

January 2019

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

FIRST & ST. STEPHEN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

From the Pastor

On behalf of the staff at First and St. Stephen's, I want to thank you all for the thoughtful Christmas bonuses we were given. In times of tight finances, your generosity has helped us all. Know what a joy it is for us to share ministry with each of you. Blessings in the New Year.

With gratitude,

— Kelly

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20TH -

RENEWAL SUNDAY AND IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By now, most of our congregation should have received a letter from Kate King regarding the impact First & St. Stephen's UCC has had in her life during the past year. Included with the letter was a pledge card for 2019. On the 20th, we will celebrate Renewal Sunday, refreshing our pledges to benefit the church for the next year. Please bring your completed pledge card to church on Sunday, the 20th, and place it in the plate at Offertory, or bring it to the church office.

After service, there will be a very important Congregational Meeting during which new members will be voted onto the Consistory and other significant topics will be discussed. Make sure to allow extra time in your schedule for this vital meeting on the 20th.

SNOW POLICY

We will do all we can to ensure a safe environment for worship and other meetings at First and St. Stephen's during these winter months. Know that if Sunday service and activities are canceled, a notice will be placed on the church Facebook page and an email will go out from the pastor. If you did not receive one for Sunday, January 13th, it means that Kelly does not have your correct email address. Please send it to her at: fssuccpastor@gmail.com. We will post the message as soon as possible, but it will usually be by 9a.m. on Sunday mornings. Know that if Baltimore County Schools are closed during a week day, so are all meetings and activities at the church. Most importantly, make safe decisions for yourself and those who attend with you.

6915 York Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
410-377-5224
Email: friststucc@aol.com
Web: www.first-ststephens.org

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Kelly M. Sisson
Pastor

Jeffrey Beyers
Organist and Choir Director

SUPPORT

Rev. Alexander Vishio
*Asst. Minister for Social
Justice & Witness*
Emily Perl
President of the Consistory

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Children's Church School
and
Adult Christian Education

Service of Worship
10:30 a.m.

Celebration of Holy Communion:
First Sunday of the Month

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*As we become more fully God's
people, First and St. Stephen's
United Church of Christ
CARES by...*
Committing to Christ
Advocating for social justice
Rejoicing in worship
Empowering for discipleship
*Sharing God's Extravagant
welcome.*

WE SUPPORT:

Earl's Place & Prospect Place
Assistance Center of Towson
Churches
The United Church of Christ
Habitat for Humanity

**"No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."**

Baltimore 350

Baltimore 350 is a grassroots organization working to address the impacts of climate change in our community.

Why 350?

350 represents a maximum safe level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) as measured in parts per million (ppm). The CO₂ is currently over 410 ppm, resulting in extreme weather events and the hottest global temperature ever recorded.

Baltimore 350 is engaged in organizing and supporting climate-related education and outreach activities such as movie events, legislative actions, and encouraging the adoption of sustainable alternatives.

Join Us

Starting January 22nd, we meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at First and St. Stephens United Church of Christ located on 6915 York Road, Towson Maryland, 21212 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: If you took an item from our Earl's Place Tree, please purchase the item and bring it to church by the end of the month. It doesn't need to be wrapped. If you would like to pick an item (or more than one), there are several to choose from. We want to make sure we have as many items ready when they are needed. Thanks for your help!

Youth Meeting - Sunday, January 27th: After worship, the youth will meet at the church for pizza and the pastor. It will be a chance to play a few games and discuss interests in the future of Youth Ministry at First and St. Stephen's UCC. All youth are encouraged to attend!

Save the date! April 27th is the JDRF Walk this year. We will be looking for walkers and supporters! The walk raises funds for a cure and awareness of Type One Diabetes. More information will come soon!

ACTC: The food bank especially needs peanut butter, jelly and cereal for their clients. Please bring your donations to church and put them in the red wagon in the entry way. Thank you!

January Habitat Build: The next Habitat for Humanity build will be on Saturday, January 26th. Interested folks can contact Dave Noppenberger at noppenbd@gmail.com or 415-225-6935.

Thank you, First & St. Stephen's, for your Contribution to OCWM

Hoping you and your family had an enjoyable holiday season.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Central Atlantic Conference, thank you for the generous contribution of First & St. Stephen's to [Our Church's Wider Mission \(OCWM\)](#) for 2018. Your support goes a long way in helping us have an impact within the church and the communities throughout the region.

We look forward to our partnership in ministry this year. Happy 2019!

Rev. Marvin M. Silver
Associate Conference Minister
Justice & Witness Ministries

Central Atlantic Conference
United Church of Christ

918 South Rolling Road Catonsville, MD 21228
410-788-4190 (office) 301-452-6936 (cell)

Resolution Run 2019

On January 1, 2019, First & St. Stephen's turned out for the Resolution Run/Walk for Earl's Place.

Some other church eked out the win for the participation trophy, but we were good sports and there were many winners amongst us!

Happy New Year, one and all!



Consistory Person of the Month – Bill Ingram



I'm Bill Ingram, and I'm the Consistory Person of the Month for January. I have served on Pastor Search Committees and the Consistory. I'm currently in the second year of my second stint on the Consistory.

I was born in Washington, DC; but I was only two-years old when my parents and I moved to Richmond, VA in the summer of 1953. I graduated from the University of Richmond and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (now Union Presbyterian Seminary). I was married and have a grown daughter and son, and two granddaughters. I was the pastor of two Baptist congregations in Virginia. After leaving my last pastorate, I moved to Baltimore, eventually making my way to First and St. Stephen's, where I put down my spiritual and religious roots.

Why do I love this congregation? I love it because of the extravagance of the welcome that I received from the people in this congregation. At a point of great need in my life, this church stepped forward to offer me a home and a family. (If you don't know my story, ask me sometime. I will gladly share it with you.)

Looking forward to seeing you in church this month.

---- Bill