choir	<b>8</b>  11:00 Books, Banter, Brunch Book Club @ (Salsa's)  3:00 PM Blue Christmas @ Asbury	<b>9</b>  9:00 Advent Quiet Day 10:00 AM Overeaters Anon  7:00 PM AA Meeting
<b>10</b> 8:30 AM HE St. Peter's 9:30 AM HE Great Hall 10:15 AM Christian Formation 11:15 AM HE Middleham	<b>11</b> Noon - SMILE Party 3:00 PM Daughters of the King  6:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Food Dstn prep 3:00 PM Food Dstn 4:00 PM Middleham Chapel Open 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM HE-St. Peter's 10-2:00 PM Health Van @ SMILE 10:30 AM Heart FELT 6:15 Pot Luck 7:00 PM Advent Series 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - 1684	<b>14</b>  6:00 PM SMILE Board  6:15 PM Bells 7:00 PM EfM	<b>15</b>  <b>6:30 PM Girl Scouts - 2762</b>	<b>16</b>  10:00 AM Overeaters Anon 7:00 PM AA Meeting
<b>17</b> 8:30 AM HE St. Peter's 9:30 AM HE Great Hall 10:15 AM Christian Formation 11:15 AM HE Middleham	<b>18</b>  12:00 PM Asbury Fellowship  3:30 PM Girl Scouts 5145 6:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Middleham Chapel Open 6:30 PM Meditation 8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM HE-St. Peter's 10:30 AM Heart FELT 6:15 Pot Luck 7:00 PM Advent Series 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - 1684	<b>21</b>  6:15 PM Bells 7:00 PM EfM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  10:00 AM Overeaters Anon  7:00 PM AA Meeting
<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  8:30 AM Service St. Peter's 6:00 Tree Decorating in Parish Hall 6:30 Christmas Eve Service Parish Hall 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service @ St. Peter's Chapel	<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  10:00 AM Middleham Chapel Holy Eucharist Service  6:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>26</b>  8:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>27</b>  9:00 AM HE-St. Peter's 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - 1684	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>9:30</b> JOINT SERVICE LESSONS & CAROLS PARISH HALL						

# DECEMBER 2017

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Altar Guild

ST. PETER'S: : NANCY FAVOR & ANNE GROSS

GREAT HALL: DIANE DAVIES & ANNE GROSS

MIDDLEHAM: JOAN SHISLER & KAREN WILSON

DATE	SERVICE Time & Location	CELEBRANT	CHALICIST	READER	GREETERS	HEALING St. Peter's @ 9:00 AM
12-03-17	8:30 AM St. Peter's	Fr. Showers	Anne Gross	Emily Carpenter	Bernie Helms & Russ Horton	12-06-17
ADVENT 1	9:30 AM Parish Hall	Rev. Akes-Cardwell Fr. Showers - Sermon	Colleen Davies	Zach Connolly		Fr. Showers
	11:15 AM Middleham	Fr. Showers	Karen Wilson	Avery Kury		
12-10-17	8:30 AM St. Peter's	Fr. Showers	John Wagner	Bernie Helms	Dick & Rosemary Staley	12-13-17
ADVENT 2	9:30 AM Parish Hall	Rev. Akes-Cardwell	Tom Briggs			Rev. Akes-Cardwell
	11:15 AM Middleham	Fr. Showers	Mike Shisler	Susie Cook		
12-17-17	8:30 AM St. Peter's	Rev. Akes-Cardwell	Betty Eble	Dick Staley	Monte & Sally Ray	12-20-17
ADVENT 3	9:30 AM Parish Hall	Fr. Showers	Laura Carpenter			Fr. Steiner
	11:15 AM Middleham	Rev. Akes-Cardwell	Jackie Vos	Bruce Calvin		
12-24-17 ADVENT 4	8:30 AM St. Peter's	Fr. Showers Rev. Akes-Cardwell	Bill Miller	Anita Shepherd		12-27-17
CHRISTMAS EVE	6:30 PM Parish Hall	Rev. Akes-Cardwell	Tom Briggs & Diane Davies			Fr. Showers
	10:00 PM St. Peter's	Fr. Showers Rev. Akes-Cardwell	Anne Gross			
12-25-17 CHRISTMAS DAY	10:00 AM Middleham Chapel	Fr. Steiner	Mike Shisler	Joan Shisler		
12-31-17 JOINT SERVICE LESSONS & CAROLS	9:30 AM Parish Hall	Fr. Showers		Bruce C. Claude M. Joan S. Sally R. Sharleen, Jim S. Carolyn S.		01-03-18 Fr. Showers