As many of you know, Phyllis and I have been in Chicago this week celebrating Christmas with my daughter Katie and our son-in-law Dennis. As you can imagine, spending time with Katie is always a treat—but it was a special joy this year to see how well Dennis is doing. His last bone biopsy revealed that his leukemia is in remission and today he looks as healthy and energetic as he did on the day that he and Katie got married.

To my surprise, it was also exciting to see all the many ways that Chicago is gearing up for “Chi-Town Rising,” Chicago’s New Year’s Eve celebration. Seeing all preparations reminded me again what a hope-filled and expectant time the New Year can be. Like big cities across America, tens of thousands of people will come together on New Year’s Eve for laughter, parties, dancing, and dazzling displays of fireworks.

And like many of you, I feel that same energy and promise here at the church. The year isn’t yet underway and already:

- our capital campaign is off to a strong start,
- Upward Basketball is rockin’ and rollin’,
- plans are being made for this summer’s Vacation Bible School,
- college students are being recruited for the spring mission trips, and
- we are ready to kick-off our first sermon series of 2017—“Reel Christianity: Looking at Faith Through a Different Lens,” a series of sermons that looks at scriptures through four popular Hollywood movies: *The Empire Strikes Back*, *The Hunger Games*, *Chariots of Fire*, and *Groundhog Day*.

But as exciting as it is to look ahead, Janus-like, New Year’s also invites us to look back and savor the year that is ending. When I look back and reflect over 2016, I realize that I have much for which to be thankful. Professionally, I am grateful for:

- the truly remarkable staff that we have here at Herndon UMC,
- the church’s strong, capable and dedicated lay leadership,
- the skill, the talent, and the attention to detail that is being invested week after week in our worship experiences,
- the creativity and energy that goes into Kid’s Club and our children’s program,
- the growing excitement reflected in a blossoming youth program,
- all the effort, imagination, and hard work that goes into keeping the church and community apprised of all that is going on here at the church,
- our first-rate preschool,
- the church’s continued commitment to being in ministry to the greater Herndon community, and
- the amazing generosity and financial support that is provided week-in and week-out by the dedicated and caring members of the church.

But my sense of gratitude is far more than professional. Personally, I have deeply appreciated all the cards, all the notes, all the gifts, all the social invitations, all the emails and phone calls that Phyllis and I have received over the year. Your encouragement and support have meant more to me than you will know. I continue to be profoundly grateful for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Have a wonderful New Year!
GRACE NOTES - JANUARY 2017

Thank You to all those who participated in special music during the Advent and Christmas season!

Members of the 2016 HUMC Christmas Orchestra: your music brought the Christmas spirit to all who heard it on December 18, and your willingness to share your talents with the congregation is deeply appreciated.

The Wesley Choir and Handbell Groups - for enhancing worship with their wonderful music throughout Advent and on Christmas Eve.

All performers on the GIFT dinner Christmas Concert and Jennifer Skinnell and the Kitchen Team - such a fun evening of music and a wonderful way to celebrate the last GIFT dinner of 2015! Over $500 was raised for the Music Ministry Fund - so a big thank you to everyone who helped make the dinner and concert such a success.

Christmas Eve soloists & instrumentalists - Jacob Reeves, Jean Jiao-Alexander, Jeff Hatcher, Margaret Frost, Malorie Stewart, Audrey Hale, Emily Goff, Lydia Goff, and Ellie Wilson - for lending their talents to our 7pm, 9pm and 11pm Christmas Eve services. You are much appreciated!

The New Year is a time for beginning new endeavors and making new commitments, both in our lives and in our church. Have you been thinking of using your musical gifts in a new way in 2017? Do you have a love of music and a desire to grow both musically and spiritually with others? Come be a part of the music program at Herndon United Methodist Church! Visit the HUMC Music Ministry page on our website to read about the various ways you can get connected through music or contact Shannon Wise at shannon@herndonumc.org.
HAPPY NEW YEAR! We had so much fun celebrating in December with family and friends. We went to DC—saw the tree and passed out hats/gloves to homeless and enjoyed a fun filled Christmas Party. We will continue watching movie clips, linking them to scripture and talking about how to recognize God in our everyday! This is what we have planned for January....

