Making Space

The season of Advent begins with the words: “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” (Matthew 3:3) The season ends with the familiar words: “And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

In both of these verses and for us with them, there is a need for a suitable place to be made, room for that of God to reside, where the Spirit leads and where Christ will be found in our lives.

We are all invited to share in this same journey. It need not be complex but takes some openness to some things new.

We all know how harried the Christmas season can become, with planning, shopping, visiting and on and on and on. Church is the one place we can be which is sure, settled, and focused on the true ‘reason for the season.’ Admittedly, it takes some discipline to slow down enough to allow this all to sink in, but after all, that’s why we’re a part of Christ’s body in the church.

Through our worship times this Advent we will be asking how it is that we can ‘make space’ for that of God in our lives. Just as Joseph and Mary needed to find just the right place for Jesus to be born, and so many other Biblical characters once sought a home, a refuge, a safe place to be, with welcoming hearts and open arms, so are we also invited to ‘make space’ for the new beginnings God offers us.

We will be asking some probing questions to help us let rise to the surface both when and how we have made space for God in our lives in different ways so that we can be more open to letting it happen again. Some of our questions are these:

- When was a time when a disruption in the ordinary when the presence of God was found?
- When were you surprised that someone came to your side, stuck with you, unexpectedly?
- When did a usual time become an unusual time...with God?
- What is the best news you’ve ever shared?

The familiar words of John’s Gospel are true in our lives, that “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” This Advent we can remember, relive and revive what this means for us and others.

With you, in Christ’s ministry, together,
Session Highlights
October 17, 2017

Moderator Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Blair called the Stated Meeting of Session of the Second Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, to order on October 17, 2017, where Rev. DiFrancesco and Rev. Carlson also participated.

Following the opening worship session, during which Dr. Blair asked elders to consider the gift of grace and unexpected blessings, and to share instances where they experienced God’s grace and unexpected blessings. Responses included examples of:

- An urgent need being met by the sudden appearance of one having exactly the capabilities required.
- A prayer for encouragement being met by timely uplifting words of support and love.
- Inspirational leadership, generosity and servanthood.
- A hope for support being met with love, acceptance and laughter.

Referencing Joan Gray’s book, Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers, Dr. Blair reminded us that everything we do is grounded in faith. He also expressed the need to remain attentive to the challenges of Charlottesville, and to not be silent. In the discussion that followed, elders reinforced the need to be a welcoming place, keeping a positive spirit alive, and affirming diversity and inclusion. Observations and suggestions included a stated commitment to diversity among our Church leadership, that consideration be given with regard to nominations for the upcoming year, and that input be sought from current minority membership. Rev. DiFrancesco stressed the importance of dialogue and suggested we consider a bible study structured around the diversity issue, citing Matthew, chapters 5–7. There seemed to be broad agreement that through increased interaction and sharing, our stories bring us together.

Dr. Blair, Rev. DiFrancesco, and Rev. Carlson reviewed the Pastoral Care and Concerns list before closing the meeting with prayer.

~Scott Silverwood for the Session
Upcoming Special Worship Services

Making Space FOR HEALING
Special Service of Worship | Wed. Dec 20 | 7 PM

Making Space:
THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
5 PM
Family Service

8 PM & 11 PM
Services of Lessons & Carols

December Sermons

DECEMBER 3
First Sunday in Advent
Pageant Sunday
“Miracle at Midnight”
Single 10 AM Worship Service

DECEMBER 10
Second Sunday in Advent
9 AM & 11 AM Worship Services
Luke 1:5-25
“Making Space: In the Ordinary”

DECEMBER 17
Third Sunday in Advent
10 AM Worship Service
Luke 2:1-5
“Making Space: In Our Relationships”

DECEMBER 24
Fourth Sunday in Advent
10 AM Worship Service
Matthew 2:7-12
“Making Space: for the Unnamed”

Christmas Eve
5 pm Family Service
“Mortimer’s Christmas Manger”

8 PM & 11 PM Candlelight Services
Matthew 2:7-12
“Making Space: The Heart of Christmas”

DECEMBER 31
New Year’s Eve
10 AM Worship Service
Luke 2:22-20
“Making Space: through the Unexpected”

Merry Christmas
Nourish Your Spirit this Christmas Season

Looking for possible gift books for the people in your life who might appreciate some spiritual nourishing? Check out these suggestions from our pastors. You might also enjoy them for yourself.

