



A Little Child Will Lead Them

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

It really stinks to be a kid who finds herself in the hospital with an illness...but, it stinks even more when you are kid who finds herself in the hospital with an illness *during Christmas*. That’s what happened to Katelyn Rudolph several years ago. Katelyn suffers from cyclical vomiting, which means that at any time, she could have episodes of vomiting with no apparent cause. Dehydration and fatigue can set Katelyn’s little body into a downfall.

On Christmas Day of that year, laying in the hospital and awaiting further consultation, one of the hospital care coordinators at the University of Maryland visited the Rudolph family and delivered a stuffed teddy bear to Katelyn. Although she was a small girl, she remembered that bear and how grateful she was to receive such an unlikely gift on Christmas at the hospital.

Fast forward to December 2018. The Holy Spirit put it in Katelyn’s heart to challenge our congregation to collect toys for other children who find themselves in the hospital. Her story moved our church in some pretty big ways—in just two short weeks, we collected over **561** toys. The Rudolph family, along with their grandparents Richard and Bea Sherrill, delivered 14 boxes and 3 bags of stuffed animals, games, tea sets, matchbox cars, and crafts. These gifts were also specialized to give to all ages, from infant to teenager. This was especially important, since such gifts are more focused to younger ages than tweens and teens.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). I think Jesus was onto something. Jesus knows that children often are our greatest teachers in faith because they come to embrace faith with simple, childlike trust.



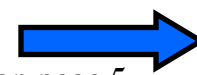
Childlike trust. It is a lost art.

I think we, as adults, tend to lose that as we grow up. Our ability to “listen” to the Holy Spirit gets dampened by our fast-paced and overcommitted schedules, our “set” ways of doing things, and those demeaning voices that seem to remind us how poorly we are navigating through life. Service, that is—putting someone else’s needs in the front of your mind—helps to see beyond our selves. We are born into this world to be a blessing to others. And, as Anne Frank said, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” We all have the capacity and capability in our DNA, even our youngest disciples like Katelyn.

I will always argue this point to anyone who says that “our children are the future leaders of our church.” No. Our children are our leaders today. Our children help adults to realize that God can make impossibility, a possibility. Our children help remind adults to “get out of their own way,” and—in childlike trust—to be a reckoning force of divine love in this world.

A little child will lead them, indeed. May we always be open to hearing those great teachers (packaged in small bodies) among us today.

Pastor Chas



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...and so much more!

Caroling, Caroling Thru the Snow!

by: Bob Hood

Well, it wasn't quite a snowy afternoon we went caroling in, but it was a wonderful time none the less when 10 members from Holy Communion gathered to bring some cheerful Christmas music to some of our members who haven't been able to make it to church lately. We sang Christmas carols to Ruth McKenny, Louise Anderson and Mary Kruelle that afternoon and had a wonderful time. I think we got as much out of singing to our friends as they did from hearing us sing. It is an event that I hope we can continue in years to come, so I hope you will join us! No experience needed; we ALL know the first verse of many Christmas carols, plus we'll even print the words for the 2nd verse!

Merry Christmas, and a joyful New Year!



Youth Service Project

The youth will be completing a service project for the Humane Society of Harford County in January. They are requesting donations of dowel rods, string, feathers and felt. Donations can be given to Bridget Strama. The youth thanks the congregation for their continued support!



Did you know...

Jan. 9, 1983— The first worship service was held at HCLC held at 9:15 a.m. with 137 people attending. What was the recessional hymn, you ask? “On Our Way Rejoicing”



Stewardship

by: Charlotte Butler

At HCLC, we dedicated the month of November to Stewardship. We completed our cards of commitment to be consecrated on a Sunday in church. If you did not turn in your cards, you can still do that. The cards are a commitment that you make to yourself and to HCLC.

Stewardship is not only in November, but all year long. As we show stewardship to others and God, we get a feeling of joy.

Stewardship is giving of our time, talents, and treasures. In October, I had a total knee replacement on my right knee. During the months of November and December, many of our members took the time to make food and deliver it to my house. Members of our congregation became my “Ubers” because I was not able to drive. On one day, my Uber took me to 3 different doctor appointments. She gave up her entire day for me.

Our members give up their talent so we can enjoy beautiful music during our worship times. Many members go and visit shut ins. On Dec. 16th, a group of members went to visit shut ins and sang Christmas Carols. Food is cooked and delivered to homeless and low income families a few times a year.

Give a smile or compliment to someone every day and you will receive a special feeling from doing that. Most working people never compliments, but negative words most days.

Use your talent, treasure, or time that is a gift from our Father throughout the year.

Church Un-Decorating

Please join us after the second service on Sunday, January 6th as we un-decorate our church from the Christmas holiday. Help is very much needed, and appreciated!



Member Spotlight

by: Diane Romain

What brought you to HCLC?

“After Art and I married, we were looking for a new home church. When we visited HCLC we felt very welcomed and everyone was extremely friendly. Pastor John Burk made himself available to us while we were looking for a new church. We eventually made our decision and have been very happy with our church home.”

What do you see as your gifts to serve God, God’s people, and the church?