CONNECT
Jan 4th  COLLEGE GIFT Dinner
Sun 8th  LEADER/YOUTH Council Meeting
         4:30pm
         YOUTH GROUP — 5:30pm
Sun 15th NO YOUTH GROUP
Sun 22nd Confirmation 4-5:30pm
         YOUTH GROUP — 5:30pm
Sun 29th  YOUTH GROUP — 5:30pm
MISSION TRIP DEADLINES JAN 15th

WEEKLY STUFF
WORSHIP Sat 5:30, Sun 9 and 10:30
GROW with SMALL GROUPS
       Wed 3pm,
       GIFT Dinners/Tutoring
       WED 6pm/7pm
SERVE — OTD Puppets
       Sun 7pm, Bells Mon 6pm, Choir
       Wed 5pm, and
       Band Thurs 7pm
Happy New Year! Events in January:

Games run through January and February, and there are opportunities every week to share your faith with the UPWARD families. Join a study group. Help referee, sell snacks, or run the scoreboard.

If you would like to help, please contact Sheri Fairchild, sheri@herndonumc.org.

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS!

Normal rehearsals for One Accord, Joyful Noise, Gloria Bells and Hands Up for God resume starting Jan 4.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Contact Melanie or Margaret, margaret@herndonumc.org.

Scouting Sunday is Feb 5!

Scouts please wear your uniforms to worship. All scouts will be recognized.

SAVE THE DATES.

VBS 2017 will be July 10-14.

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1!

Melanie Ayers, HUMC KIDS Director.
703-707-6271 x103. melanie@herndonumc.org.
Follow the Star
As we start off 2017, we would like to thank everyone who made gifts to Herndon UMC in 2016. Our wonderful programs, ministries, and worship could not happen without your support. Your giving statements will be coming to you shortly, please look for them in the mail or in your inbox if you have signed up for electronic reports. If you would like your statement to come to you via email and have not already signed up, please email our Business Manager, Julie Albanus, julie@herndonumc.org, stating this preference and clearly identifying the preferred email address.

**2017 GIVING ENVELOPES**

We are shifting away from the preprinted weekly envelope boxes to a more flexible format. The new envelopes will be packaged in weekly, biweekly, and monthly stacks so that you can take just the right number for your giving preference. In addition, the envelopes also serve as prayer concern forms and will be available in the attendance books in worship if you need one. The envelopes may be mailed to the church, placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. These envelopes will not be printed with your giving number, but you will still be assigned a number that you can write on the envelope in lieu of other information. Look for your new giving number with your 2016 giving statement, or ask Julie, julie@herndonumc.org, for one.

**ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

We will begin asking for pledges towards the 2017 annual operating budget on January 14. The Stewardship brochures, with the pledge cards inside, will be available to be picked up by January 14 in worship, from the Connection Corners, and from the church office. The brochure will explain how church monies were spent in 2016 as well as the many different ways to give to Herndon UMC. Please return pledges by January 31 so that the Finance Team will have them for their early February meeting. Again, these pledges will be for the support of the annual operating expenses of Herndon UMC – staff payroll, regular mortgage payments, building maintenance and utilities, missions, church operations and programming – and are separate from the Capital Campaign.

**THE 2017 BUDGET**

Although the church's leadership voted to delay the stewardship campaign until after the Capital Campaign pledges were in and Christmas had passed, they did not put off the planning. The Church Council has extended the 2016 budget through March of 2017 and your Finance Team has been working with the church ministries to develop a workable budget for 2017. You will see more about the new budget after it is approved by Church Council, but we are excited to announce that we have been approved to refinance our mortgage.

As a way of locking in lower interest rates for the next five years, Herndon UMC will be refinancing its more than $2M mortgage with the Virginia United Methodist Development Company. In addition to the lower interest rates, the church's payments will go to support other United Methodist churches and we will have the benefits of working with a United Methodist financial partner. The Virginia United Methodist Development Company is an extension of the United Methodist Foundation—the foundation that manages our Endowment Fund. Please keep an eye out for additional information in the days to come.