From Rev. Blair

**Backpacking with the Saints** by Belden Lane
According to Tom, ANYTHING by Belden Lane is great (or so he believes). In this book the author embarks on solitary spiritual treks through the Ozarks and across the American Southwest carrying only basic camping equipment and a collection of the world’s great spiritual writers: Rumi, John of the Cross, Hildegard of Bingen, Dag Hammarskjöld, Thomas Merton, Søren Kierkegaard, and Thich Nhat Hanh

**The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible** by Charles Eisenstadt
Tom acknowledges that this is not an easy read, but it is fruitful... full of very personal, deep, earnest reflections of crucial aspects of human life on this planet.

“In a time of social and ecological crisis, what can we as individuals do to make the world a better place? This inspirational and thought-provoking book serves as an empowering antidote to the cynicism, frustration, paralysis, and overwhelm so many of us are feeling, replacing it with a grounding reminder of what’s true: we are all connected, and our small, personal choices bear unsuspected transformational power. By fully embracing and practicing this principle of interconnectedness—called interbeing—we become more effective agents of change and have a stronger positive influence on the world.” ~Amazon

From Rev. Carlson

Amy loves poetry and the following two are among her favorites for those in need of comfort in times of grief.

**The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief** by Jan Richardson
“When Jan Richardson unexpectedly lost her husband and creative partner, the singer/songwriter Garrison Doles, she did what she had long known how to do: she wrote blessings. These were no sugar-coated blessings. They minimized none of the pain and bewilderment that came in the wake of a wrenching death... From her own path of grief, Jan offers a luminous, unforgettable gift that invites us to know the tenacity of hope and to recognize the presence of love that, as she writes, is “sorrow’s most lasting cure.” ~Amazon

**Thirst** by Mary Oliver
A Pulitzer-prize winning poet and former Bennington College professor, Mary Oliver is a prolific writer. In this collection of 43 poems Oliver explores her grief at the loss of her beloved partner of over forty years. “Within these pages she chronicles for the first time her discovery of faith, without abandoning the love of the physical world that has been a hallmark of her work for four decades.” ~Amazon

**The Word of Life: A Theology of John’s Gospel** by Craig Koester
This book is described as an accessible, engaging exploration of the major theological dimensions of John’s Gospel.

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OMG! Oh, My God!

OMG, this is so sad...mass killings of people, have they all gone mad?

OMG, what’s this I see? Police are brutally murdering people that look just like me.

OMG, they’re worshipping guns, that’s taking the lives of our boys and our sons.

OMG, the women, the girls...twerking & flashing skin...it JUST NEEDS TO END!

OMG, I cannot believe, how I and others have all been deceived.

OMG, I see through my eyes...Your world is a place, less recognized.

OMG, I cannot tell...are we on earth or already in hell?

OMG, the churches all say...just kneel and pray it will all go away?

OMG!!!!

~Linda Venable-Ward
Office Administrator
It’s the New Year—before Christmas

Happy New Year! You might think this salutation premature since Christmas has yet to arrive, but the new year—that is the new liturgical year of the church—began with the first Sunday of Advent on December 3rd. I suspect that many of us who grew up in the Presbyterian Church were only vaguely aware of the liturgical year.

Our centuries-old Christian church year consists of a cycle of liturgical seasons, not dependent on the positions of the sun or moon like our January to December Gregorian calendar, but on keys aspects of the life of Christ (though the events of Christ’s life are coordinated with the solar calendar). Not surprisingly, Christmas and Easter are the two central cycles. Each contain a holiday/festival time, preceded by a season of preparation and anticipation. Transitional Sundays precede and follow both seasons: Christ the King and Baptism of the Lord Sundays bookend the Advent/Christmas season, while Transfiguration and Trinity Sundays do so for the Lent/Easter season. In our reformed tradition, Sunday worship, the weekly celebration of the Lord’s Day, is of primary importance among the year’s observances.

In between these seasons are two periods of Ordinary Time. “Ordinary” doesn’t imply plain or boring, but rather “counted” time, as in the word “ordinal” which comes from the same Latin root. These 33 Sundays of the year are times when there is not a special day or season.

We mark each season and special days with specific colors: green for common time; purple, the color of penitence and preparation, for Lent and Advent (blue may also be used for Advent); white for special days and seasons in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ including Christmas and Easter as well as Christ the King, Transfiguration and Trinity Sundays; and finally red, the least-used color, for Pentecost and ordinations. Red may also used for Palm Sunday. You may observe the season’s color each Sunday by the paraments, the hangings on the pulpit and lectern, and sometimes by the pastors’ stoles.

