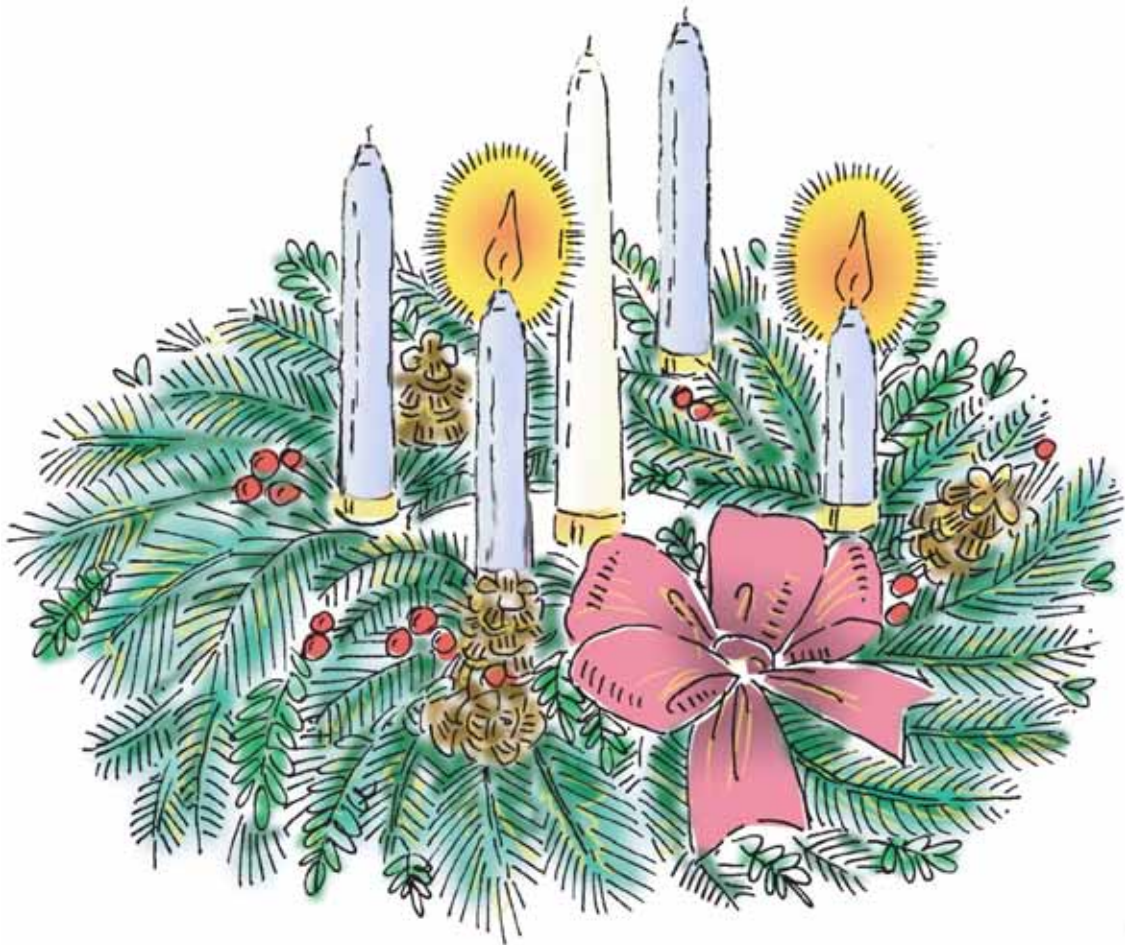


*Second Sunday of Advent*



***2 Peter 3:8-15a***  
***Isaiah 40:1-11***

*December 4, 2011*

# Welcome to a worship gathering at Fairlington Presbyterian Church!

*The Mission of Fairlington Presbyterian Church is to be a  
Transforming Force for Good in the World in the Name of Jesus Christ*



3846 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302  
703.931.7344  
[www.FairlingtonPres.org](http://www.FairlingtonPres.org)

[office@fpcusa.org](mailto:office@fpcusa.org)  
Fax: 703.931.6062

*Office Hours: 10am to 4pm Monday-Friday*

[www.facebook.com/fairlingtonpres](https://www.facebook.com/fairlingtonpres)