**PRESERVE. STRENGTHEN. GROW.—OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

A lot has been said and written about the capital campaign over the last few months. If you would like to learn more about it, please visit the campaign website www.herndonumccampaign.com, or talk to one of the Steering Committee members. Richie Musser, Julie Albanus, Sally Block, or Jim Seevers would be happy to answer any questions that you have. And remember, it is not too late to turn in a Faith Promise Card for the capital campaign. Pledges to the campaign are welcome at any time.
CREATIVE GIVING IDEAS

Feedback from the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study indicated that our church family is already giving at a high level. We recognize that it may be challenging to “find” more resources to give to the campaign. Richie Musser is happy to talk to anyone looking for creative ideas for giving. He encourages us all to give from our abundance. Have a skill or passion that God has given you? Think about ways you can turn that into some money for the campaign.

One example comes from our own congregation. The John family owns an automotive repair shop in Sterling. When members of the church bring in their cars for repairs, the John family will donate 10% of the labor costs to the Capital Campaign. What a wonderful and generous way to use the gifts that God has given them! You can find out more about this opportunity by contacting Roger John at 571-435-6695.

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP SESSIONS

Ever wonder why the cloths on the altar change—or how to set up online giving? Want to learn more about the different opportunities for fellowship and growth here at Herndon UMC? Interested in signing up for a mission trip? Or maybe you are new to Herndon UMC and have all these questions and more! Here’s your solution! Each of the Wednesdays in January, at 7 pm (right after the GIFT dinner), there will be a special information session about the various ministries of the church. Led by church leaders with special experience in each of the areas, these sessions will highlight:

- The United Methodist Church and Worship - JAN 4
- Growth Opportunities and Small Groups - JAN 11
- Christian Hospitality and Giving - JAN 18
- Serving Others - JAN 25

So bring your questions and join us to learn more about the life and ministry of Herndon UMC. And if you are interested in becoming a member of Herndon UMC, please contact our Office Manager, Jen Score at office@herndonumc.org or 703-707-6271. The next new member weekend is currently scheduled for January 28 & 29.

A Challenge from Bishop Lewis

As many of you know, we in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church have a new bishop. Her name is Sharma Lewis. Bishop Lewis came to us this fall from the North Georgia Conference and she is the first black woman elected to the episcopacy in the Southeast Jurisdiction. This week, Bishop Lewis challenged conference pastors and lay persons to take 2017 to read through the Bible with her. If you’ve ever thought about reading the Bible through from cover to cover, this may be the opportunity you have been looking for. One of the nice things is that when you are working your way through those tough sections in Leviticus, you’ll know that there are hundreds of other people tackling it with you. If you decide to take the challenge, consider something besides the King James Bible. Find one of the newer translations--New Revised Standard Version, Common English Version, Good News Translation, Contemporary English Version, New Century Version, The New Living Translation, or The Message. This is your opportunity to make 2017 “The Year of the Bible” for you! Follow this link for January’s schedule as well as the rest of the 2017 schedule.
I would like to thank the Herndon United Methodist Church congregation, staff and custodial staff for all you did to make our LINK Christmas program a huge success! The icy conditions that we faced on Saturday, December 17th created a little havoc, but the Christmas spirit was abundant. We had lots of toys for the parents to choose two gifts for each child and were able to share our leftovers with several other areas that had very little donations.

772 families received food for 3—5 days, $19,765 in grocery gift cards, and more than 4500 new toys. Hundreds of volunteers braved the icy and cold conditions to help transform HUMC into Santa’s Workshop for the parents to shop, as well as the other two church locations where the food was located. Thank you to each and everyone of you who donated, volunteered, and prayed for our program.