For the many weeks of ordinary time, Second is blessed to have a beautiful set of paraments lovingly needlepointed by the former Stitchery group at Second back in the 1990s. Janet Short provided the funding in memory of her husband George Black. Jane Barton initiated the project, for which former member Betty Ann Black provided the funding in memory of her husband George Black. Janet Short was among those in the Stitchery Group who lent her needlepointing talent to the project.

The liturgical year helps to guide our worship practices, providing variations in focus on aspects of God’s multi-faceted nature. The Rev. Mark Roberts, Presbyterian Pastor and Executive Director of the Max De Pree Center for Leadership at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California uses the analogy of taking a trip. When you experience something new like seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, you stand in awe of its majesty. If you were to see it every day, its majesty isn’t diminished, but you might begin to take it for granted. However, if your scenic views keep changing, each would be fresh. Inspired by his own trip through the dramatic scenery of the western United States, Roberts aptly describes the experience of this annual worship journey:

“We begin in the rising plain of Advent, which leads us to the top of the celebrative pinnacle of Christmas. Then, after a month of travel through the fertile grasslands of “ordinary time,” we enter the parched desert of Lent in which our thirst for God is magnified. Holy Week guides us through the tortuous geography of Jesus’ last week, culminating in the dark cave of Holy Saturday. On Easter morning, the sun breaks forth with glorious light, and we are filled with awe as we gaze upon the towering mountain of God’s victory over death. Throughout the season of Eastertide, the world seems brighter, more alive than ever before. At Pentecost, we remember our fellow travelers and refuel to continue on through the rolling hills of ordinary time, until we return to where we began at the start of Advent.”

(www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/)
Called as Partners in Christ’s Service: December Mission Outreach

Be an Angel!
Collecting Angel Tree Gifts through Thursday, December 14
The tradition of gift giving continues. The past two years, Second was able to provide over 200 gifts for older adults at Westminster House and children at Walter P. Carter and Guilford Elementary/Middle Schools. This year we want to do more.

Our angel tree is up in the rotunda (next to the sanctuary) with gift tag angels, graciously made by Margie Bookhout and Janet Short, ready for you to pick up. This year we are collecting presents for families at Glenwood Life Counseling Center. This Center services almost 700 clients and their families in their addiction recovery.

Join us and be an angel. Select an angel tag from the tree and bring your UNWRAPPED gift with its tag to the church by Thursday, December 14th. The clients and families at Glenwood Life will be “shopping” for the gifts on Friday, December 15th using the tokens they receive for attending groups and counseling sessions.

Additional items needed:
- Wrapping paper
- Tissue paper
- Gently Used or New gift bags
- New Holiday Cards

100 Pounds of Ground Coffee for Manna House!
Did you know that Manna House serves almost 12 gallons of coffee each morning at their breakfast?
That is lots and lots of coffee grounds. This month we are collecting ground coffee for Manna House. It doesn’t have to be anything fancy, just make sure it is ground coffee (no beans, please). We hope to collect 100 pounds of coffee. That would make 10,000 cups of coffee for our mission partners and the food-insecure they serve on 25th street.

CARES Food Pantry
“CARES was opened in 1993 by a group of devoted volunteers primarily from churches in the Govans neighborhood of north Baltimore. Their vision was to create a centralized place where area churches could send persons in need and know they would be served more effectively and efficiently.”

Each week, Second Presbyterian Church collects canned food items for this client-choice food pantry. What is a client choice food pantry? This simply means that clients have the opportunity to choose their own food, giving dignity and control, limiting waste (since they tend not to take food they won’t use), and allowing the clients to tailor the help they receive to be the best possible fit for their own unique situation. You can bring your donations during the week or on Sunday. Collection bins are located in the mission corner near the Westcott Room.

A Big Thank You!

Thanksgiving Turkeys and Baskets
Thank you, Second Presbyterian Church!! Because of your awesome generosity, we collected 75 turkeys and baskets for the Woodbourne-McCabe neighborhood and Glenwood Life Counseling center. They were distributed to neighbors on Thanksgiving week by the Woodbourne-McCabe Neighborhood Association and Glenwood Life Counseling Center.

Halloween Candy Collection
Thank you for all of your Halloween Candy. We collected over 60 pounds of candy that was taken to the Baltimore needle exchange program.

