



THE  
**Messenger**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Washington, DC**

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**COME AND SEE!**

*By Pastor Renata Eustis*

One day in December, our sexton, Desta, excitedly urged me, "Come and see!" Then he led me into the sub-basement to the place where the brand new HVAC equipment had been installed. Though it's not an adjective I would typically use to describe anything mechanical, I'd have to say it was beautiful. Then my eyes took in the fuller picture and I saw what for me was a sight for sore eyes: a concrete platform, surrounded by a small trench. The sparkling new equipment was sitting on a brand new platform.

At this point, maybe some of you are starting to think I need to get out a little more! But Desta knew why I would be thrilled. Only those who have had the distinction of turning on and off the air conditioning system (a process that begins in the balcony and ends in the sub-basement) can fully appreciate the beauty of this change. Before the platform and trench, you had to pass through raging waters on a narrow bridge to get to the compressor switch. I'm exaggerating, of course, but there was almost always some water and sometimes a fair amount. Thankfully, there were two by fours that you could walk across to accomplish the mission. I look forward to never doing that again!

In all fairness and with limited knowledge, I have to say that the previous system and

those who carefully maintained it served the congregation well. It lasted a long time. And when it was installed, I can only imagine how beautiful it looked to those who first laid eyes on it.

It struck me that there are some parallels between the transformation of our sub-basement and what it's like to move through grief. For a long time, it feels like the loss is something that totally surrounds us—like the water in the sub-basement. We walk, gingerly, across a two by four, surrounded by the pain of our loss or losses. We walk that way for what seems to be an endless time. Then, one day, we're in a new place. A place more like the concrete platform with the trench surrounding it. The pain and grief, the tears, have not completely disappeared but they have moved out from the center. There is some firm ground on which to stand and our joy is covered with gratitude because we know that we have passed through the waters.

Many of us—most of us—know this path. For some, the time on firm ground seems fleeting, as loss piles upon loss. We may believe God is with us but we may not feel God's presence at all. In Jesus, God came to be that two by four that we can walk across (maybe that's a picture of the cross). And in our call to be Christ for one another, we are that two by four for each other. The kind smile, the heartfelt sharing of the peace, the phone call, the ride to church, the caring of a Stephen Minister. All are ways of being part of the two by four that keeps the

pain of loss and grief from being all-consuming.

As we gather on Sundays as a community, we lift up for each other the hope of standing on firm ground--the platform of God's rock-solid love for us. The love that brings us the healing, peace and joy we long to have. We say to one another and also to those who have never come, "Come and see!"



## A JOYFUL DANCE

By Vicar Susan Beck

Did you ever hear the story of the bus driver who had a day off—and went for a ride on a bus? That's what I did the Sunday after Christmas. I went to church and sat in the pew with my daughter and two granddaughters at another Christ Lutheran Church, in Baltimore. My daughter has mentioned that Miriam, the three year old (three as of just a few days ago!) loves the early morning contemporary service and has been known to start dancing in the aisles. But none the less it was a surprise when, at the start of the first hymn, her small hand grabbed mine and she said, "Come on, Grom!" and pulled me out of the pew into the aisle to dance with her. I had a few fleeting

moments of wondering, "What will people think of this "mature" woman dancing in the aisles? But only a fleeting moment – because Miriam's enthusiasm caught me up and honestly, I could think of no better way to express the joy I felt in seeing her respond to worship with such un-self-conscious delight. For someone like myself, of staid German Lutheran heritage, such spur-of-the-moment exuberance doesn't come easily (nor does dancing skill, except for the occasional Oktoberfest polka). But I marveled at Miriam's whole-body response to the joy of singing about Jesus, and thought about how her Biblical namesake took up her tambourine and rejoiced in Exodus 15 at God's deliverance of her people.

