This year the season of Lent envelops the month of March. Good Friday arrives on April 6, with Easter rising two days later.

Some of the most appropriate words I can think of for Lent are “deliver us from evil.” This is one of the most familiar phrases from the Bible, repeated in the Lord’s Prayer at least weekly; words we may well repeat by rote, without much of a second thought. It would do us well to consider the meaning of this ancient and important phrase, taught to us by Jesus.

Perhaps a little word study will do well to help us on our way. The word for “deliver” (or “to snatch”) is a very strong word in the original Biblical Greek. It suggests that the Evil One is constantly luring us toward the caverns and pits and that only the Creator’s constant and more powerful snatching, seizing and rescuing can free us. We cannot “deliver ourselves” from the Evil we voice in this prayer. Only God can do that for us.

It might be helpful to think of this familiar portion of the Lord’s Prayer like this: (1) temptation is a pit into which we fall, (2) the evil one is the power whose influence draws us in to the pit. In this petition, then, we are asking “Please lead us in such a way that we will be able to resist the temptations that surround us; please rescue us from all the wiles of the Evil One and from all the power used by and for evil. We need your help!”

We pray this for the church, for our world in such need as it is, and for us in particular. These words are important because they keep us from thinking of ourselves as spiritual heroes. We do not pray “Bring on the Temptation!” We do not go looking for tests of spirituality because we know that we will fail.

Most importantly, we pray to “be delivered” because we know the one to whom we are praying has “been there - done that” for us. We pray these words of the not-yet risen Jesus for the rescue of people from omnipresent dangers and from our hereditary foe. We pray these words because we believe that God hears us, and that as we pray as Christ would have us, we will also live accordingly, both resisting in our encounters with evil and contributing to the needs of the multitudes who fall prey to evil, in all its many forms.

May this season of Lent be for us a time of resistance of evil as well as a time of strengthening our resolve to act toward the good, together, in Christ’s name.

With you, in Christ’s ministry,
**Session Highlights - December 20, 2011**

Moderator Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Blair opened the Stated Session meeting. Elders Eloise Bensberg and James Woods led the opening worship. After an opening prayer, the Elders sang a hymn, “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” The scripture reading was from Colossians 2: 6-10. Ms. Bensberg commented that we rest on centuries of Christians who have gone before, but also have a responsibility to take forward the gift of Christ. There was a time of silent meditation. The worship closed with prayer.

The Session meeting focused on a review of the 2012 draft budget. President of the Board of Trustees, Jim Hughes, had asked all councils and committees to develop two potential budgets for 2012 – one that assumed the same budget as 2011 and one that assumed a ten percent cut in expenses. He reported that, based on updated projections of the amount the church expected to receive from collections and other income, a “flat” budget would likely result in a deficit of $36,000 in 2012, while a budget reducing expenses by ten percent would lead to a $46,000 surplus. The Trustees’ goal is to create a breakeven budget, which would mean an expense reduction of four percent. After discussion, the Elders asked the Personnel Committee, which accounts for the largest group of expenses, to work on a plan to reduce the Personnel budget by approximately three to four percent.

The Session also heard a report from the Ad Hoc Committee formed to review Second Presbyterian’s bylaws and work on developing a Manual of Administrative Operations, as required by the new Book of Order. The Elders adopted several revisions recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee to send to the congregation for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Elders requested that the Ad Hoc Committee conduct a further review of the bylaws in greater depth to determine whether there are other provisions that should be revised.

As usual, the Session received and reviewed reports from the Pastors, and from Councils and Committees at its Stated Meeting. In addition, the Session:

- Approved changing the name of the Caring and Fellowship Council to “Congregational Life Council.”
- Approved a request to invite the Executive Presbyter of Baltimore Presbytery, Peter Nord, to preach on a date of mutual convenience.
- Approved a request from the Union Theological Seminary’s Poverty Initiative to use the church to house students from January 18 – 22.
- Approved holding “lock-ins” for the Confirmation Class and for the senior high fellowship in January.
- Heard a report about the recent Presbytery gathering from Elder Eloise Bensberg.
- Reviewed news about those on the Pastoral Prayer and Concerns list – health problems, bereavements, difficult situations, but also joys. Prayers were offered for those in need of support and care, and for their families.

Dr. Blair and the Elders closed with individual prayers of thanks and intercession by those present and with the Lord’s Prayer.