Looking for something to read over the holidays? Get started on our January selection for the Mission Book Group. Behold the Dreamers is a 2016 PEN/Faulkner Award-winning novel about an immigrant from Cameroon who becomes a chauffeur for a Lehman Brothers executive shortly before the 2008 financial crisis.
Children’s Christmas Eve Preludes

Celebrating God’s Gift to Us and Offering Our Gifts to the Christ Child

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him—Give my heart.

Children who play an instrument or sing are invited to contribute their musical gifts during the 5 PM family Christmas Eve Service. Children are encouraged to select music that celebrates the birth of our Savior. Please register online at www.secondpresby.org/worship/preludes by Sunday, December 10th.

The children should arrive in the sanctuary at 4 PM. The preludes will begin at 4:45 PM. Questions? Contact Amy Carlson at acarlson@secondpresby.org.

Christmas Flowers

Donations for Christmas memorial flowers are being accepted until Sunday, December 10. The donors’ names, along with the names of the person(s) remembered or honored, will be included in the Christmas worship bulletins. Plants will be distributed to our shut-ins by the Deacons after Christmas. To participate, contact Joyce Zimmerman at 410.467.4210, e-mail at jzimmerman@secondpresby.org, or simply send a note. Contributions may be made to Second Presbyterian Church, notated for “Chancel Guild” and directed to Joyce at the church.

Handel’s Messiah

The baroque master’s beloved oratorio with period instrument orchestra and acclaimed soloists. Arian Khafif’s final concerts with Handel Choir of Baltimore!

(with members of Second’s Chancel Choir)

Handel Choir with Handel Period Instrument Orchestra
Kerry Holahan soprano
Emily Marvosh mezzo soprano
Kyle Stegall tenor
Peter Walker bass
Arian Khafif conductor

Saturday, December 9, 7:30 pm
Grace United Methodist Church
5407 N. Charles Street

Sunday, December 10, 3 pm
St. Mark Church
30 Melvin Ave, Catonsville

Pre-concert lecture one hour before each performance by Brian Bartolds, Handel Choir’s 2017-2018 interim artistic director & conductor.

Tickets:
$47 premium seating
(front/center seating)
$37 standard seating
$10 for students with I.D., and patrons 18 or younger

www.handelchoir.org
or call 667.206.4120
We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Mrs. Elizabeth (Betsy) Bang**, who died November 5, 2017.

**Mrs. Nancy Iliff**, who died November 18, 2017

### Small Groups

**Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study**

**Every Tuesday at 10 AM, Seminar Room**

As we begin our Advent journey, are we ready to be completely devoted to the One who came to fill our souls with the gifts that only He can give? This will take practice and during December we will continue the video program, “Soul Keeping,” and explore “The Practice of Grace,” “The Practice of Gratitude,” and “The Practice of Growth.” Please come with us and view vivid video presentations that challenge us; participate in open Bible-based discussions that enlighten us; and receive the gifts of blessings and joy by being with the Christian fellowship ever present when we meet.

Contact Gene Haupt at 410.366.7599 or mghaupt@comcast.net.

### Helping Hands

**Thursdays, December 7 & January 4, 9 am**

Join us in the church kitchen as we make casseroles and cookies on the first Thursday of each month for Our Daily Bread. Contact Betsy Bond at betsybond3@gmail.com.

### The Bible Guys

**Thursday, December 14, 7 AM Westcott Room**

**The Bible Guys:**

The phrase ‘Passing the Mantle’ comes directly from the story we will be investigating.

From 2 Kings 1-3 (stories not so often read), we will see the transition of prophetic powers from Elijah to Elisha. We will also see practices of ministry that John the Baptist and even Jesus later modeled.

There will surely also be some surprises uncovered, including tasty donuts and fresh coffee. Come join us! Contact Rev. Blair at tblair@secondpresby.org for more information.

### Tapas, Talk & Theology

**Fridays, December 15 & 29 (tentative), 7 pm**

The Tapas, Talk and Theology study group is engaged in a course focused on the life of David. Every human can identify with David’s struggles and we will see how he treated people; we will review his mistakes and examine his darkest days. He knew exhilaration and discouragement, victory and defeat. Yet through it all, he maintained a heart for God.  