Breaking out into dance and song, like both Miriams did, is one response to encountering the holy. But looking at scripture we can see a variety of responses. Moses stood bare-foot before the burning bush and looked for every excuse in the book why he's not the man for the job. Elijah vented his frustration after God speaks to him in the silence that followed the wind, the earthquake and the fire. The psalmist, is calmed and quieted like a child with his mother in the presence of God (psalm 131). Jesus' disciples responded with amazement, fear and awe when he quieted the storm, the very thing they had asked him to do. The women with Jesus at the well, can't stop talking about him. Blind Bartimaeus, upon receiving his sight from Jesus, stepped out, following Jesus along the road, while outspoken Saul, blinded along the road to Damascus allowed himself to be silently led along his route.

The responses differ, but in each case an encounter with God is never something that glosses off the individual, leaving them unchanged. It evokes a response that is as individual as the one who makes it. Daily, God encounters us in moments both monumental and monotonous, in times of astounding joy and of profound sadness. Our responses may be prayerful and praising or angry and pained, but we can respond honestly, knowing that God will continue to be a loving, constant presence in our lives.

I promise I won't spontaneously start dancing in the aisles during the church service, no matter how wonderful the choir sounds or how the words of scripture touch me that morning. But...if *you* have the urge to dance, feel free to grab my hand and say, "Come on, Susan!"

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE, January 2009**

*By Mack Ott*

As I begin my tour as president of the CLC Council, I ask for your support, suggestions and criticisms. I welcome your advice, ideas and support. I took this post with some reservations because, as most of you know, I am on the road a fair portion of the year as an economic consultant in developing countries. Nevertheless, other members of council and members of the congregation assured me that they can help me make a go of this leadership role. I trust that they are correct, and I know it will be a joint effort. More directly, as those of you who know me can attest, organization is not my long suit. Joanne Noll, the Vice President, insisted that she would provide not only the experience and knowledge of a long tenure at Christ, but also the organization that those of you who know me (or have peeked at my office and desk) is lacking in my portfolio. So let us begin and make the best of it.

Woody Allen noted that "showing up is 90% of success." While we may argue about the proportions, clearly showing up is necessary if not sufficient for a church community to function. Ours, like any congregation, is particularly subject to the need for people to show up. Not only the pastor, the FAM, the children's message giver, the lectors, altar care, acolytes, ushers and others but as important are those of us who sit in the pews and raise our voices in prayer and glad songs of praise. As an usher, one of my many hats, collecting the offering and herding communicants is one of my recurring tasks, and I notice when you're not among us—and when you are! It gives me and our fellow congregants pleasure when you show up. So please do—join us in the celebration of worship and the feast of communion as often as you are able.

It seems that particularly during this time of turbulence and disruption associated with the ending spasms of the renovation and the cold temperatures, we might be reluctant to venture out to church. We all need each other as community, especially now—to look beyond the dust, sport a smile, and share the peace. As we near the end of the renovation period, we need to keep our focus on the goal, not the tumult that remains to be trodden over to get there. Soon, measured in a few months, the renovation will be complete, and we need to maintain the faith that the costs of this transition will have been worthwhile and prepare to celebrate the renovated spaces. The sacrifice of order, the dust, the roundaboutness of construction are just the preambles to the accessibility and enhanced flow that will soon be ours. It will be worth it. Keep the faith!

## **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING MORE INVOLVED IN WORSHIP? WE COULD USE YOU!**

*By Alice Meyer, Communication Committee*

Would you like to be a **first assisting minister (FAM)**? That means you assist in the chancel, you say the prayers and you help with Communion. Some of the FAMs now serving are glad that the singing requirement was lifted thus allowing the vocally challenged an opportunity to serve.

Would you like to be a **lector**? The readings are given to you in advance.

Would you like to be an **acolyte or crucifer**? It's not just for kids anymore. We welcome people of all ages to carry the torches, the cross and assist with communion. For women who were **not allowed** to be acolytes in their youth, now is the time to fulfill your childhood dream! Training is planned for **12:15 pm on February 8**.

**Talk to or email Pennie Noll** ([penelope.noll@verizon.net](mailto:penelope.noll@verizon.net)) **if you are interested in being a FAM, lector, acolyte or crucifer.**

How would you like to **usher**? Ushers hand out bulletins, acknowledge visitors and ask them to sign the register with their

information. Ushers get to collect the money too. And on occasion, they help with special tasks like turning out the lights on Christmas Eve so we can sing "Silent Night" by candlelight or making the special effects to announce the angels during the Epiphany pageant. That's a very important task. Talk to **Mack Ott** or **Bob Sylwester** if you are interested.

