

THE SLATE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church
Cardiff, Maryland

From the Pastor's Desk

While pondering what to write for the final newsletter of 2024 (or maybe the first one for 2025), the following story showed up in my Facebook feed. I thought "isn't that what God always does for us? Isn't that what has made Slate Ridge such a great place to worship and call home?" None of us is able to do many of the great things we do on our own, it is only through God's help, and our relying on God to direct us, that we are able to do many of the things we do - both individually and as a church. This short story says it all.

* * * * *

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted an old friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing.

Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played. Only the classic, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful. The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped, rather, He equips the 'called.' Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than by the things you acquire.

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From the Pastor's Desk (Continued)

Thank you all for a wonderful 2024. I pray that we all are able to continue sharing and finding the love that God has bestowed on us throughout the new year. Trust in God. Let the hand of the Master work in your lives to make it a great 2025!

Blessings to all,

Pastor Carroll



Slate Ridge Worship services

Worship Services are now being live-streamed via You Tube (The channel is: Slate Ridge Church). The service which includes a Children's Message begins at 11:00am and there is a Fellowship time prior to the service, beginning at 10:30am. Teachers are available to teach youngsters during "Kids Church." The service is posted weekly to the SlateRidgeChurch.org website and Slate Ridge's Facebook page.

Greeter/Usher for January is Marian Koegel.

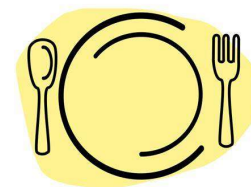
Closers for January

Jan 5 - David Stewart

Jan 12 - Brian Amos

Jan 19 - Bill Scarborough

Jan 26 - Steve Hess



Clean Plate - January 8th from 5-7pm.

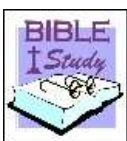
Dates will return to the first Wednesday of the month.

Calendar

- Installation of the new slate of officers will be on Sunday, January 5 and Communion will be celebrated.
- The Session will meet Wednesday, January 15 at 7pm.
- The Congregational Meeting to review the year and approve the budget, etc. will be on Sunday, January 19 following worship.

Deacons News

- Janet Whiteford will be sending cards in January; reach out to her if you think of someone who needs a reminder of God's love for them.
- If a member of our church family, or of the local community may need a meal or two (because of hospitalization and recovery following surgery, etc.), the Deacons' Contact person for meal support is Janet Nicholson. Janett Nicholson's contact info: 410-937-7753.



Bible Study. "The Chosen" Each Thursday we continue to watch one episode of "The Chosen" and then discuss what we have learned. Time is 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Bring your friends.

Per Capita 2025. The Per Capita for 2025 remains at \$38.00 per member which goes to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The Session Finance Committee elects to pay the Per Capita on all our active members. We thank all who contribute their portion.

Prayer Chain. If you are in need of prayer, or if you would like to participate in our Prayer Chain, please contact Linda in the Church Office. Linda will initiate the prayer chain with our prayer partners.

North Harford Dance. Dance in Hyde Hall resumes on January 6 to its regular schedule of Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Inclement Weather. If there's power, a notification will be put on Facebook, and the Slate Ridge website. You will receive a robocall from "717-456-7075" if you requested one. And, as always, use your best judgment regarding driving in winter road conditions.

Praying for



- Our country.
- Bill and Sandy's grandson, Ryan Loper, 35-years old and in seemingly perfect strength, is recovering (Marine style) from a heart attack he had a few weeks ago. Thanks to his wife who drove him to the hospital in record time. Prayers for all the family.
- Janet's great-grandson, Landon, was hospitalized overnight at Hershey Hospital after catching a virus at preschool; his temp spiked to 104° and he was lethargic. He's home with no damage to his kidneys anticipated which is his family's concern.
- Betty May's cancer has returned and is in hospice. Her son, Charlie, is providing 24/7 care.
- Marian's nephew's fiancé, Shelby, has been diagnosed with Crohn's.
- Cindy Seibel is having chemo infusions as part of her after-surgery plan. Prayers from this church family.
- Pat K's friend, John Stiffler had quadrupole bypass surgery; he is doing well with OT and PT. Caring thoughts for his wife, Terri.
- Pam Moore's friend, Mike Bastendorf, needs a liver transplant.
- Brian's friends, Doug and Regina, are having a rough time.
- Doris Grim is recovering from surgery and doing well. Prayers from this church family
- Tracy Knox, Terri Robinson's sister-in-law, is on the lung transplant list.
- Phyllis's brother-in-law, John Faith, is battling congestive heart failure and is at home.
- Sandy Scarborough, constant pain.
- Bill's friend, Opher and family, prayers for safety and protection.
- Sheryl Shubert, stage 2 breast cancer; Terri Cornwell, stage 2 breast cancer; Jen, cancer; Natalie, cancer; Scott Shubert, thyroid cancer; Mary's friend-Louise Geczy, breast cancer; Janet's friend-Davy Jones, chemo treatments, prayers requested; Sonya, blood clot complications delaying surgery; Brian's friend-Don Ayres, cancer.
- Mark, Alzheimer's; Danielle; Worley Umbarger, Lyme; Jake Standiford, 12-year-old, seriously burned; Eric, seizures; Ruth Tarbert at Hart Heritage/Grier Nursery; Anna Deaver at Sterling Care.

