



An Orchestral Christmas at BCUMC

On December 14th at 4 pm, we welcome the Arlington UMC Orchestra for a concert. This orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Randy Sharp, has been playing since 1965. Mr. Sharp, himself a bass player, founded this orchestra in 1965. The orchestra's purpose is to fulfill

the admonition found in Ephesians 5:19-20: "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".

If you enjoyed this orchestra in concert in conjunction with our last Spaghetti Supper, you are sure to do so again as they share holiday favorites with us in their return engagement at BCUMC.

Calling all Nifty Knitters and Crafty Crocheters

As winter approaches, we want to get a group together for knitting and crocheting things for missions, blankets and scarves mostly. If you do not know how to do either of these handicrafts but want to learn, we are happy to teach you. Let Lucy (lucirose@yahoo.com) or Daniel (dppierce@gmail.com) know if



LUNCH BUNCH

We plan to get together to talk and enjoy a meal on the fourth Sunday of the month. We started this group to a) get to know each other a little better and b) not simply say, "have a good week" after service and café on Sunday. We can discover "new" restaurants together as well. Join us!



November Lunch Bunch

Date: 11/30/14 **Location:** Masala Wok, 10940 Fairfax Blvd. Fairfax

Christmas Poinsettia Orders -2014

The altar will be graced with these lovely red (or white) flowers.

To order, write a check for \$10/flower with Poinsettia on the Memo line and submit by Sunday, November 30th.

Specify white or red.

Please include your name(s) and the name(s) of person(s) the flowers are given in honor or memory of.

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www.facebook.com/pages/
Bruen-Chapel-United-Methodist-Church/196143053764440

"Follow" Us on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/ BruenChapelUMC

"BRUEN'S BREWIN'S" Bruen Chapel UMC Newsletter - November, 2014



Check out the latest news on our new improved website:
www.bruenchapel.org

*Offering Sanctuary, Friendship, Spiritual Growth
and Outreach for Fairfax County and beyond*

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.
12:00 pm Cafe - *Coffee & Conversation*
Lunch Bunch - Fourth Sunday of the month
(Handbell/Choir Rehearsals also occur on Sundays)

Monday Church Office Closed
7:30 pm ESL Class

Tuesday 10:30 am Chair Dancing

Thursday 10:30 am Chair Dancing
7:30 pm ESL Class

Friday Church Office Closed

Saturday, October 11th
9:30 am - Cancer Support Group

Office: 703-560-1665 / Pastor: 703-939-5695

Email: Office - bruenchapelsecretary@yahoo.com

Pastor - pastorbruenchapel@gmail.com

Website: www.bruenchapel.org

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

3 Elma Hedden 10 Ashwath Elanko
7 Mark Burgess 14 Nathan Burgess
8 Alison Waters 25 Harry Elanko
9 James Wayman 26 Pete Davenport
 29 Stephen Arkoh

ANNIVERSARIES

7 Barbara & Carroll Eastridge



Helping New Americans Citizenship Classes To Be Offered at BCUMC

OK, ready?

- *What are the Constitution's first 10 amendments called?
- *Who were three signers of the Declaration of Independence?
- *Name the three parts of the US government.
- *Who is speaker of the House?

If you had to answer questions like these and know the answers to 90+ more, how would you do?

These are examples of questions on the test to become a U.S. citizen. The types of topics and questions that future citizens have to know is amazing. The test covers U.S. government and history. To prepare for this test, someone wanting to become a citizen has to learn and know the answers to 100 such questions (if you are over 50, you only have to retain half that knowledge). However, in the test, you will only answer 10 randomly selected ones questions – but you do not know which 10! We would love to have help from volunteers and not just for the refreshment portion of the program.

We will be meeting soon to discuss details and to plan specifics for our program which will start in the spring. Stay tuned for more info about this.



CHILD'S PLAY

Do you have young children? Do you have friends with young children? If so, be sure to spread the word about our *Child's Play* sessions in the playground, each Saturday morning from 10 to 11:30 am. This is a time for parents and toddlers to get to know each other in a safe, friendly environment and for the little ones to expend some energy while running around and playing. This will continue through November.

Food for Neighbors

Through the years, the members of Bruen Chapel have been dependable donors to our local food bank, Food for Others (FFO). As the school year ramps up once again, FFO finds itself in need of the following items:

Canned meats Canned chili Canned fruit
Canned pastas Macaroni & cheese Reusable grocery bags
Please put your donations in the basket in the narthex to be delivered to this very grateful organization.



Sign Up to Feed Your Fellow Friendly Folks

You can help feed your fellow parishioners after worship services. Just bring in snacks, (cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, "finger" sandwiches, cookies, etc.) and/or beverages (lemonade/juices) for this *always enjoyable* post-service fellowship time. Also, in the middle of the month, we celebrate that month's birthdays and anniversaries with some cake.