How about **Altar Care**? What does that mean? Ask **Marilyn Zukel (703-356-1874)**, and she'll let you know. Without Altar Care we wouldn't have what we need for the Eucharist.

How about providing flowers, arranging them, or paying for them? Talk to or email **Beth Mills** ([bethbarnhardtmills@yahoo.com](mailto:bethbarnhardtmills@yahoo.com)).

Do you like to count weekly offering? We could use several more people to assist with this. Talk to **Pennie Noll** ([penelope.noll@verizon.net](mailto:penelope.noll@verizon.net)).

Like to tell a good story? Have a yearning to act like a kid while being completely camouflaged by kids who think you are grownup just because you are taller? Talk with **Pastor** or **Vicar Susan** if you are interested in giving the **Children's Message** or helping with **Children's Time**.

How about coffee hour? We all get to know each other better when we have this fellowship each Sunday. How about volunteering to do a **Coffee Hour**? Talk to **Pennie Noll** ([penelope.noll@verizon.net](mailto:penelope.noll@verizon.net)) of the church office to get on the schedule. The first couple of times you do coffee hour, you are paired up with a coffee hour vet so they can show you the ropes.



### **CARING FAITHFUL SUPPORT**

*By Carla B. Howery, Co-  
leader, Stephen Ministry*

*This graphic is the **Stephen Ministry** logo, which consists of a cross and a circle, together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person stands behind the cross, symbolizing the brokenness in our lives as a result of our sin. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is*

*through the cross of Christ that we are again made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us. As a Stephen Ministry Congregation, each of us is called to be instruments of God's healing love for each other and all of creation. For more details about our Stephen Ministry, contact Pastor Renata or Carla Howery. The current Stephen Ministers are: Debbie Coker, Karin Klingman, and Linda Ott.*

Stephen Ministry fits a niche within the repertoire of help available from a caring Christian community. Stephen Ministers are neither professional counselors nor clergy, but we are trained to be good listeners, to "sit beside" you in life's rough patches. Our niche may be for those times that reflect normal sadness (e.g., grieving a death, losing a job, worrying about an adolescent child) and thus may not seem to "merit" a counselor. But these very times are ones where opening our hearts to God's healing presence can make a real difference. In this paradigm, we all could probably benefit from a Stephen Minister from time to time, for a short or longer period of time. We are here for those times. My only sister died of cancer last April and it did not occur to me to arrange for a Stephen Minister. Why not you and me? Please talk to Pastor Renata about your thoughts and needs.

### **CONTEMPORARY/CASUAL/COMMUNION SERVICE**

*February 8, 5:00pm*

Our Sunday evening service (should we call it C-cubed service) will be on the second Sunday in February, the 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 in the chancel. We gather to see and discuss a video message, sing contemporary songs and share communion around the table. Please join us for this intergenerational worship.

### **FEASTING WITH THE FAMILY OF GOD**

Children and youth of all ages are invited to be part of a special Lenten Event on Saturday, March 14. The focus will be on Holy Communion and this gathering is for both children who currently receive Communion, and those who do not yet receive. In our time together we'll have fun preparing a meal and making the connections with the special meal of Holy Communion. We'll also focus on the story of

the Last Supper in a variety of ways, including painting the figures for the Catechesis class. Parents can drop their children off (or stay if they like) at 4:00 p.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy the meal prepared by the kids. We hope that other members of our CLC family will also come at 6:00 p.m. to feast!

### **LENTEN LECTIO DIVINO**

Are you free on Friday mornings? If so, please consider joining us in an ecumenical **Lectio Divino** each Friday in Lent, beginning on February 27, 2009, at 11:00 AM. We will be no more than one hour (probably closer to a half hour). *Lectio Divino* is an ancient prayer discipline of praying the scriptures and can be a profound way to have God's word come alive within you. For information contact Susan, 202-829-6727 or e mail [susanbeck@comcast.net](mailto:susanbeck@comcast.net).