Leslie Owsley for the Session
Spiritual Partnering Across Generations

In the February Tower, we announced the re-launch of the Legacy Society, which was originally created in 2003 shortly after the Church’s bicentennial celebration. Under the sponsorship of the Stewardship Council, the purpose of the Legacy Society is to strengthen our endowment and investment funds to fulfill our obligation to insure the future of our Church for later generations. An investment for the future through legacy gifts is part of that obligation and we hope you will respond positively to our outreach.

Legacy gifts take many forms and go beyond bequests in a will. They can be useful tools for tax, retirement, estate or financial planning for individuals in many different situations. We plan to offer several educational seminars this spring so you can learn about the various alternatives and decide what is most appropriate for you and your family, including:

- donating appreciated securities,
- setting up arrangements that pay income such as charitable gift annuities, and
- providing gifts for later such as beneficiary designations in an IRA.

Brochures, sample forms and other written material will also be available. The Legacy Society Committee members are:

Todd Garliss
Pete Heumann
Cindy Levering
Jim Mayer
Garland McPherson
Harriette McPherson
Nick Petrelli

We hope you will join us in learning about this important initiative - be on the lookout for more to come in the near future! In the meantime, feel free to contact any of us if you have questions.

Easter Services and Activities at Second

Palm Sunday, April 1
9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 5
A Service of Prayer and Gratitude
7 p.m. Worship and Communion

Good Friday, April 6
A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance
Noon & 7 p.m. Worship

Saturday, April 7
Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn
Attention all kids! Our annual Easter Egg Hunt takes place on Saturday, April 7, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. We begin on the church lawns searching for eggs, with intergenerational activities following in the main hall way. Children of all ages and parents, grandparents — all those young at heart, please save the date. You may be the one to find a Golden Egg! We will make Easter crafts and enjoy healthy snacks. Bring your relatives, friends and neighbors — all are welcome.

Easter Sunday, April 8
9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Worship

Sermons
March 2012

March 4
Mark 8:31-38
“Correcting Jesus?”
The Rev. Dr. Tom Blair

March 11
Mark 5:1-20
“In his Right Mind”
The Rev. Dr. Tom Blair

March 18
Mark 6:14-29
“Is Herod Forgiven”
The Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco

March 25
Mark 9:14-29
“The Power of Prayer”
The Rev. Dr. Tom Blair

April 1
Palm Sunday
Mark 11:1-11
“April Fools”
The Rev. Dr. Tom Blair
Moses and the Slaves

Miriam and Slaves
Musical Performance of
**MOSES AND THE FREEDOM FANATICS**
February 12, 2012

*The Plagues: Frogs and Insects*

*Choir Members Lend their Voices*
March Birthdays

1st
Josephine Alston
Gayle Latshaw
Seth Long

2nd
Brittany Bramhall
Blake Hurd

3rd
Grace Blair
Taylor Classen
Lara Winn Lewis
Betsy Petrelli
Will Young

4th
Edwin Crooks, Jr.
Andy Strain

5th
Cian Callahan
Noah Dexter
Beth Felder
Flo Porterfield
John Troyer
Carrie Young

6th
Betsy Bond
John Bond, Jr.

7th
Kit Dale
Ethan Roberts
Ellen Troyer

8th
Wendy Perrow

9th
Bob Spence

10th
Ed Figler, Jr.
Stacey Hardin

11th
Alix Rodman
Dan Shackelford

13th
Wendell Leimbach
Leslie Saxton
Laura Young

14th
Bruce Sawyer

15th
Neil Hobbins
Ed Poe

16th
Hunter Ramzy

18th
Lynn DeWitt
Jill Karpovich

19th
Karen Chadeayne

20th
Andrew Johnston
Michael Risser

21st
Madeleine Ward

23rd
Whit Bernard

24th
Frank Burd
Davis Hahn
Nina Russell

26th
Jeff Craft
Nick Dudek
Rachel Long

27th
Garrett Duncan
Todd Garliss

28th
Hank Kaestner
Caitlyn Navaleza

29th
William Crosby

Second Family News

We celebrated the birth of:
James West Mullins on January 28, 2012. West is the son of Amy and Dr. Jeffrey Mullins and brother of big sister, Grey.

Second Church Fellowship

Tuesdays at Ten
During Lent we are urged to walk with Jesus. As much as we enjoy our relationship with Jesus Christ, imagine what it would have been like to take that a step further and be His friend when He was here on earth! The apostle Peter had that special opportunity and during March, as we continue the video Bible program, “A Fragile Stone,” we will visit places where Jesus and Peter walked and interacted. Come with us; view videos; participate in dialogues based on contents of films and personal home study; and join in the Christian fellowship always present when we meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for about one and one-half hours at the church in Meeting Room E. (Please use the glass door entrance by the Chapel on Stratford Rd.) For more information, please contact Gene Haupt at 410-366-7599 or mghaupt@comcast.net.