On Twitter: @FairlingtonPres

*For many years purple was the color for the Advent season. Over the past thirty years, many Protestant churches have begun using royal blue primarily to distinguish this season from the season of Lent. The word advent is derived from the Latin adventus, which means "coming" or "arrival." In the societies of the Roman empire, the word adventus referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power -- a king, emperor, or even one of the gods. For Christians, Advent is the time when the church patiently prepares for the coming of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. The Advent season focuses on Christ's threefold coming -- past, present, and future. First, we remember the Lord's humble first coming in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Second, we give thanks for His present and continual coming to us through Word and Sacrament. Finally, we look forward with hope and longing to His second coming in glory. Blue represents hope, expectation, and heaven.*



Fairlington Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church USA.

# THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

December 4, 2011  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### **PRELUDE:**

**“Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People” arr. Paul Manz**

### **CALL TO FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE:**

*Mark Anderson, Trustee*

*Please complete the tear-off on the back page of this bulletin  
and place it in the offering plate later in the service.*

### **INTROIT:**

**“Veni Emanuel” arr. Charles Callahan**

### **▲CALL TO WORSHIP #601 (verses 1 & 2)**

*“Song of Zechariah”*

*Blest be the God of Israel, The ever living Lord  
You come in power to save Your own, Your people Israel  
For Israel You now raise up Salvation's tower on high.  
In David's house, who reigned as king and servant of the Lord*

*Through holy prophets did You speak Your word in days of old,  
That You would save us from our foes and all who bear us ill.  
On Sinai You gave to us Your covenant of love;  
So with us now You keep Your word in love that knows no end.*

**▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Mark Anderson*

**▲ SONG OF ANTICIPATION: HYMN NO. 9**

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

*The Andy Family*

**ADVENT PRAYER**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**

*Taizé “Wait for the Lord”*

I waited for the Lord.  
God heard my cry.

*(Chorus sung first by choir, then by all)*

**WAIT FOR THE LORD**

Jacques Berthier



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Mark Anderson*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

*Mark Anderson*

**Holy and compassionate God, you call us to make our ways straight, yet we get lost down crooked roads of selfish concern. We are to prepare the way for your reign of justice, but we choose easier paths of comfort. Have mercy on us. Forgive us and give us strength to clear paths of justice and build highways of peace, preparing the world for your return.**

*Silent Confession*

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON**

*Mark Anderson*

**One:** ...This is God's gracious promise to us.

**All:** **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## **^SONG OF FAITH #600** (*verses 1 & 5*)

*"Song of Mary"*

*My soul gives glory to my God,  
My heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness  
In many marvelous ways.*

*Praise God, whose loving covenant  
Supports those in distress,  
Remembering past promises  
With present faithfulness.*

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S STORY**

*Rev. Leslianne Braunstein*

*The Joyful Noise Offering benefits children in Haiti and Alexandria.  
Please share any loose change you have in the kids' buckets.*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Mark Anderson*

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*2 Peter 3:8-15a*

*Mark Anderson  
page 238*

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

*Rev. Leslianne Braunstein  
page 667*

### **SERMON**

*Rev. Leslianne Braunstein*

*Music for Meditation*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **▲AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- *The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**▲HYMN No. 3**

*“Comfort, Comfort You My People”*

**MOMENT OF THANKSGIVING**

*Tracey Schroeder, Elder*

**SHARING OUR OFFERINGS**

*Mark Anderson*

**Offertory**

**"I Hear the Prophet Callin'" arr. Pepper Choplin**

**▲Response No. 555, verse 3**

*“Now Thank We All Our God”*

*All praise and thanks to God,  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son  
And Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom heaven and earth adore,  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.*

**▲PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

*Mark Anderson*

**Merciful God, prepare our hearts to receive anew the coming of your Son. We offer you our thanks and these gifts, that all may know the power of your love to transform the world with justice and righteousness. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen**

## **WE FOLLOW GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD**

### **▲ CLOSING HYMN NO. 13**

*"Prepare the Way"*

### **▲ BLESSING**

*Rev. Leslieanne Braunstein*

### **▲ CHORAL RESPONSE**

### **▲ PASSING THE PEACE**

### **▲ POSTLUDE**

**"Magnificat" arr. Johann Pachelbel**

*Mark Anderson will be available for private, confidential prayer  
in the pastor's sitting room after worship*