The coffee is usually made but if you come early enough, you can learn to do that too. There is a sign up sheet on the wall outside the "Café". Where there is food, there are some dishes to wash, so volunteering to help clean up afterwards is always welcome. Note: there is no Café on the Sundays when we have "Lunch Bunch", usually the fourth Sunday of the month. If many do a little, few have to do much. Thanks in advance for your efforts and assistance.



Bruen Chapel at Merrifield Day

We like Bruen Chapel!! And on October 18th, we showed it to the wider world, at least the world at Merrifield Fall Festival, 2014. We had helium balloons and handouts and pens and magnets and a coloring page for kids and, well you get the picture. And we ran out of balloons - we had 500! And had to get more.

We shared things about our church with those interested and made some good connections in the process. Not surprisingly, many people did not know we existed so being out there helped fix that. (We are kind of tucked away "in the woods"). We had a lot of interest in the playground and our Child's Play time on Saturday mornings.

We hope that getting the word out will bring the people in. Please pray about that. This was a great opportunity to get out into the community and let people who we are, what we do, and why. We hope to repeat the experience at other one-day festivals in the future.

Thanks to our 12 volunteers who took time out of their Saturdays to help advertise our wonderful church and all we do. We truly couldn't have done it without you!



Charge Conference, 4pm, Saturday November 9th

Join us at our annual conference that reviews the past year AND looks forward to the coming year.

We welcome all BCUMC members to attend this annual conference. We encourage all to come so we can show our interest in the future of OUR church and the plans we have for it. In this way, we hope to demonstrate to both the District and our DS that we are moving forward. Come join us. We'll have a seat ready for **you!**



THE PASTOR'S LAITY SUNDAY REFLECTION "What God Wants From ALL of Us"

Jesus said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

Matthew 22: 21b

Passing a room recently where one of our church's ESL classes was being held, I noticed that the teacher was working with the class on values of different bills and coins that are part of our country's money system. In the process, she also was talking with class members about pictures or images on various pieces of money. These relative newcomers to our country in this way were being exposed to information they might need to pass a citizenship test. There might be questions, for example, about Thomas Jefferson whose head is on one side of a nickel. All U.S. citizens should know that Jefferson, one of our country's founding fathers, was a principle author and one signer of our Declaration of Independence, as well as our third President.

One time when Jesus was challenged by Jewish leaders of Palestine with a question about whether Jews should pay taxes to Rome or not, he took a Roman coin with the image of the emperor of the period on it, and said, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

Jesus' homeland at that time was part of the Roman empire and ruled over by an emperor who assumed that he had divine connections or was the virtual equivalent on earth of a supreme divine power. The emperor's image on his coins was meant to remind all Romans and conquered non-Roman peoples subject to his rule that he was their absolute ruler.

As we think about possible meanings for us of Jesus' reply to the question about taxes, we might remember that in the U.S., we have no King who is the equivalent of "Caesar", but rather a representative democracy, a government of the people, by the people, for the people. The images on our coins and bills of some of our most famous citizens of the past may help us recall all the hard work and sacrifices of our country's people over time that have contributed to the quality of our present life.

In our country, a portion of any money people earn through a job or investments typically goes for taxes. In Jesus' homeland during the time of his ministry, people in Palestine disliked having to pay taxes to Rome both because they were a conquered people and because those taxes, collected mainly for the empire to use as it saw fit, were incredibly high. Our taxes, not nearly as much of a burden for anyone, are meant for the common good and are essential for supporting the infrastructures important for the safety and health of our citizens, national defense, and commerce among other things.

Our tax systems at local, state, or national levels are controlled by us as citizens to the degree that we participate in our democracy. It is appropriate and necessary for citizens to use their constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of free speech and right to vote in responsible ways so that money collected from them via the tax system or fees for various government-run services is used as wisely as possible.

While we are reminding ourselves of the portion of our individual or family incomes that must go towards taxes, however, we Christians ought to ponder what Jesus meant when he said, "Give to God the things that are God's." What belongs to God? One way to approach answering such a question is to recall Psalm 24 that begins, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and all that dwell therein." Everything belongs to God! Even if people like us have power over other creatures or the resources of the earth, even if we want to tap these resources to feed ourselves or provide for other wants and needs, respect for God's stuff is always an obligation. Good stewardship is a necessity.

We might also ask ourselves where God's image is. Asking this question, we might recall the Genesis 1 creation story where, by divine decree, humankind is made in God's image. Then there are New Testament passages, (ex., I Corinthians 15 and Colossians 1) pointing to Jesus as fulfilling God's intention in creating humans in the divine image. In the Corinthians verses, Paul speaks of Jesus as a new Adam, a perfected version of humanity made in God's image, a prototype of the new kind of creation we can be by the power of God's Holy Spirit. The author of Colossians 1:15 has Jesus in mind when proclaiming, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation". But, we Christians know that, as Jesus' followers, we are supposed to be trying to imitate him in loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength -- everything we are and can do and have, and likewise in loving our neighbors as ourselves. For us to give to God the things that are God's is a matter of total commitment to becoming more like Jesus.