Helping Hands
First Thursdays, March 1 & April 5, 9 a.m.
Many hands make light work and more fun! Our Daily Bread needs the casseroles of hunter’s stew for 200 that we make in the church kitchen each month. Please join us about 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. on the first Thursday (March 1 and April 5) as we chop, sauté, and mix while getting to know each other a little better. Come occasionally or regularly, and/or contact Betsy Bond at 410-296-5554 or betsybond3@gmail.com.

Wednesday Fellowship, March 21, 12 noon
"That Nest of Pirates on the Chesapeake"
Baltimore in the War of 1812
With the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 being celebrated this year, it's a good time to welcome back Baltimore historian and educator Wayne R. Schaumburg for an illustrated talk that traces the events of September 1814 when British forces attacked Baltimore after their successful campaign against Washington. Referring to Baltimore as "that nest of pirates on the Chesapeake", British commanders launched a combined land and sea attack against the city. Wayne's presentation will look at the people, places, and events that tell the story of our city's defense as well as the writing of the poem that 117 years later would become our National Anthem.

Questions? Call Joyce Zimmerman, 410-467-4210. All are welcome, as always.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Second@Nine Worship 9 a.m. Christian Education 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Helping Hands 9 a.m. Handbell Rehearsal 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Tapas, Talk and Theology 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Church Officers Retreat at Brown Memorial Woodbrook 8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Staff Meeting 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 p.m.</td>
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(Continued from page 6)

Tapas, Talk and Theology
Friday Evenings March 2, 16 and 30, 7 p.m.
The Tapas, Talk and Theology bible study group continues
the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which have been
described as nothing less than the greatest archaeological
discovery of the 20th century. The meeting gathers at
members’ homes. Contact Deborah or Dev Slingluff at
410.821.7829 or daslingluff@gmail.com for the location.
The format is a video followed by discussion. Please bring a
dish to share.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. (date subject to change)
Calling knitters and crocheters (or those
who ever wanted to learn) to join Second
Presbyterian’s prayer shawl ministry
group. The patterns are simple.
Completed shawls are blessed at a church service and
given to fellow members in need of care or comfort.
Please call Ann Hesselbacher at 410.433.9578 for
location and to confirm the date.

Candlelighters
Monday, March 26, 7 p.m., Manse
Up for Debate: A Series of conversations about topics
that spark lively conversation
Candlelighters is a women’s group that meets monthly
for fellowship and to deepen our spiritual lives together.
The Candlelighters group is taking a look through the
lens of faith at topics that often spark debate. Please
contact the church at 410.467.4210 for this month’s
topic. All women are welcome! The meeting will take
place at the manse.

From the Mission Council

Seeking YOUR Suggestions for
New Mission Projects
The Mission Council would like to hear from you on
projects you are interested in. We are constantly looking
for good opportunities for our congregation to serve in the
community. If you have a good idea, or if your small
group, Sunday school class, or bible study wants to do a
special project, let us know. Please contact any of the
mission council members listed below, or drop your idea in
the mission suggestion box. Also, if you are interested in
serving on the Mission Council, let us know because we’d
love to have new folks to work with our great team.

Mission Council members:
Andrew Birmingham
Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco
Gene and Sue Leber
Wendell Leimbach
Anne Perry
Sharon Pippert
James Woods, Chair (jwwoods28@gmail.com)

March Mission Project:
Didn’t you know that March 17-24th is
National Clean Out Your Closet Week?

Throughout the month of March, we’ll help you with your
spring cleaning tasks by collecting clothing that you no
longer want or need. Then on a Saturday to be determined,
we’ll gather as a group to deliver and help sort clothing
donations at the Franciscan Center. Watch the Friday Flyer
and Worship Bulletin for more information.

EASTER FLOWERS

Donations for Easter memorial flowers are being
received until Palm Sunday, April 1. The donor’s
name, along with the names of the persons
remembered or honored, will be included in the
Easter bulletin. After Easter, the plants will be
delivered to our shut-ins by the deacons. Names and
contributions may be sent to Joyce Zimmerman at
the church. Checks may be made payable to Second
Presbyterian Church with a notation at the bottom
"for Easter flowers". Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE:
Annual Spring Mission Day
Saturday, April 14th
Projects will include old favorites like PB&J for Our Daily
Bread, a stream cleanup, plus other great projects in the
works. Stay tuned for updates!
# 2012 Church Officers