Dates and locations:

February 27—Christ Lutheran Church, 5101 16<sup>th</sup> St NW

March 6—Friars of the Atonement, 5207 Colorado Ave. NW

March 13—Christ Lutheran Church

March 20—Friars of the Atonement

March 27—Friars of the Atonement

### **BISHOP RICHARD GRAHAM TO VISIT**

Last year the Church Council raised the idea of inviting Bishop Graham to visit CLC so we might get to know each other. Bishop Graham enthusiastically agreed to come on Sunday, February 15. He will preach and then join us for Coffee Hour. We asked him to educate us about the work and ministry of the Metropolitan DC Synod. During Coffee Hour, he will give a brief talk and then devote most of the time to questions and dialogue.



### **Transitional Housing Corporation**

Has a great newsletter. Have you seen it? You should check it out!

### **TOGETHER IN MISSION CONFERENCE**

*By Vicar Susan Beck*

On January 10, I attended the Metro DC Synod *Together in Mission* conference held at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Fairfax, Virginia. The theme was "Effective Evangelism and Discipleship," with workshops and speakers that addressed the changing face of what it means to be "in mission." Timothy Anderson-Stembridge and Rev. David Anderson spoke about the importance of relationship in living out the Gospel and of experiencing grace since "there is a world in need of knowing that there is a God whose love is steadfast".

The first workshop I attended, "Welcoming Newcomers," focused on how to stop talking about being a welcoming church and start practicing welcome. Being a welcoming place has less to do with telling the newcomer about us and much more to do with listening to her or his story. Helping visitors find meaning and belonging in a church is a process that begins with person to person contact, and needs time to allow people to move from the periphery to a place of belonging. Bible study that moves into prayer was emphasized as a means to help people both "inside" and "outside" of a particular congregation garner meaning for their lives in that church setting. We as the church don't have all the answers, but we need to remain open and willing to listen as faith questions raised—doubt and skepticism are healthy and necessary parts of the life of faith.

The other workshop I attended, "Spiritual leadership," dealt with spiritual self-care. The beginning comment, "we can only lead people to the spiritual level where we are ourselves" applies to all persons of faith, whether in rostered leadership positions or not. The need to take time for personal

devotions, prayer and reflection was emphasized, not so that we can reach out to God, but so that there is a space where we can be aware that

God is reaching out to us. There are many ways to experience the spiritual in our lives, and we can look to Jesus' example of how he used prayer, fasting, shared bread and wine, spiritual conversation, worship and service. If you are interested in learning more about the topics discussed at *Together in Mission*, please contact Susan at the church office or by e mail, [susanbeck@comcast.net](mailto:susanbeck@comcast.net). We hope to schedule a short seminar in the near future to explore these topics.

### **WEAR YOUR SEATBELTS!**

**Pam Sieving** shared this sad story with a reminder that we should at all times be good stewards of ourSELVES. God gave us these physical bodies for us to take care of and protect. Wear seatbelts when you are riding in a car. Pam reported that two of her ALA colleagues were killed yesterday when their cab to the Denver airport was hit by a drunk driver. They were not wearing seatbelts; their cab driver, who was, survived. She said that she often relaxes the rule to wear seatbelts when riding in a car, then cautions all of us to please remember to use the belts when you are in a cab.

### **ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

*By Vicar Susan Beck*

On January 24 CLC hosted a service of prayer for Christian unity, to coincide with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which has been observed by Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants since 1968. This was a "neighborhood" event, with clergy and laity from nine churches near the 16<sup>th</sup> St. corridor participating. The homily was delivered by Fr. John Keane, of the Friars of the Atonement, and very eloquently expressed the hope that some day we will

truly live out Jesus' prayer that his followers would be one. After the service we enjoyed some wonderful soups (just the thing on a cold January day!) and conversation. Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to Marty Jewett, Joanne Noll and Marilyn Zukel who coordinated and helped provide the food. As many of those in attendance said, let's keep the prayer going!



### **CIRCLE OF SISTERS**

**Sunday, March 15, 2009**  
**3:00- 5:00 p.m.**  
**Location TBD**

All CLC women are invited to come for an afternoon of relaxing fellowship!