Our Loss, with Sympathy and Prayers

- Nelson D. Lewis, a devoted member of this church, passed into the Church Triumphant on Friday, December 27. You will remember Nelson's accounts of his Lend-A-Hand missions.

And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Ecclesiastics 12:7

Please pray for our military

- PFC Aidan Seibel, U.S. Army, Ft. Riley, KS
- Army Spec. Chandler Schmidt, Ft. Polk, LA

Many JOYS!

- Les and Janet Whiteford are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married here at Slate Ridge.
- Belated Congratulations to Dan Gibney who received the PSAC Scholar Award in late October.
- Bill and Sandy’s granddaughter, Ava, graduated from college a semester early, so did her long-time friend, Justin.
- We have removed Dan Riale from our active military list; best of luck to Dan as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.
- On December 21, 2024, William Logan Bolser married Ayessa Cleveland. Logan is the son of Kelly Scarborough Farmer and Ken Bolser and the Grandson of Sandy and Bill Scarborough. Ayessa is the daughter of David and Imelda Cleveland. Logan is a Software Engineering Major at Western Governors University as well as taking supplemental courses through Arizona State University to earn a BS in Software Engineering. Ayessa earned a Bachelor of Science in Science at Jacksonville State University. Ayessa is currently enlisted in the US Air Force and is completing a Medical Diagnostic Imaging Specialist program. They will be relocating to Ohio in February.
- With much joy, in the December 29th worship service, Nathaniel Milo Fitzgerald was baptized by his grandfather, Pastor Carroll Fitzgerald.



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. - Isaiah 43:19

Slate Ridge Church Income and Expenses (Nov 2024)		
	2024	2023
Income	\$ 5,095.06	\$ 5,402.09
Expense	<u>6,608.74</u>	<u>4,703.48</u>
Net Income	\$ -1,513.68	\$ 698.61

Shared by Pastor Carroll

Thank You

Chandler Schmidt sends his thanks to the church for remembering him in prayer, and a special thank you for the Christmas card.

Collection for Perry Point Veterans

Every year, the Slate Ridge congregations fills two tubs of items for the Perry Point Veterans; the American Legion Riders of Post #182, Whiteford, coordinates the collection from local churches and will deliver them to Perry Point, perhaps via a motorcycle run. The Perry Point Veterans need NEW clothing (not used) and Personal Care Items/Toiletries (without alcohol). Bill Scarborough has put the tubs in place in the Gathering Room.



Flowers on the Organ

On the First Sunday of Advent, John and Phyllis Fenwick shared a Christmas craft. Flower arrangements were given by Mary Gerlach in loving memory of Bill and Henry Gerlach and loved ones.



Greens Sale Report

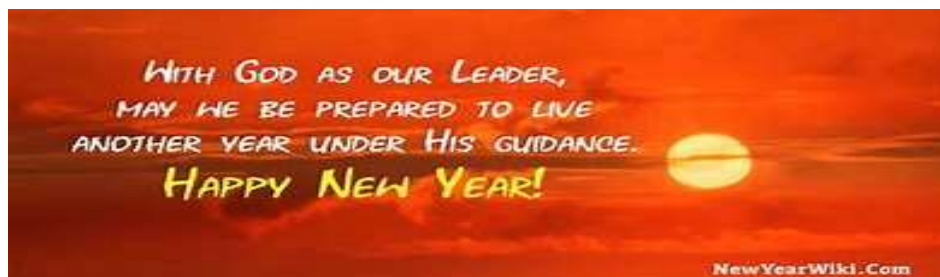
The annual greens sale was a Success and a profit of \$4,0102.00 was raised - the most ever. Thanks to All who helped in any way- workers in the hall, bakers, "flea items", cutting the greens, sharing the greens, those who shopped here... We are blessed and we thank you all.