Continued on page 9

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**December Birthdays**

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<tr>
<td>Andrew Fones</td>
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<td>Jeff Rodman</td>
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<td>Jim Risser</td>
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<td>Allison West</td>
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<td>Eloise Bensberg</td>
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<td>Terri Smith</td>
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| **PAGEANT SUNDAY**  
Pageant curtain call 8:15 AM  
10 AM SINGLE Worship  
Service—Sanctuary  
Alternative Gift Market  
11 AM | AA 8 PM | Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study  
Bells@Second Rehearsal 7 PM  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
7 PM  
Stewardship Council  
7 PM | Helping Hands 9 AM  
Mission Council 7 PM  
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM | |  
Shine Girls Dinner  
5 PM  
Annual Christmas Party—hosted by the Crosby’s 7 PM |  
Decorating the church for Christmas 9 AM |
| 10     | 11     | 12      | 13        | 14       | 15     | 16       |
| **9 AM Worship—Chapel Sunday School**  
10 AM Senior High Coffee House  
10 AM  
Adult Seminar 10 AM  
11 AM Worship—Sanctuary | AA 8 PM | Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study  
Bells@Second Rehearsal 7 PM  
Personnel 7 PM | Staff Meeting 9:30 AM  
Bells@Second Rehearsal 7 PM  
Personnel 7 PM | Bible Guys 7 AM  
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM |  
Shine Girls Dinner  
5 PM  
Tapas, Talk & Theology 7 PM |  
| 17     | 18     | 19      | 20        | 21       | 22     | 23       |
| **10 AM Worship—Sanctuary**  
Congregational Christmas Lunch 11 AM  
Junior Youth Group 4 pm  
Christmas Party  
Senior Youth Group  
Christmas Party 6 PM | AA 8 PM | Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study  
Bells@Second Rehearsal 7 PM  
Personnel 7 PM | Staff Meeting 9:30 AM  
Service of Healing & Wholeness 7 PM | Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM |  
Church office closes at 12 noon |  
| 24     | 25     | 26      | 27        | 28       | 29     | 30       |
| **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Regular Sunday Worship  
10 AM | Christmas Day  
Church office closed | Church office closed |  
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM |  
| 31     | 31     | 32      | 33        | 34       | 35     | 36       |
| **NEW YEAR’S EVE**  
10 AM SINGLE Worship | JANUARY 1  
**NEW YEAR’S DAY**  
Church office closed AA 8 PM | Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study  
Christian Education Council 6 PM | Bells@Second Rehearsal 7 PM  
Stewardship Council  
7 PM |  
Helping Hands 9 AM  
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM |  
Shine Girls Dinner  
5 PM  
Christmas De—Decorating 9 AM |  
| 7      | 8      | 9       | 10        | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| **9 AM Worship—Chapel Sunday School**  
10 AM Senior High Coffee House  
10 AM  
Adult Seminar 10 AM  
11 AM Worship—Sanctuary | AA 8 PM | Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study  
Bells@Second Rehearsal 7 PM  
Personnel 7 PM | Staff Meeting 9:30 AM  
Personnel Committee  
7 PM | Bible Guys 7 AM  
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM |  
Shine Girls Dinner  
5 PM |  

We meet every other Friday evening at 7:00pm with a light supper in a participant’s home followed by discussion. For meeting date, location and other information, please contact Becky Ferrell at rrussferr@gmail.com.

Mission Book Group

**Wednesday, January 17, 7 PM, Westcott Rm**

The mission book group isn’t meeting in December, but you may enjoy getting started on our January selection. We will be reading *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue

From a Review in USA Today: The book tells of an immigrant from Cameroon who becomes the chauffeur for a Lehman Brothers executive not long before the 2008 financial crisis. Oprah Winfrey said Behold the Dreamers was both topical and timeless. “It’s about race and class, the economy, culture, immigration and the danger of the Us vs. Them mentality,” she said in a video. “And underneath it all comes the heart and soul of family, love, the pursuit of happiness and what home really means.” For additional information, Contact Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco at jdifrancesco@secondpresby.org.

Good News Column

Wedding of Jesse Tischler & Chantal Haunreiter

October 2, 2017, in Zurich, Switzerland

It is with greatest joy that Frauke Davidsen shares the lovely news of her son Jesse’s wedding with her church family.

New Women’s Morning Bible Study

**Forming in January**

In January, our worship themes and schedule will be rooted in a study of the narrative stories from the Gospel of Luke. As a part of a Lenten Spiritual Practice, your Pastors will be reading the Gospel of Luke and encouraging the congregation to the same!

As such, Rev. Amy Carlson would like to invite you to consider participating in a morning Women’s Bible Study that will tentatively run through Easter. We will provide coffee and pastries and work our way through the gospel of Luke. She is proposing Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings between 8-10 AM... however, those times are not locked in stone.