## The Session

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Eloise Bensberg*</td>
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<td>Mark Felder</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Mari Quint</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tom Monahan*</td>
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<td>Nancy Getter*</td>
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<td>Sarah Slingluff</td>
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<td>Dan Shackelford</td>
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<td>Jim Kucher</td>
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<td>Bob Smith</td>
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Scott Silverwood, Clerk of Session  
The Reverend Dr. Thomas W. Blair, Moderator

## Board of Trustees

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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>David Dardis*</td>
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<td>Keith Getter*</td>
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<td>William Kerr*</td>
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<td>Neaville Herndon</td>
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<td>Cindy Levering*</td>
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<td>JT Paulk</td>
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<td>Jim Hughes*</td>
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Jim Hughes, President

## Deacons

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<tr>
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<td>Josephine Alston</td>
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<td>Larry Budd</td>
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<td>Tom Bowman</td>
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<td>Jaye Crooks*</td>
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<td>Katherine Crosby</td>
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<td>Kay Brillinger</td>
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<td>Rebecca Dineen*</td>
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<td>Fay Miller</td>
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<td>Abraham Kandathil</td>
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<td>Susan Mayer</td>
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<td>John Warnack*</td>
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<td>Franklin Stout*</td>
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<td>Dayna Stueck</td>
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Fay Miller, Moderator

## Nominating Committee

Mark Felder  
Becky Ferrell  
Keith Getter  
Garland McPherson  
Katherine Murphy  

* serving a second term—ineligible for another term
Dynamic New Principal Drives Exciting Changes at Guilford Elementary/Middle School

Second Church volunteers aid progress
By Nancy Getter and Nancy Iliff

Many exciting changes are taking place at the neighboring Guilford Elementary/Middle School that is located just blocks from Second Church on Old Cold Spring Lane.

To begin, last spring a small group of teachers, administrators, parents, and community members from Guilford Elementary/Middle School had the honor and privilege of interviewing candidates for the school's new principal. After talking with a good number of qualified candidates, one candidate stood out as the perfect person for the position, Mr. Brian Jones.

During the interviewing process, Mr. Jones highlighted his years working as a public school teacher and administrator with secondary school age students in Manhattan and the Bronx. His most recent position was with an alternative high school in Baltimore.

When asked by the interviewing committee why he wanted to become the principal of an elementary/middle school, Mr. Jones stated that he continues to see how ill-prepared many students are for high school. He expressed his desire to work at the elementary level to improve the academic experience for children from the first day they enter pre-kindergarten.

During the interview, Mr. Jones described himself as the type of person who loves to roll up his sleeves and get right to work. And since being hired, getting right to work is precisely what Mr. Jones has done.

Mr. Jones started as Guilford's new principal this past summer, and he has made tremendous changes and improvements from the moment he walked through the door.

Beginning with physical changes, Mr. Jones had the interior of the school repainted, moved the middle school from the old portable section into the main building, had the gymnasium floor refinished, the bathrooms refurbished, and a bright and beautiful new school store opened. All that happened in July alone!

The positive changes kept coming in August as the children returned to a newly named school — Guilford Elementary/Middle School for Art and Technology — with new requirements for personal conduct and new school uniforms with the school name and logo. Now, every student is called a scholar, and every scholar and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) have signed a school compact with the principal that lays the foundation of expectations for academic excellence.

There are new full-time art, music and physical education teachers, and a part-time computer instructor. Scholars have physical education, art, music, and technology classes every week. In addition, the school offers a wide variety of both in school and after school activities such as STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), Girl Scouts, Acts4Youth, after school science, basketball, dance, tennis, choir, math club, graphic design, and the National Academic League.

Enrollment has risen from 321 students to 354, and attendance at Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings has increased. Word is spreading quickly that exciting, effective, positive changes are happening at Guilford Elementary/Middle School.

Helping Mr. Jones reach his goal of a technology-focused school, three organizations — the Federal Drug Administration, BootUp Baltimore, and Loyola University — have donated computers.

This January, the school kicked off its first recycling program, and two new academic enrichment programs will be offered during the spring semester: Camp Achieve and BootUp Baltimore. Last fall the school held its first Spelling Bee with our own Reverend Jenn as one of the judges. The first Math Jeopardy contest for scholars from first to eighth grade will be held during the second semester.

Several members of Second Presbyterian Church volunteer at the school each week. Gene and Sue Leber, and Nancy Iliff coach middle school students in their preparation for the National Academic League (NAL), an academic, quiz bowl type competition where students prepare presentations about current events, and/or answer questions in mathematics, science, geography, world history, and language arts. Participating students study and prepare extensively for competitions. If a championship is won, it is possible for students to compete all the way to a national level.