## **2011 Candle Lighters**

### **Advent Week 1**

Miriam Finet, Jen Blakeney, Kelley O'Dell (SS Teachers)

### **Advent Week 2**

Joe Andy (Trustee), Dana Andy (SS Teacher) & family

# **Advent Week 2: Devotional**

## ***Scripture of the Week: Isaiah 42:1-4***

**Tuesday:** “The heart has reasons which reason does not understand,” the philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote. We spend a lot of time trying to make sense out of the relationship between God and humanity. But what if the place of God in life is not a relationship based on reason at all but a relationship based on outrageous, unreasonable love? Then, if we have ever been in love, perhaps we would understand God better. Perhaps the waiting times of life would seem more bearable.

**Saturday:** To be a shepherd in Israel was not a glorious occupation. Nothing really happened in the fields that would much excite the soul. It was a life, in fact, very much like the life of most people who get up to dull routines day after day. But it was the shepherds who saw through the dreary and undignified dross of life to the miraculous in the daily. As the proverb points out, “It was like finding a diamond when you were looking for glass.” What did you first think was only glass in your life that has turned out to be a diamond?

© 2008, *Sparks of Advent Light* by Joan Chittister

***IT'S NOT TOO LATE...***

Pick up your **FREE** copy of

***Sparks of Advent Light***

in the Narthex after church.

# CHURCH INFORMATION

## Church Officers

### Elders

*Class of 2012*

Lisa Miller, Susan Winckler

*Class of 2013*

Mary Olsen, Tracey Schroeder,  
Katherine Stickers

*Class of 2014*

Joel Bednoski, Kenneth Gilbert

### Deacons

*Class of 2012*

Ray Biegun, Hari Rao, Charlotte Ross

*Class of 2013*

Andi Allen, Angela Anderson,  
Chris Hatfield, Ginny Hinders

*Class of 2014*

Mary Virginia Andraos,  
Andrea Martin, Hillary Maxwell

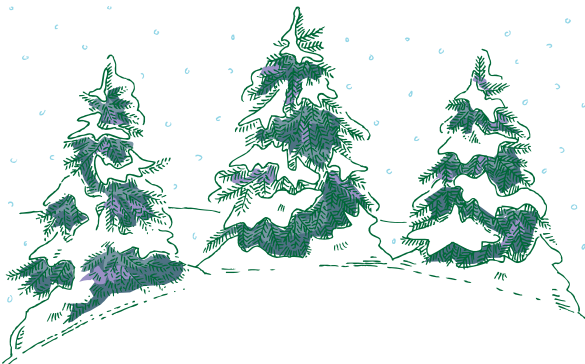
### Trustees

(2012) Joe Andy

(2013) Elaine Halchin

(2014) Mark Anderson

*To contact the elders in general,  
email: [elders@fpcusa.org](mailto:elders@fpcusa.org)*



### Sunday, December 4

**11:00am** Morning Worship  
**Children & Youth Education**  
1:00pm CLC Worship Service  
**6:00pm** Holy Grounds Service

### Monday, December 5

6:00pm AA Meeting  
6:00pm NA Meeting

### Tuesday, December 6

12:00pm CORE Class  
6:00pm AA Meeting (Men)  
7:00pm CORE Class

### Wednesday, December 7

6:00pm AA Meeting (Men)  
7:30pm OA/HOW Meeting

### Thursday, December 8

12:00pm CORE Class  
7:00pm CORE Class  
7:30pm AA Meeting

### Friday, December 9

6:00pm CLC Worship Service

### Saturday, December 10

10:00am OA/HOW Meeting  
11:00am NA Meeting (Women)

### Next Sunday-December 11

**11:00am** Morning Worship  
**Children & Youth Education**  
1:00pm CLC Worship Service  
**6:00pm** Holy Grounds Service

**Bolded Items=FPC Events**



## **Christmas Pageant**

### **PAGEANT UPDATES**

The children and youth of FPC are hard at work on their Christmas pageant which they will present during worship on Sunday, December 18. If you want to help with the pageant, it is not too late!

Contact Kelley at [Kelley\\_odell@hotmail.com](mailto:Kelley_odell@hotmail.com).