We always have fun at these casual gatherings. Whether you have come before or this is your first time, you are welcome! Taking a senior citizen or a new member is also a great idea. Please join us.

Mark your calendar. Consider volunteering to host the Circle on **March 15**. Contact **Carla Howerly** to volunteer.



### **THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB REGROUPING after the HOLIDAYS**

After four years, **Carla Howerly** is taking a break from organizing the Club. If you are interested in coordinating the Book Club for 2009, please contact **Carla**. So many books, so little time, but a great group of people to explore our faith through reading.

## "STICKS AND STONES"

*Shrove Tuesday Construction*

### **PANCAKE SUPPER, FEBRUARY 24**

Don your Hard Hat and work boots and join us **Tuesday, February 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm** in the "Sticks & Stones" construction room (undercroft) for the traditional Shrove Tuesday PANCAKE SUPPER. Pancakes made from scratch, sausage, home-made applesauce, and beverages will be served.

All you can eat for a free-will offering! Proceeds will be added to the fund for new furniture for the newly renovated Fellowship Hall. Bring friends and family! Help is need with decorating, serving and clean-up. Please contact Bob & Sara Sylwester, by phone at 301-421-1419 or email [bobsylwester@erols.com](mailto:bobsylwester@erols.com).

**LENTEN** begins on **February 25**.  
Ash Wednesday services will be held at CLC at **12:00pm** and **7:00pm**

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### **METROLINER EVENTS FEATURED**

#### **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national event held every year on the same Sunday as the NFL's Super Bowl, this year on Feb. 1, 2009. It is traditionally led by youth who stand at sanctuary exits following worship services collect \$1 and/or one can of food from each parishioner. The money and food collected supports local, national and international anti-hunger efforts. Each congregation decides where and how their collection is distributed. Many give to both a local food pantry and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Go to the Web site of the Souper Bowl of Caring for more info, including its history--and to sign up your youth or other group for the upcoming Souper Bowl. Publicity materials are also available on the ELCA Web site. Synod congregations participating are asked to share your results with Karen Krueger, synod communications coordinator, for reporting of Lutheran involvement churchwide.

## **UNITED LUTHERAN APPEAL**

*ULA in February Helps Educational, Outdoor and Social Ministries*

February is United Lutheran Appeal (ULA) month. The 2002 Synod Assembly approved the launching of this annual appeal which educates about and financially supports thirteen institutions and agencies related to the synod and its congregations which engage in educational, outdoor and social ministry. Materials for conducting the Appeal on any date in the month, themed "Serving People... Building Community," are on their way to your congregation and can be found on the synod Web site. Speakers, props for a children's sermon and display board can be obtained from Denise Wasemann, Appeal Coordinator. Contact her at 703-680-3252 or [denisewasemann@verizon.net](mailto:denisewasemann@verizon.net). Find additional materials and bulletin inserts, or make an online contribution, at <http://www.uladc.org>.

## **CHRISTIAN ROCK CONCERT IN WALDORF**

Peace Lutheran in Waldorf, Maryland, is hosting a concert for youth featuring Lost and Found on Friday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. Lost And Found is a Christian rock band which has been playing since 1986 and is especially well-known among Lutherans and other denominational youth groups. Tickets cost \$10. Contact Becky Conrad for more information at 301-843-1832. Flyer

## **PASTORS ISSUE POTLUCK CHALLENGE FOR HUNGER AWARENESS**

The Rev. Kim Conway, Epiphany Lutheran in Dale City, Virginia, and her colleague, the Rev. Mike Poole, Messiah Lutheran in Urbana, Ohio, are challenging congregations and friends across the country to participate in a "Month of Potlucks to End Hunger." Their goal is to raise awareness and funding for ELCA World Hunger during the month of March. Congregations are envisioned to plan potlucks that include fellowship, prayer and information about growing global hunger issues and take a free-will donation from participating individuals. The pastors

imagine each ELCA member contributing \$1, which would raise \$5 million toward eradicating hunger in our lifetime. "It is ambitious, but we are confident that the Lutherans in the United States are ready to take a stand," said Pr. Conway. Tell Pr. Conway you're interested in the Month of Potlucks challenge, and she'll send you information and keep track of attendees, dollars and the "number of green bean casseroles." Learn more at [www.amonthofpotlucks.blogspot.com](http://www.amonthofpotlucks.blogspot.com) or contact her at 703-590-4949 or [pastor@epiphylutheran.org](mailto:pastor@epiphylutheran.org).

