



**WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS** Check [www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](http://www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org) or 304.876.6466 for notices after 7:30 a.m. If the official leadership cannot make it to a service, anyone who can make it safely is welcome to organize an informal service of lessons, songs and prayer using the bulletin for the day.

**CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT DINNER**

**The entire congregation together in one place at one time**  
**Sunday, December 3, 5:00–7:00 p.m., Shepherdstown Community Club**  
(corner of German and King Streets)

Carol Singing • Litany of Thanksgiving • The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Joy Gift Offering is dedicated to the Presbyterian Church's racially ethnic schools and the medical supplement for retired Presbyterian ministers and missionaries. The schools and colleges are a training ground by which leadership development can take place, where people can gain the confidence and skills that they need to go out into the broader society and take their place.

Ham, beverages and tableware provided. Bring a food dish to serve 12. Food assignments per last name: A-H vegetable or salad, I-P dessert, Q-Z side dish. Would you like to help plan, set up or clean up? It is really a lot of fun and works best when we have many helping hands! Please contact Debbie Romano, via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

**CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve Services\***

- 5:00 p.m. Especially for children
- 8:00 p.m. Choirs, homily and candlelight
- 11:00 p.m. Carol sing, communion and candlelight



**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:45 A.M.**

**December 24** Sharing moments of light and grace in 2017

**December 31** Children's Pageant

*\*Christmas Eve Offering will be split between Bluefields, Nicaragua partner church and Coalfield Development Corporation, in southern West Virginia, founded by Brandon Dennison, former SPC Youth Director.*



Jimmy received scholarship money from our Christmas Eve offering last year.

**DC YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

**February 23–25, 2018**

For youth (ages 12 and up). Leave SPC Friday evening and return Sunday afternoon. Sign up in the church office. Cost is \$75.00 (pay what you can). The Verle Headings Youth Mission Fund will offset the fee as needed. **The deadline to sign up is November 30.**



**COLD WEATHER SHELTER**

**December 16–22**

Guests will arrive around 7 p.m. Volunteers needed for morning meals, bag lunches and overnight stays. At least one man and one woman needed each night. Contact the office if you can help in any way, [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

## Transition News...

**PRAYER REQUESTS** Send to Kathy Reid at [kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

**TRANSITION QUESTIONS** Direct all questions and/or concerns to the Stated Clerk of Session, Suellen Myers via [transition-questions@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:transition-questions@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org) or Office Manager Kathy Reid via [kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

### PASTOR NOTES

I am looking forward to going through my first Advent with you, although it will feel a little strange this year with the Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve falling on the same day!

Advent is always a time when familiar customs and traditions fill our hearts with warm memories of Christmas Past. Isn't it ironic that during a season that is supposed to be filled with a heightened sense of anticipation, we simultaneously seek comfort in traditions?

This Advent I am going to break the bounds of tradition just a little by introducing you to something new—a *spirit house* from Thailand. For now, you'll just have to wait for a further explanation, but I am hoping to use a *prop* that might challenge us to expand our awareness of what this season might mean. Are you willing to stretch your imagination?

My prayer is that you may always be *standing on tiptoes* with an eagerness for something more.

—Bill Sitterley

### MINI CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (CAT) UPDATE

Our congregation completed the mini CAT in late October. The mini CAT was an on-line questionnaire that asked for your input on our transition—the time between Randy's retirement and the installation of a called pastor—and the attributes most important for a called pastor for SPC.

The CAT team has begun to review the results and anticipates providing feedback to the congregation after the first of the year. Thank you for providing your input. We look forward to your ongoing participation.

## Adult Education Fall Schedule...

**FINAL SUNDAY, 9:25–10:25 A.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Marcus Borg's *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Power and How They Can Be Restored*

December 3 The Lord's Prayer; Conclusion

## SPC Monthly Activities...

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC** First Sundays, 9:15–10:15 a.m., in the narthex. **Next: December 3 and January 7**

**FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY** Coins for relief of hunger. **Next: December 3 and January 7**

**TAIZÉ SERVICE** First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. *A Service of Prayer* in song, silence, candlelight. **Next: December 6 and January 3**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE** First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. We will be guided in our discussions by the book *Fierce: Women of the Bible and their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation*. **Next: December 7** is "Mary Theotokos: More than Meets the Eye." **January 4** is "Jerusalem: I Don't Love You, and I Always Will." This is the annual soup and bread luncheon. All women of the church are welcome.

**CONNECTIONS** SPC's Shepherd University-based group for college students meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m., at the Blue Moon. For more information contact Ethel Hornbeck, [ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: December 16 and January 20**

**LISTENING GROUPS** Prayerful listening and conversation around scripture, poetry and other selected texts, led by Ethel Hornbeck.

- Third Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m., in the balcony.