In February, HUMC will have the opportunity to donate food and funds to LINK, as well as deliver food to families Tuesday through Saturday. To sign up to help, go to—

**Katie McGuire/Virginia Greear Circle**

The Katie McGuire/ Virginia Greear Circle hosted a brunch for its December meeting, inviting church staff members to join the group in Doe Hall to partake in a holiday celebration. The Circle will meet on January 9 at 9:15 am in rooms 110-112 for the first meeting of the new year which will feature a program planned by Ginny Hatcher. In February the Circle will prepare sandwiches for the Embry Rucker home in Reston as a part of its mission project goals. As always we encourage new members and welcome them to visit with our Circle. Please contact either Nina Orsini (ninaj60@aol.com) or Judy Young (uoy@aol.com) for further information.

**Mary Martha Circle News**

The Mary Martha Circle does not meet in January. For more information, contact Jo Klinefelter (KFredJo@aol.com).

**Morning Glory Circle News**

In November, the Morning Glories commenced their meeting by remembering our beloved late circle sister, Scarlett who passed in October. :’(

Followed by continuing with brightening the lives of those around them by sending Thanksgiving cards. Also, to round out the time together, we helped set up for the Annual Harvest Festival by setting up our Handmade Card table as well the Yard Sale Items. That is all for now! Have a Blessed Advent Season and see you next month and next Year! :)."

Peace be with You,
Erin Devolites
For information about our circle contact Susan Malcom 703-863-6475

**Naomi Ruth Circle News**

We had a great time at the HUMC Fall Festival on November 5th. Our circle hosted the “Christmas Shoppe” table and we are so pleased to have raised $355 which will go to the HUMC Capital Campaign. We are going to do the same fundraiser again next year! What better time to collect gently used holiday décor than this Christmas season when everything is out of storage! **Donation drop-off box will be located at the Doe Hall entrance during the months of December & January. No lights please. No large/outdoor items.**

Visitors are welcome to our circle anytime! For more information, please contact Shellie Klet at lklet2dsl@verizon.net or 703-481-5951.
United Methodist Women News

As I look forward to a new year I am excited to see and hear how the women of this church will bless our church, our community, and the world. I again have been blessed with a complete slate of officers for 2017.

The officers for 2017 will be as follows:

President – Shellie Klet
Vice President – Nina Orsini
Treasurer – Barbara Craley
Secretary – Erin Devolites
Spiritual Growth – Everludis Lopez
Program Resources – Elsie Blough
Mission Pins – Joan Whitener
Social Action – Pat Seevers
Historian – Ginny Hatcher
Membership Nurture and Outreach – Sue Pugh

We would love to have you join us in the fellowship and missions of our various circles.

If you would like more information on UMW contact Shellie Klet at lklet2dsl@verizon.net or at 703-481-5951.

Neighbors In Need

Hypothermia Dinners

During the cold winter months of December through March, unsheltered homeless adults living around our community have a place to seek shelter from the cold weather. Cornerstones, a nonprofit organization in Reston that promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing and other human services, partners with Fairfax County to operate the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program (NCHP). This program works to prevent weather-induced illness and loss of life among unsheltered homeless adult men and women in our community.

HUMC supports this program by cooking and serving a hot meal twice a month. We have already provided 2 meals in December, our third on New Year’s Day and will provide additional meals through March. We prepare the food at HUMC and transport it and serve the dinner at the shelter, which is located near the Embry Rucker facility in Reston. The remaining dates of the dinners are: Jan. 22nd, Feb. 5th & 19th and March 5th & 19th. We are able to provide these meals through your generous donations of food and your time in volunteering to cook and serve the dinner. The sign up board will be in the narthex and then moved to the fellowship area after the 9:00 AM Sunday service. Volunteering to actually serve at the shelter is open to anyone older than 18 years.
VBS 2017

July 10-14

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 1
### Worship Services

**Sundays**
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional, Liturgical Worship
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship
  - KIDSClub - Available during Sunday Morning Worship, 9 & 10:30 am
- 10:30 am Sunday School for Adults

**Saturdays**
- 5:30 p.m. Casual, Traditional Worship

Nursery Care available for infants through age 3 at all worship services and Sunday School

### CHURCH STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Nursery Workers</td>
<td>Robin Garcia, Kayla Miller, Dominique Hart</td>
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<td>Victoria &amp; Audelio Ayala</td>
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