### **7th and 8th GRADE YOUTH RETREAT COMING UP**

**Shekinah 2009** is the Metro D.C. Synod Youth Retreat for 7th and 8th graders. This year's retreat will be **March 20-22** and is again being held at the 4H Center in Front Royal, Virginia. Shekinah provides powerful teaching to your junior high youth and, most importantly, shows them that there are other youth just like them outside of their home congregation. Through this year's theme, "I am...", participants will explore some of the possibilities for finishing that sentence, especially "...a child of God!" **Registration deadline is February 11.** All adults attending must have a background check on file with the synod office. Forms available from the youth Web site or find the general flyer on the synod site.

### **SPRING SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

The 2009 Metro D.C. Synod Assembly will have a new format, taking place nearby in two parts: a Spring Session and Fall Festivities. **Gallaudet University in northeast D.C.** is the location. The date for the Spring Session is **May 8-9, 2009.** Voting Members and visitors can look forward to worship, discussion and actions which will enrich our synod's life together. When the Fall Festivities date and other details are finalized, they will be announced.

### **ECUMENISM ADDRESS TO BE GIVEN BY BISHOP-EMERITUS SCHNEIDER**

The Rev. Theodore F. Schneider, bishop-emeritus, Metro D.C. Synod, ELCA, will give the annual Figel Address at Virginia Theological Seminary on February 2 at 4:30 p.m. Bishop Schneider will be presented with an ecumenism award from the

Washington Theological Consortium's Board of Trustees and Student Board prior to the lecture at a Prayer Service for Christian Unity. The event is free. All are welcome. RSVP to [wtc@washtehocon.org](mailto:wtc@washtehocon.org) or 202-832-2675. Flyer

### **ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS (EAD)**

*Nationwide Participants Invited to EAD*  
Faith-based advocates will gather in D.C. for the 7th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) on March 13-16, 2009. The weekend is full of learning, worshipping and advocating. The theme, "Enough for All Creation," based on John 10:10, highlights connections between climate change, migration and poverty. Opportunities to advocate on behalf of the poorest and undeserved communities in the U.S. and around the world with members of Congress are provided. EAD will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Lutherans are invited to pre-event hospitality on Friday and a discussion forum on Saturday to hear from ELCA public policy directors. Early registration fee is \$160 prior to February 13 (\$175 after this date). Student scholarships are available from the ELCA. Go to "Get Involved" and click "Advocacy Events." Volunteers are also being recruited for the event. Learn more from <http://www.advocacydays.org>.

### **HIGH SCHOOL AGED YOUTH – SUMMER SEMINARY OPPORTUNITIES**

Nominations Required by March  
Theological Education with Youth (TEY) is a creative initiative of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Among events sponsored by TEY are the 2009 Crossroads Event for 9th and 10th graders and the 2009 Summer Theological Academy for 10th or 11th graders.

► The Crossroads Event is an opportunity for youth to travel to a variety of places where the gospel intersects with and transforms the world. Theological foundations, experiential learning, testimonies and dialogue on vocation are at the heart of the event.

► The Summer Theological Academy is an intentional Christian community of worship, high quality theological courses and questioning, vocational conversation, servant learning and arts.

Nominate individuals for these programs by March 15. Nominated individuals must apply by April 15. Learn more from TEY. Nomination form

**WORKSHOP OFFERS STEWARDSHIP IDEAS**

"Enhancing Resources for Ministry in Challenging Times" is a workshop designed to help congregations fund their vision. The Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary is sponsoring the event, and Lutheran participation is welcome. It will be held Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Burke, Virginia. Participants will hear from keynote speaker Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and can choose three of six workshops offered including "Preparing a Spiritual Foundation for Giving" and "Best Practices for Rental Income from Church Facilities." Cost is \$30. Register and get more information online or call Frenika Mudd at 202-885-8757.