“I enjoy my time with the Holy Stitcher's making quilts for those in need and other worthwhile causes. In my spare time I make prayer shawls for the churches use. I prefer working behind the scenes helping the sick, making meals and visiting the shut ins. I'm a good listener and support those in need.”



Favorite ice cream flavor?

“Mint Chocolate Chip”

What is something people may be surprised to know about you?

“I was raised on a farm in Illinois, and met my husband on the Internet.”

What bible verse is meaningful to you?

“Psalm 31 verse 3, “you are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name’s sake lead me and guide me,”

How do you serve at HCLC?

“Greeter, Usher, Work with the Holy Stitcher's and anywhere else as needed.”

Home Safety for Older Adults

by: Barb Huber

Falls are a leading cause of injury and death in adults over the age of 65. Injuries directly impact the independence, mobility and quality of life in the elderly. Hip fractures result in hospitalization with only one half of the injured older adults returning home to live independently. Diminished mental abilities, impaired reflexes, sight and mobility contribute to the number of falls and injuries in the elderly’s homes. Simple changes in the home and the manner in which tasks are accomplished can reduce the incident of falls by 50%. An older adult may neglect or refuse changes due to financial limitations, inability to recognize the need for help, unsure where to get help, or failure to admit advancing age. The following lists are safety considerations for every home:

- Smoke detectors and Carbon dioxide detectors
- Eliminate or soften sharp edges
- Grab bars in bathtub and next to toilet
- Raised toilet seat and shower stool
- Lights! 100 watt for reading/60 watt elsewhere.
- Use lights in hallways
- Remove tripping hazards- no throw rugs, slippery floor surfaces, furniture, clutter
- Use non-skid wax and cleaners, use extra caution with furniture polish
- Stairs should always be kept clear and have sturdy railing
- In the kitchen use two handled pots and avoid wearing loose clothing with long sleeves
- Keep items you need low and easy to reach, avoid stepstools



Take the time to check your home today for safety concerns. Ask a family member or friend help you modify your environment for optimum safety. For a comprehensive checklist with ideas for improvement check out www.cdc.gov/injury or www.eldercare.com.

Blessings, Barb Huber RN, PHN

Sunday School

by: Carrie Dorsey

Happy New Year! I cannot believe that 2019 is here already or that we have completed four months of Sunday school. Time is flying by quickly. I hope that everyone had quality time with families and friends over Christmas and that we are all renewed.

Over the coming months your children will continue to work in the Sunday school on the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. Any help you can give at home to assist with their learning and understanding is greatly appreciated. We will also be focusing on how to pray and giving service to others.

May Jesus' light and the light from the "New Star" continue to shine bright and guide us all as we move into 2019.



Volunteers Needed!! Substitute teachers and youth helpers!! Please let me know if you are able to give some of your time for a Sunday a month or a Sunday a quarter.

For questions or to volunteer please e-mail me at SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org.

Shop Amazon, Help HCLC

Do you know you can help HCLC earn money just by shopping on Amazon? Holy Communion Lutheran Church is now a valid charity on Smile.Amazon.com. Use the link below to find out more about this program: Simply go to smile.amazon.com Make sure you have logged into your account on this page. Then on the top left hand of the page where it says "amazon smile" find the word "Supporting" and use the drop-down arrow to select a charity. Search for "Holy Communion Lutheran Church". Then select the one for Fallston, MD. When you make purchases, you must use smile.amazon.com in order for your order to qualify for a donation. Happy shopping!



The Sharing Table

It is our turn to host for The Sharing Table, a local soup kitchen for Harford County residents. On February 23rd we will serve anywhere from 75 to 125 people or more (approximate), and volunteers are needed to cook and serve (one or both) at The Sharing Table in Edgewood. The Sharing Table takes place at Prince of Peace Catholic Church on Willoughby Beach Road. As you might remember, or for the edification our new members, we all cook the same recipe (this is NOT a potluck) to serve. We make the recipe, fully cooked, in advance of February 23rd.

You can also deliver the fully cooked recipe to our church refrigerator the week of November 6 if you are only able to volunteer to cook (call Hailea Cole for availability). If you are helping to serve, then just report directly with the food to the Sharing Table at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Edgewood (Willoughby Road). We warm all casseroles on site.



SHARING TABLE FUSILLI

- 1lb Fusilli (Little spindles, cork screw, spirals) cooked
- 2 Medium sized (28 oz) cans of tomatoes
- 2 Green peppers – chopped fine
- 3 Onions – chopped
- 2 Teaspoons of dry mustard
- 2 Teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce
- 1-1/2 lbs Grated Sharp Cheddar Cheese (Reserve some to sprinkle on top)
- 2 lbs Hamburger – COOKED

Mix all ingredients in a large pot, divide among two medium aluminum baking pans. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Casseroles will be warmed on site the day of service. If you are unable to serve, but would like to provide a casserole, please cook in advance and make arrangements to drop off at church and place in the church refrigerator (Hailea is in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays). Thank you for your help.

Let the Light Shine: Worship in the Season of Epiphany

by Pastor Bob Ridenour

The word “epiphany” is unfamiliar to many people. Still, the church celebrates an entire season as “the season of Epiphany.” This season stretches from the day of Epiphany (January 6th) until Ash Wednesday.