Nothing less will do.

Ruth Burgess, Pastor



A NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP:

When we became members of Bruen Chapel UMC, we each promised to support the global mission of the UMC, Bruen Chapel's presence in the community and our local ministries in Jesus' name through our generous prayers, our time and talent, our financial giving, and our faithful witness as Jesus' disciples.

Financial giving is but a portion of this overall commitment, but whether and how we give, how we invest our material resources, reflects our fundamental priorities - what or who we love most. As Jesus put it so famously in Matthew 6: 21, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also".

As the year draws to a close, please endeavor to the best of your ability at this time, to make good on your commitment to support Bruen Chapel UMC through financial giving. The church needs to be able to pay its basic operational costs and also to support specific ministries we have agreed to fund.

Pledge cards for you to use while making a commitment to support the church in the coming year also will be available soon during morning worship and will be sent out in the mail as well.



Fun Ideas For Celebrating Advent

Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves to receive God's gift of Jesus. It is a time of "getting ready" for the celebration of Christmas. Here are some ways you can prepare yourself and your family for celebrating Jesus' birth:

•Make an Advent wreath. The wreath, because it is a circle, symbolizes God's never-ending love. The wreath, because it is green, symbolizes life. An Advent wreath contains four candles representing the four Sundays leading to Christmas. Many people place a white candle in the center of the wreath to symbolize Jesus.

You can make a wreath using a Styrofoam base, greenery, and purple candles. If you do not have a Styrofoam base, place your candles in candleholders. Arrange them in a circle, with the white candle in the middle. Place greenery around the candles.

•Use the Advent Worship Service for Families (below) and worship together daily during Advent, lighting the candles on your wreath.

•Make an Advent prayer chain. Use construction paper cut into 24 strips. Write a prayer concern on each strip. Use tape to tape the first strip into a circle. Take the 2nd strip and insert it into the first strip before taping it into a circle. Continue until you have a chain. On Monday, December 1, open your first strip and pray together as a family for what is on the strip.

•Make a family-blessing jar. Place an empty jar on your dining table. Each day during Advent, state one blessing for which you are thankful. Write the blessing on a slip of paper and put it in the jar. On Christmas Day, pour out the blessings. Read together and give thanks to God for the blessings you have enjoyed during Advent.

•For each week of Advent, focus on one of the people or groups of people in the story of the birth of Jesus. Tell one another the stories from the Bible about:

Week 1: the Prophets

Week 3: Joseph

Week 2: Mary

Week 4: Shepherds

•Discover more ideas for celebrating Advent in your home. The book, *'Tis the Season: Church Celebrations for Advent & Christmas* by Rachel Gilmore (Judson Press: 2011), contains several programs for church use during the season of Advent. However, many may be used in your home. Of particular note are the ones included in "*Celebrations for All Generations.*"

From <http://www.gbod.org/resources/2014-advent-home-worship>



Introducing Our Guest Preacher (Sunday, November 30th)

On Sunday, November 30th (Advent 1), Corey Simon will be preaching for us. Corey is a Wesley Seminary Master's of Divinity student in his second year. This experience will help prepare him for ministry and give him some practice in preaching and he thanks us in advance for it.

Pastor Burgess will be present and helping to lead worship, but Corey will bring the message. This will also give Ruth a chance to spend more time with her family for Thanksgiving.

Corey grew up in a small town in northern Michigan, received an Associate's degree from North Central Michigan College, and received a B.A. in English from Grand Valley State University in 2013. He plans to enter the UM West Michigan Conference after graduating. He's spent the last two summers as a camp counselor at Spring Hill Camps in Michigan and enjoys drawing, writing, and reading.



We Welcome a New Congregation to BCUMC

Starting this month, we welcome another congregation, the Capital Community Korean American Presbyterian Church, (CCKAPC) to BCUMC. This is a congregation that started in a home in our neighborhood. They will be using our facility for worship Sunday afternoons 2-5 pm, for Bible study Wednesday evenings, 7-9:30 pm, and several mornings a week, 6-7:30 am for early morning prayer. They will be here through mid-June, 2015.

Although we will have to be out of the sanctuary and the choir/fellowship room by 2 pm on Sundays, we can have other meetings or enjoy fellowship in the front of the church (ex., in Room 206, Room 208 or in the office hall).



Amazing Grace Sunday - November 9th

Amazing Grace Sunday will be a time for church members to tell about their own experiences of God's grace. Of course, we'll sing the hymn and remember the story behind it. We will also sing some other hymns and songs on the theme.



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