January Birthdays

1 Merilee Cox	16 Rose Amos
8 Erin Hess Newton	21 David Howell
8 Luianne Potter	21 Lloyd Scarborough
10 Hyde Streett	21 Belle Ann Stafford
12 David Stewart	23 Emily Grace Bredehoft
15 Cathy Panos	25 Gene Warner
15 Kristen Stokes	29 Jean Childs
	29 Tammy Wise


No January Anniversaries





Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church - Poinsettias 2024

	In Honor of	In Memory of
Brian & Rose Amos		Lucille Malcolm, Carolyn Hause
Ann & Jerry Booze	Our parents	
Paul Butler		Tillie Butler and our loved ones
Becky & Carroll Fitzgerald	The loving congregation of Slate Ridge Church	
Patti & Jim Gibney	Sara, Todd, Ryan & Dan Becky, Kevin, Sadie, Ella & Rhett	Norma Boyd, Jack Wiley, Ella & Hugh Gibney Dixie Hall & Derinda Heaps
Mary Gerlach		Bill Gerlach Henry Gerlach Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Davis Mr. & Mrs. Wm H. Gerlach, Jr.
Steve & Debbie Hess		Betty & Roy Hess Helen & Bill Watkins & Herman Dalton
John & Bobbie Johnson	Our children and grandchildren	Belva & Hyde Dooley Myrtle & Clinton Johnson
Pat Kefauver	My children and grandchildren	Randy Kefauver Henry & Ann Ford Walter & Olive Kefauver Owen & Florence Ford Tom Ford George & Evelyn Cairnes
Marian Koegel	Our children and grandchildren	Curtis, Eleanor, Kate & Linda Thompson William & Doris Koegel
Joyce Myers		Ken, Our Parents, Our Grandsons
Janet Nicholson		In loving memory of Phil, (husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather)
Cathy Panos	Grandchildren - Theo, Addie, Eli, Delta, Emmie, Nicholas, Peyton & Penelope	
Luianne & Jeff Potter	Joyce W. Myers	Kenneth A. Myers J. Walter & Madelyn Potter Carol Lynn Potter Helmkamp Andrew Wallace Potter
Bill Scarborough	Our family	Wilbert & Virginia Lloyd

 Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church - Poinsettias 2024		
Patti Smith		Howard Smith
Debbie Stewart	Children, Mother	Our parents
Ann Wenrich		My parents: Mr. & Mrs. A.H. Zimmerman
Les & Janet Whiteford	Matt & Melissa St. Clair	Bobby & Joyce Johnson

Making a List and Checking it Twice!!

I'm not sure if you will be reading this before or shortly after Christmas, but I imagine it will be close enough to Christmas to still be fresh in your memory. It's been such a busy season and it came so very fast this year! Preparations seemed to be more rushed this year. There was a shorter time between Thanksgiving and Christmas; making us feel more hurried... so much to do and such little time to do it in! We all felt the pressure.



If you are like me, when under pressure I make lists...to do, when to do it, how to do it and so on and so on....that's what I did in preparation for Christmas this year. My most important list was the one which took the most time, involved the most thought, and oft times was the most difficult...what to get everyone...what each person would want that I could give them...that would make them know just how much I loved them, how much I cared. Did you have a list like this? If so, can I ask you to remember whose names you wrote on your list of important gifts to buy, or to make...just for giving and showing your love? As you think back, going over your list, did you almost forget about Jesus...or did you remember to make sure you gave thought to a gift for Him? How very special are the gifts we gave to our children, or spouses, or other friends and family...but as I looked over my list to make sure I hadn't forgotten anyone, I noticed that I hadn't included Jesus on my list. It gave me pause to ponder...what did He want from me? How easy to get so busy preparing to celebrate His birth that I almost forgot to make time for Him. Amazing when thinking about how difficult all the other gifts were to think of for each special person, it dawned on me...WOW! How easy it was to have my gift for Him. I didn't need to go to the mall and fight the crowds and traffic, I didn't have to worry about getting an Amazon delivery for Him before it was too late, or His shirt size or favorite color...all I had to do was take time to spend with Him, and make sure He knew I gave Him my heart! Not just this Christmas day, but every day! I pray that you can join me in being able to wish our Lord and Savior a very Happy Birthday...A very Merry Christmas... and best of all..Give Him Your Heart and in return, He will give you life eternal!

Until next year, my prayers and best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Month of January 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year	2 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	3 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	4 Social Hall reserved 2- 4pm AA Meeting, 4:30pm
5 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Communion and Installation of Officers Children's Message & Kids Church 1:00am	6 Dance	7 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	8 Clean Plate 5-7pm	9 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	10 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	11 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
12 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 1:00am	13 Dance	14 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	15 Session 7:00pm	16 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	17 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	18 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
19 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 1:00am Congregational Mtg	20 Dance	21 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	22	23 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	24 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	25 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
26 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 1:00am	27 Dance	28 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	29	30 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	31 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	

Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/slateridgechurch.

1630 Chestnut Street

Visit our Website: www.slateridgechurch

Cardiff, MD 21160 410-451-5177

Visit our YouTube channel to Livestream or visit later: www.youtube.com/slateridgechurch