**Saturday, December 17**—Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 9:30–12 NOON

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

There are three Sunday School classes held during worship. We've been having a great time together and would love for your child(ren) to join us if they haven't already. And if you are interested in volunteering as a teacher or aide in the new year, please let us know. Here are our current classes by age:

***Spark (PreK-K)***

***Feasting (1st-4th grade)***

***God Squad (5th grade +)***

### **NURSERY**

Child care is provided in the nursery beginning at 9:35 and lasting until 12:25. During worship, the nursery is for ages 0-2. Children may also remain with their parents in worship or in the parlor.

#### ***Nursery Supplies Needed:***

***Juice Boxes, Hand Wipes, AA Batteries for toys.***

## **Christmas Worship Times**

***Christmas Eve: Sat, Dec 24***

***5:00 pm (family service)***

***7:00 pm (candlelight service)***

***\*Childcare NOT provided during these services\****

***First Sunday of Christmas: Dec 25***

***11:00am-regular service***



START AT THE MANGER  
...then go to the cross

## **Please Join Us...**

*Christmas Cantata 2011*

*“Start at the Manger...then go to the cross”*

*December 11<sup>th</sup> during the 11:00 service*

## **Poinsettias**



~To honor the living and to  
remember those who passed~



### **To place an order, we need:**

- Your Name
- Name of Person you're honoring/remembering
- Payment of \$10: if check, put “Poinsettias” on the memo line.

*Turn your order/payment into Jessica by **December 11<sup>th</sup>**.*

# c o m p u t e r **C.O.R.E.**

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## **Graduation**



CORE invites you to celebrate with us! Our students have completed six months of computer and job skills training. Now they are preparing to launch new careers that will make them self-sufficient and transform their lives. The graduation ceremony will feature a keynote address, alumni and graduate speakers, and the all-important presentation of certificates. Join us Thursday, December 8 at 6:30 pm in the auditorium at the James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road in Falls Church for this happy occasion. Hope to see you there!

## **Shopping Night**

If a visit to Ten Thousand Villages to buy fairly traded handicrafts from around the world is part of your holiday shopping plans, may we suggest next Saturday night, December 17, from 7 to 9 pm? That evening, Ten Thousand Villages will donate 20% of all sales to Computer C.O.R.E. as part of the store's annual Charity Shopping Night program. A representative from CORE will be on hand with refreshments to answer any questions you have about CORE, and the store's staff and volunteers can tell you what a difference fair trade makes to the artisans in developing countries who produce the beautiful handcrafted items. Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King Street in Old Town Alexandria.



## ***Greetings, all!***

December 4, 2011

I've thought an awful lot about faith these past few days. We have a scriptural definition of the word: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

When I think of faith I think of Susie, in the movie, *Miracle On 34<sup>th</sup> Street*. If you recall, Susie's Mom worked for Macy's and she didn't want Susie to be sucked in by fantasy. Mom wanted Susie to know there was no Santa Clause. But when Macy's hired a Santa who claimed to be the real thing, life got very complicated for both Susie and her mother. Eventually Susie asked this Santa for a Christmas present. She asked for a house – a *real* house.

Christmas day was spent at Mr. Kringle's retirement home, but there was nothing under the tree about a house for Susie. On the drive home Susie sat in back of the car disconsolately murmuring, I believe... I believe... I believe. Susie was torn between reality and hope.

This is where faith lives - somewhere between reality and hope. Faith is what keeps reality from overwhelming us, and hope from being unattainable.

May you know faith in a real and hopeful way this Advent season.

***Grace and Peace,***  
***Leslianne***

## GET CONNECTED

*new or changed information*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Confidential request for church staff only

*(continued on reverse)*

# CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Leslieanne Braunstein ..... Interim Pastor  
Jessica Danso..... Office Manager  
Michael Dennis..... Organist  
Chris Hatfield..... Choir Director  
Wes Mitchell..... Sexton



## GET INVOLVED

### **I want to participate:**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Greeter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Join the Choir      | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Worship Setup        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Liturgist | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach/Aide in Children's Class |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Meals      | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Rides       | <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Member                |

### **The church also wants to serve you:**

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Request Call   | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Request Visit  | _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Receive a meal | _____        |