**Next: December 20 and January 17**

- Third Thursdays, 10–11 a.m., in Classroom #1. **Next: December 21 and January 18**

**CANTERBURY SERVICE** Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Contact Debbie Romano via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org). **Next: December 27 and January 24**

### SUPPER GROUPS

- TGIF Potluck, **Friday, December 15**, 6:00 p.m. (*note time change from 6:30*), hosted by Cathy & Don Cross. Bring a wrapped gift (not new) for Yankee Swap.

- Moveable Feast, **Saturday, January 6**, 6:30 p.m., hosted by Esther & Tim Murphy.

**SPC KNITTING GROUP** Last Saturdays, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Bring your own project or join us making prayer shawls and baby blankets. Contact Melinda Landolt or Elaine Hurd via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org). **Next: December 30 and January 27**

**COMMUNITY HYMN SING** Last Sundays, 4:30 p.m., Choir Room. Join us for a solid hour of singing hymns with good tunes and inspiring lyrics. Hymnals and song sheets are provided. Contact Terry Tucker via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org). **Next: January 28**. (For December, see notice for Community Caroling below.)



**EARLY SERVICE SOUND AND BELLS TEAM** is in need of volunteers for winter and spring schedule. Might require one Sunday per month commitment. Orientation and training available. Contact Jerry Thomas at [jthomas31241@gmail.com](mailto:jthomas31241@gmail.com).

## Elsewhere...

**COMMUNITY DINNER** sponsored by the Jefferson County Homeless Coalition. First Sundays, 6 p.m., at Zion Episcopal Church, 301 East Congress St., Charles Town. We need: main dishes, veggies, salad, fresh fruit, bread, butter, and desserts. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or go to [PerfectPotluck.com](http://PerfectPotluck.com); coordinator Wright, password 5777. Questions? Contact Bert Wright via [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org).

Drop off hot food from 4:45–5:15 p.m., on designated Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). *Please use disposable containers, if possible.* **Next: December 3 and January 7**

### ROLLING RIDGE STUDY RETREAT COMMUNITY

For details, check *Events* at [www.rollingridge.net](http://www.rollingridge.net).

"The Gift of Story: A retreat during Advent and the Winter Solstice" **December 1–3.**



**MASTERWORKS CHORALE** performs the Fauré *Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *Psalm 42*, **Saturday, December 2, 8 p.m.**, Frank Center, Shepherd University. \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors and age 18 and under.

**WELCOME AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT** Shepherd University is looking for local families or individuals willing to *adopt* international students. The students continue to live on campus, but the hosts serve as local contacts, who are interested in having some international flair in their lives, learning about the countries where our students are coming from, and sharing American culture with them.



The hosts invite the students to visit in their homes, take them places like amusement parks, historical sites, and shopping, and spend the holidays with them. For more info, contact: Dr. Lois Jarman, director of Shepherd's Intensive English Language Program at [ljjarman@shepherd.edu](mailto:ljjarman@shepherd.edu).

### THREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAROLING



**SING-A-LONG** O'Hurley's General Store, **Sunday, December 3, 2–3 p.m.**, led by Rie Wilson and Carol Wood.

**CAROLING THROUGH SHEPHERDSTOWN** **Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.** All ages are invited to join us. Wear your Christmas hats and bring a joyful voice! Meet in front of the Shepherdstown library.

**COMMUNITY CAROLING** **Sunday, December 17, 7 p.m.**, led by Terry Tucker, will replace our usual last-Sunday-of-the-month Hymn Sing. We will meet inside at the Devonshire Arms, then carol in the streets for one hour and return to the Devonshire for mulled wine or cider, special small mince pies (an English tradition) and possibly more caroling. If the weather is too cold or icy, we will carol in the Devonshire.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY PAGEANT

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**, at 10:45 a.m. All children from Sunday Studio or other aspiring thespians are welcome to participate. There are parts for everyone. Please sign up as soon as possible in the Fellowship Hall, or during Sunday Studio, or email [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org). Only two rehearsals: **Friday, December 29**, at 5:30 p.m. (dinner provided) and dress rehearsal **Sunday, December 31**, at 9:00 a.m., before the 10:45 a.m. service.



### REPORT ON CAREGIVER RESOURCE FAIR, October 28

Upwards of 25% of adults in the US and Canada are caring for an aging parent or relative. Of these family caregivers, 31% admit that they would like more help. SPC's Parish Care Committee chose to highlight the options available, including stress avoidance and reduction tips, coping skills, and methods to use and places to get help.

Many care providers in the Eastern Panhandle had displays highlighting what services they provide. Speakers from the Hospice of the Panhandle, WVU East Home Health, and Home Instead outlined what their agencies have to offer. Questions were answered and common misgivings regarding this type of care were explained.

*Perhaps the most significant finding was the extent to which these agencies work together to provide optimum care to those in need.* I think that the audience came away with a much better feeling for what is provided right here in our area. Many thanks to Julia Yuhasz from Hospice of the Panhandle who helped coordinate the event.

—Merry Morgan, Parish Nurse

### IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

#### Seeking Social Justice through Advocacy and Lobbying

At a recent Committee meeting, we discussed how quickly the scene for immigrants and refugees has changed in our country. We have been reaching out to immigrants locally, but we also want to encourage social justice through *advocacy and lobbying* efforts.