To study the Bible together in small groups is such an important part of our spiritual development and the perfect way to begin the day. Amy hopes you will consider joining this short-term Bible Study group! Contact her at acarlson@secondpresby.org, if interested.

Children’s Choir to Resume in the New Year

We will be re-launching our children’s choir in January. JoAnn Cain, who sings in the Chancel Choir, will lead the group. Rehearsals will take place during the 9 AM service, after the children’s time about once a month. Stay tuned for additional details.

Youth News

**Youth Group Christmas Parties**

**Sunday, December 17**

- 4 pm-6 pm—Junior Youth Group (5th-7th grades) At the Strain/Serafini House 212 Tunbridge Rd. Baltimore, MD 21212
- 6 pm-8 pm—Senior Youth Group (8th-12th grades) At the Risser House 11802 Berans Rd, Lutherville, MD 21093

Bring a $10 “white elephant” gift for a fun gift exchange. RSVP to Amy.

**Annual Youth Ski Trip to Massanetta Springs**

February 16 - 19, 2018

The traditional youth ski weekend returns this year. We will travel over the Presidents’ Day holiday weekend. The cost will be $150 per person including ski rentals, or $100 if the youth is bringing his/her own skis. Friends are welcome. (More details to come.)

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Amy, but absolutely by January 15th.

**Summer Youth Mission Trip to NYC**

July 8-14, 2018

We wanted to give you a heads up for your summer planning that we are headed to New York City for this summer’s mission trip for 8th-12th graders. The group will be doing mission work in Staten Island and will spend the last for fun in Manhattan. Stay tuned for more details.
Stewardship Update

As of the end of November, total collections year to date were $583,975 against an annual budget of $720,423 (81% of our annual goal). From a "pro rata" standpoint we should be at 91.66% of our collections goal and the year is quickly closing. To that end, please take time to determine where you are in terms of meeting your stated pledges.

We are very grateful for the commitment our members continue to make, by sharing their time, talents and treasures to keep Second Church vibrant in our service to the needs of our congregation, and our local and worldwide communities. We will be most grateful as well to see our budgeted annual collections goal realized with your help. ~Chuck Harlan, Stewardship Council Chair

Year-End Stock Gifts

If you are seeking to fulfill your pledge or want to make a special donation to Second Presbyterian before the end of the year, we wanted to remind you that the church can accept gifts of stock, which may provide substantial tax advantages for you as the donor. Donors receive a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of the stock and avoid capital gains taxes on the appreciated value. Here are the procedures once again for making stock contributions.

Transferring stock electronically:

- **Very Important**: Notify Caroline Mapp, the church bookkeeper, of your intention to transfer stock by email at finance@secondpresby.org or phone message at 410-467-4210 ext. 19.

- Provide the following information:
  - Your name
  - Purpose of your gift
  - Name and phone number of your broker
  - Name of stock and value or number of shares

- Instruct your broker to transfer your stock as follows:
  - Brown Advisory Securities  DTC # 0141
  - Credit: Second Presbyterian Church
  - Account # 7796-7006
  - Attn: Tony Mavrellos: 410-537-5516

Memorial Wall at Second Church

Church is the center of some of our most personal and lasting memories. Here baptisms, confirmations, weddings and memorial services take place. Church is a sacred place, where tears and laughter are joined with prayers and messages of God's everlasting promise of mercy and love. The Labyrinth Memorial Garden is a sacred place for prayer, remembrance and meditation.

The Memorial Wall provides an opportunity for personal and lasting memory. It offers a way to remember and honor friends and family, embossed on bronze plaques with messages of love and endearment. Now, you can give thanks for the lives of those you loved and memorialize them on our own church grounds.

Perhaps you would like to honor your parents, your grandparents or other family or friends. Many past members might have chosen Second Columbarium as their final resting place had it been available. With a plaque on the Memorial Wall, they can remain permanently in our memory. The reasons are limitless and the inscriptions memorable.

Each plaque is 4” x 8”, identical in size, durability and construction to those on the columbarium niches. Four lines are available for inscription. The cost of each plaque is $500.

A member of the Labyrinth Memorial Garden Committee will work with you to compose your thoughtful inscription, conveying your lasting memory. Please contact Harriette McPherson at harriette.mac@gmail.com or 410-296-4026 for additional information.
Sunday, December 17, 11 AM
In Smith Hall following Single 10 AM worship service
Share in this annual congregational event of Christian fellowship for all generations. (Help needed on Saturday, December 16 & desserts wanted)