This season celebrates “showing forth” of Christ to the world. It calls us to show Him to the world through our words, and especially through our actions.

Epiphany is the traditional day when the magi arrived at Bethlehem. By their arrival, Christ was shown forth not ONLY to the shepherds and the people of Bethlehem and Judea, but to all the worlds and peoples symbolically represented by these three kings. In other words, to all the earth. His light shown upon them, and, after honoring Him, they went back to their own people to proclaim (and, we hope live out) His gospel (see Luke 2:30-32) and share the light.

The season of Epiphany reminds us that we share the joyous task first given to the Magi—to let Christ’s light shine in and through us into the whole world—to proclaim his love and mercy and fortitude and hope. Epiphany, and our worship in it, therefore calls the church (that is all of us) to consider questions such as these:

- What is God calling us to do?
 - Who are our neighbors, and how can we best minister to them?
 - Are we sharing God’s love and light to all?
 - Are we, like the Magi, willing to risk ourselves for Christ?
- (Thanks to C.M. Olsen in “The Wisdom of the Season” for these questions.)

As we worship and celebrate in Epiphany, let us hope that questions like these remain foremost in our lives as a church and within ourselves. May we pray that they will—that we may let the Light of Christ live in us, and go forth to all the world..

A Little Child Will Lead Them (continued)

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

...continued from front page article

P.S. A heart-felt word of appreciation to all who supported Katelyn and purchased toys for the University of Maryland. We might never see the impact of our generosity, but that’s not the point—perhaps other children, like Katelyn, might just carry the story within him/her of that one toy that brightened their day during a very scary time in the hospital. Thanks for being you!



Lovin' Life Seniors

by Nancy Campbell

LOVIN' LIFE SENIORS

Our goal is to offer friendship and support to one another through social events. Please join us! Invite your friends! Our 2019 schedule and sign-up sheets for upcoming events are posted on the senior's bulletin board in the hallway. Please read the Sunday bulletins and Bread and Wine for any changes to the schedule below. All activities take place on 2nd Tuesdays of the month unless otherwise noted.

2019 CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 8 at noon

Basta Pasta—Rte.152

Tuesday, February 12 at noon

Mamie's Restaurant—Aberdeen

Tuesday, March 12 at noon

Fisherman's Catch—Forest Hill Bowling Lanes

Tuesday, April 9 at noon

Sunshine Grille—Fork Road

Tuesday, May 14 at noon

Della Rose's Restaurant—Fountain Green and Churchville Roads

Tuesday, June 11 at noon

Bayou Restaurant—Rte.40 Havre de Grace

Tuesday, July 9 at noon

Baldwin's Crab House—Rte.40 Joppa

Tuesday, August 13 at noon

Friendly Farm—Upperco

Tuesday, September 10 at noon

Crab Feast at church

We welcome new ideas as well as new members.

Contact Ellen Priebe 410-679-8655; Frances Gosnell

410-893-4622; Nancy Campbell 410-836-7688.

"Good Grief" Group

The Good Grief group meets, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. Their next meeting will be at the church on

January 15th



December Birthdays



01-01 – Lilli Rode

01-01 – Amanda Dorsey

01-01 – Travis Tudor

01-02 - Ron Weber

01-05- Lauren Ziegler

01-06 – Lillian Lane

01-07 – Robert Reed

01-08 – Jackson Schissler

01-08—Christine Schneider

01-09 - Debbie Haack

01-10 - Ruth McKenny

01-12 - Gary Gray

01-12 – Mason Pennington

01-12 – Lee Lefkowitz

01-13 - Debbie Kisner

01-13 – Carmen Thanner

01-13 – Lillian Gregory

01-16 – Denise Merrifield

01-17 - Barbara Moore

01-18—Beatrice Gobah

01-18 - Judy Jones

1-20—Tom Sullens

01-20 - Matt Ebsworth

01-23 – Stephanie Appel

01-23 – Charlie Plott

01-28 – Penny Sadler-Vocke

01-29 – Nathan Reed

01-29 – Sue Phillips

01-31 - Holly Dix

01-31 – Shawn Pennington

01-31— Lawrence Brant



Do you have a **January** birthday but do not see your name printed here? That means we do not have your complete information on file. Please contact Hailea in the church office to update your information.

Church Webcam

People get sick. People travel. We understand that and try to find new ways that you can still remain connected with our community. While you are away, join any service by watching our webcam at webcam.HolyCommunionFallston.org

This is an innovative way to connect the gifts of technology to practical faith. However, this gift of technology comes with its own limitations, in that, this webcam can never fully create the sense of community that one is part by actually being in the pews. The webcam is on for all services and only shows the front portion of the sanctuary. The webcam works on most devices (smartphones, tablets, PCs, iPhones®, and iPads®). It does not work on Amazon Kindle Fire® tablets.

Let us know if you are watching our services. Please send comments or issues relating to the broadcast to webcam@HolyCommunionFallston.org

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The Rev. Chasity L.
Wiener,
Ex-Officio Member