#### Advocacy

Advocacy is the process of sharing the vital facts and concerns facing immigrants on the local, state, and national levels. This can be done, for example, by press releases, attending public meetings, and outreach efforts. It also means helping policy makers find specific solutions to problems impacting immigrants. These efforts can sway public opinion, garner press coverage, and ultimately encourage policy makers to respond.

#### Lobbying

Lobbying, on the other hand, involves activities that are in direct support of or opposition to a specific piece of legislation. While nonprofits, including churches, can engage in some lobbying, the IRS has strict rules about what portion of their budget can go toward these activities. The little amount of actual lobbying that we might engage in will be well within the IRS limits.

Our Committee will continue to work on advocacy and lobbying efforts. We invite others to join us.

—Catherine Irwin

# Mission...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

*Place items in baskets in narthex or Fellowship Hall.*

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) food pantry has immediate needs for: pancake mix and syrup; small bags or boxes of rice; canned pasta, such as ravioli or spaghetti; canned tomato and mushroom soup; snack-pack size applesauce and fruits; canned fruit; jelly; bath soap; paper towels; and toilet paper. *Please check expiration dates. Food that is out of date cannot be accepted or distributed by JCCM.*

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS TEEN

Operation Christmas Teen is a volunteer group that collects and distributes gifts to needy teenagers in the area, as identified through schools and community agencies. The goal is to provide a gift bag with three items for each student. Bags are home-delivered by law enforcement personnel. Store gift cards or teen-appropriate new gifts (unwrapped) are greatly appreciated. A collection box (with a suggested list of gifts) will be in the SPC Fellowship Hall through **Sunday, December 17**. Contact Steve Warner: 304.676.4422. You can give gift cards/certificates to either Steve or Chris Cubby. Older kids deserve a happy Christmas, too!

## RESULTS OF CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thanks to your generosity, we received the following donations:

- Congo Women's Center \$1,555.34
- Puerto Rico hurricane relief \$1,952
- Immigrant family legal aid and assistance \$2,205.32

# Members and Friends...

**SEASON JONES** became a new member at SPC on June 4. She and her wife Kelley Jones parent Abby, Kevin, Kody, and Autumn.



**ERIC and KATIE COHEN ZAHNISER** are the proud parents of newborn Evie Paige Zahniser, their first child and the first granddaughter of Eric's parents **ED ZAHNISER** and **CHRIS DUEWEL**.

The second volume of **JIM PRICE'S** book, *...and so I did. Stories of Shepherdstown*, has been published. This book is a compilation of selected columns Jim wrote for *The Shepherdstown Chronicle*. Also included are three unpublished stories he wrote before his death in 2016. Jim was a beloved, lifelong member of SPC.



The book is available at Four Seasons Books, the Historic Shepherdstown Museum, or contact Linda Kelso, 304.283.2065 or [lindaliverskelso@gmail.com](mailto:lindaliverskelso@gmail.com). Cost is \$25.



Under the creative guidance of Morgan Sell, these youth made a new sign for the sanctuary: Naomi Artlip, Mabel Patchell, Max Patchell, Chandler Willis, Gigi Brown, Eli Dillow

# Nurse's Notes...

## NEW BLOOD PRESSURE GUIDELINES

Sorry to put a damper on your holidays, but I wanted to get this information out as quickly as possible. Just this week the American Heart Association released new guidelines as to what is considered hypertension. It is no longer 140/90, but now 130/80 is considered normal. It is estimated that 46% of adults in the US will be identified as having high blood pressure and in need of lifestyle changes, such as more exercise, a healthier diet, stopping smoking, and decreasing alcohol intake.

If your blood pressure is greater than 20 points higher for the systolic (top number) and 10 points higher on the diastolic (bottom number), it can mean you have doubled your risk of dying from stroke or heart disease. Now that I have scared some of you, I want to say that this is one condition that is very treatable! I would like to see you at my blood pressure clinic!

Last reminder to make sure you have gotten your flu and pneumonia shots. Have a very healthy and happy holiday season. Remember to use good hand washing and to keep your hands away from your face! Cheers!

Please contact me with any questions or concerns, [mcm@myactv.net](mailto:mcm@myactv.net) or 301.797.3931.

—Merry Morgan, RN, Parish Nurse

# Financial Corner...

**GENERAL FUND** through October 29. Expected to date: \$278,385. Actual giving: \$297,154. Building Fund pledged for 2017: \$32,156. Received to date: \$26,337.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER February 2018.** Send announcements, articles, member news, and your favorite vacation pictures to [office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)  
**Deadline: January 24**

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church  
100 West Washington Street  
P.O. Box 268  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
304.876.6466  
304.876.2033 (fax)  
[office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

Interim Pastor: **Bill Sitterley**  
[BSitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:BSitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)  
Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus Ministry: **Ethel Hornbeck**  
[ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

Visit [www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](http://www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org) for the latest news, podcasts, and calendar of events.