In addition to nine other Guilford and Homeland residents, two members from Second tutor at the school. Lynda Riley tutors kindergarten students in science, and Nancy Getter reads to pre-kindergarteners. Tutors can work

(Continued on page 11)
Good News Column

Taking a cue from the NBC Nightly News segment “Making a Difference,” the Caring and Fellowship Council endeavors to highlight the “Good News” within our congregation.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Margaret Budd and Second’s Prayer Shawl Ministry

Many of you remember Margaret Budd, our much beloved former organist at Second Presbyterian for approximately 30 years and originator of the Community Concerts at Second. Currently Margaret plays the organ at Roland Park Presbyterian Church. She recently acted as ambassador for both Second Presbyterian and Roland Park Presbyterian on a trip to deliver prayer shawls and other donated items to the Kay Papa Nou orphanage in Haiti. Margaret retains her membership at Second Presbyterian church and remains active in the church’s programs. Of her trip, Margaret writes:

"Just a quick note to tell you I served as Second's ambassador, and I delivered Janet Short's two beautiful prayer shawls plus Jenn's perfect note to Pastor David and his wife Danny at the Kay Papa Nou orphanage in Haiti this week! They were SO grateful, so appreciative. David is a true Man of God, accomplishing his dreams and visions under TREMENDOUS odds. The 40 children radiate their love and faith - precious. Yes, I played their keyboard in the moving Sunday service, and brought donated instruments, including a flute, keyboard, two clarinets, and violin, for the school. Their singing touched my very soul. I'll not be the same... My DEEP thanks to you all, the Prayer Shawl knitters, Janet Short particularly, and my beloved Second Church for reaching out yet again... God's blessings and my love, Margaret"

GOOD NEWS

Thom Kuhl Moves to Independent Living

Thom Kuhl, who underwent surgery related to diabetes in 2009 and subsequent rehabilitation for the resultant double prosthesis, recently moved from Harford Gardens Nursing Center on Harford Road to independent living at Westminster House Apartments in Mt. Vernon! Anne Perry greeted him at the door on a recent visit to Westminster House, noting that Thom was sitting outside and seemed "so very happy, although he said he was not unpacked totally yet." Thom told Anne that he could never have made such a recovery without the prayers and help he received from all of us at Second. Thom also attended services at Second in February, looking good and walking well!

Matt Blair Accepted to Cornell PhD Program

Matt Blair, son of Tom and Jackie, received acceptance to the Ph.D. program in Mechanical Engineering at the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Matt is a 2008 graduate of Towson High School and will complete his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering at Cornell University this spring. He plans to begin his Ph.D. program at Cornell in the fall. Congratulations!

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If something has put a smile on your face, please call the church office at 410.467.4210 so that we can share your “Good News” with our Second Family.

Guilford Elementary School - Continued from page 10

with students in all different age groups and subject areas. Some tutors work one on one with a child, and some work with the scholars in small groups. Other tutors include: Amy Barnett, Julie Evans (of the church staff), Jay Lippincott, Margaret Lippincott, Claudia Nemphos, Leslie Meek, Gillian Meigs, Burton Ray, and Susan Scheir. Both Reverend Jennifer DiFrancesco and Beth Felder also serve the school. Jenn works with the Family and Community Engagement Team, and Beth, along with Nancy Getter, serves as a member of FANS, (Friends And Neighbors of our School), a Guilford neighborhood organized group whose sole mission is to support Guilford Elementary/Middle School.

If you would like to tour the school, serve as a tutor or support the school in any other way, please feel free to contact Nancy Getter at kgetter@aol.com or 443.895.4255.
March 11—3:30 p.m.
ESCHER STRING QUARTET
Founded in 2005, the Escher String Quartet “has all the qualities necessary to be the next Emerson or Juilliard Quartet.” Their program will include works by Haydn, Bartók, and Beethoven.

March 25 —7:30 p.m.
CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT
Violin Sonata No. 26 in B-flat major, K. 378, Mozart
Gregory Mulligan, violin; Lura Johnson, piano
Sextet for Piano and Winds, Francis Poulenc
L’Heure Du Berger, Jean Françaix
Marcia Kämper, flute; Michael Lisicky, oboe;
William Jenken, clarinet; Fei Xie, bassoon;
Gabrielle Finck, horn; Sylvie Beaudoin, piano
String Quartet in G Minor, Op. 27, Edvard Grieg
Jonathan Carney, violin; Ellen Pendleton Troyer, violin;
Richard Field, viola; Dariusz Skoraczewski, cello

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