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Synod Assembly Coordinator (flex-time)  
 The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod is seeking a Synod Assembly Coordinator. The person in this position will facilitate the synod's preparations for its annual gathering of business, worship, education and enrichment. Must be on-site for the spring segment of the Assembly on May 8-9 at Gallaudet University in D.C. Responsibilities include venue coordination, event registration, and participation in and communication regarding Synod Assembly Planning Committee meetings and activities, plus laying the groundwork for future annual Assemblies. Hours are flexible; stipend is available. For more information, contact Amy Acland at [aacland@metrodcclca.org](mailto:aacland@metrodcclca.org) or 202-822-1901.

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**THE EAR OF CHRIST**

Kevin Fremming worked as a temp waiter for a catering company during the inauguration and brushed elbows with NBC

bigwigs like Matt Lauer, Keith Olberman, and Al Roker. And Dr. Ruth said she liked his haircut (which at her height is surprising she could see it). He almost had to sleep on a cot at the Indian Museum, but was able to get home for a few hours of sleep and to soak his feet.

**Beverly King** got caught in the traffic on Sunday January 4 as she was making her way to worship. It was particularly stressful as she was serving as First Assisting Minister (FAM) at CLC that Sunday and was stuck on a bus behind the Obama brigade making its way to the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church. Beverly got off the bus at Allison and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets NW to make her way on foot to CLC. As you may know, Beverly wears pumps most of the time so she was in full stride up 16<sup>th</sup> Street wearing pumps when she came in sight of the presidential car. She actually made eye contact with President-Elect (at the time) Obama.

**Marilyn and Bill Zukel** also had a presidential spotting on their way home from church that same Sunday.

The Ear also heard that **Cheryl Beversdorf** and **Dennis Siebert** were tripping the light fantastic at an Inaugural Ball.



**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Feb. 8 - Acolyte Training 12:15 – 1:15pm**

**Feb. 8 - Contemporary Service**  
 5:00pm – 6:00pm

**Feb. 15 – Bishop Graham to visit CLC**

**Feb. 22 - Annual congregational meeting**  
 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**Feb. 24 - "STICKS AND STONES"**  
*Shrove Tuesday Construction*  
**PANCAKE SUPPER,**  
 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the undercroft

**Feb. 25 - Ash Wednesday - Services at**  
 12:00pm & 7:00pm

**March 14 – Feasting with the Family of God family fun**

**March 15 - Circle of Sisters  
3pm- 5pm Location TBD**

**PRAYER FOR OUR PRESIDENT**

*From Marilee Rist*

Dear Friends,  
Everyone knows our new President will need all the help he can get with the problems of state. Most of us can't do much about that, but there is something we can do. We can weave a mantle of protective prayer for his safety.

A dear friend has suggested the 91st Psalm might be ideal for this purpose: in her words, to take this inspiring psalm, verse by verse, as the basis for prayers about his safety. Praying for Obama's protection day by day, using several different verses from the 91st Psalm, will help us acknowledge God's control over his life -- and our lives.

If this idea appeals to you, please share it with others. If you prefer another approach, please share that. This young man is in personal danger as no other American President has been. The point is for us to not be complacent about the danger but to counter it, consciously, on a daily basis. Thanks so much for listening,

**PSALM 91**

1. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.
  4. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
  5. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
  6. Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon day.
  7. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.
  8. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
  9. Because thou has made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;
  10. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
  11. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
  12. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
  13. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
  14. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
  15. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him, and honor him.
  16. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.
- AMEN

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

*By Artie Harris, Treasurer*

	<u>Operating Profit/Loss Through December (50% thru FY '09)</u>			
	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jul-Dec</u>	<u>FY Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Total Income	\$35,574	\$169,586	\$323,580	52%
Total Expenses	(\$27,947)	(\$159,558)	(\$333,630)	48%
Net Income	\$7,627	\$10,028	(\$10,050)	
<u>Alive In Christ Contributions</u>				
	\$16,840	\$68,332		