



## the Forerunner

“Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1

### January 2015

**As we begin 2015**, we will begin to follow the narrative of the gospel of Matthew on Sunday mornings all the way through Easter. This could be a great time for YOU to focus on the gospel in your personal devotional reading as well. Read it yourself in a quiet time of the day. Read it at your dinner table with the entire family. Listen to it while driving. Ask God to illumine the words, phrases, ideas, stories for you that you need to reflect on in 2015. The gospel of Matthew begins like this... “An account of the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham ... .”



The story of Jesus begins with a long list of “begats”, making it oh so very clear that Jesus the Messiah is connected to the king. King David, that is. Clearly Jesus is a king if he is a great, great, great (multiple times over) grandson of a king. Matthew also informs his readers that Jesus will be named by Mary’s husband, Joseph, and that his birth fulfills the words of the prophet Isaiah (7:14): “they shall name him Emmanuel”, which means “God is with us” in Hebrew. Matthew identifies this Messiah as king/Emmanuel, or your closest majestic companion in life.

And this story of Jesus recorded by Matthew ends with the same affirmations of this Messiah as king and as Emmanuel. Jesus’ last words make up the very end of the gospel (Mt. 28:18-20). They include: “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Sounds like the king of all kings to me.) And, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (or, Emmanuel forever.)

As we traverse the pages of the gospel of Matthew, I imagine that we will see again and again that Jesus, who is the Messiah, our Lord and our Savior, is the king of kings AND is intimately with us today, tomorrow and every day. Thanks be to God! (I am indebted to a sermon by theologian NT Wright which raised the beginning/ending connection in the gospel of Matthew of Jesus as the king/Emmanuel. It is great to learn new things!)

See you on Sundays...

- *Pastor Deborah*

**Be sure to join us on January 18** for worship as we offer a visual presentation of the year just past! Images and words will be put together in a slide show to help all of us remember and give thanks for the events, activities, leadership and service which occurred in the year 2014. The slide show will be running PRIOR to worship and again AFTER worship. It will also be the Sunday when our new church officers are ordained (Eva Hendrix Shovlin, Ernestine Alston) and/or installed (Suzanne Jewell, Johnnie Summers, Emmanuel Addo, Karen Spain).



## Introducing our newest members...

Please take time to introduce yourself to our new members!

**Colette Ngatchou** has been visiting HRPC on and off for 17 years! She brings her grandchildren along with her—Oceane, Serena and baby Stanley—who love to come to Faith Place! Colette enjoys cooking. She lives with her daughter Dolores Ngatchou and her grandchildren off of Beechfield Rd. in southwest Baltimore. Involved in the Presbyterian church in Cameroon, Colette comes to us by reaffirmation of her faith in Christ.



**Emma Wotany** has been visiting HRPC since her daughter and her family—Mojoko Wotany and Oscar Makoge, Emmanuella and Jayson—have been a part of our community of faith. Emma is a nurse, and is an excellent cook, especially of Cameroonian food! She lives off Security Blvd just into Baltimore County (near her grandchildren, of course!). Emma comes to us from a Roman Catholic background by reaffirmation of her faith in Christ.

**Stella Ngang** was invited to Hunting Ridge by Etchu Abunaw, and knew it would be her church home on her first visit! She grew up in the Presbyterian church and Presbyterian schools in Cameroon, loves to sing, and is a youthful addition to our church family. Stella joins us through reaffirmation of her faith in Christ.

## The changing face of your leadership at Hunting Ridge...

Please take note of your 2015 church officers!

**Session:** Vivian Smith, Jessie Leonard, Joi Akuche, Malachi Mbenga, Johnnie Summers, Suzanne Jewell (clerk).

**Deacons:** Mojoko Wotany, Sally Altman, Emmanuel Addo, Ernestine Alston, Eva Hendrix Shovlin, Karen Spain.


Thank you to one and all who see to it that HRPC is thriving on so many levels!

**See our 2015 Deacon/Elder Group List printed on pgs. 4&5.** Take note of your leaders and be sure to communicate with them regarding ways our church family can support you and your family.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: December, 2014

- The Session approved the 2015 budget.
- The membership rolls, active and inactive, were reviewed.
- The job description for the position of bookkeeper was reviewed and approved.
- “Love Your Neighbor” goals for 2014-2015 were reviewed.







# SAVE THE DATE!

Advocacy Action Afternoon in Annapolis

**Monday, February 23, 2015 at 3:30pm**

First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis  
171 Duke of Gloucester, Annapolis, MD 21401

Presbyterians and the United Church of Christ will join together for a briefing on the General Assembly, worship and fellowship, followed by visits with our state's senators and delegates.

For more information contact Susan Krehbiel, Director of Congregational Advocacy, at [Skrehbiel@baltimorepresbytery.org](mailto:Skrehbiel@baltimorepresbytery.org)

Looking for new and different ways to spend quiet time with God in the new year?

Visit [www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org)

Or download the free app

And make time each day to


Pause, listen, think and pray



**Want to purchase a hymnal in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend?**

Only \$17.50 each.


Simply give the name you are honoring/memorizing and your name to the church office ([hrpc@hrpc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:hrpc@hrpc.comcastbiz.net)), and we will place a book plate in one of our new Glory to God hymnals.



**How are we loving our neighbor... in the world, in the community and in our own church?**

**Our instructions from the Word:** *"The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt: I am the Lord your God."* Leviticus 19:34

You can make a list of ways you, your family, and/or HRPC is loving neighbor! Just read your Forerunner or the monthly announcements in worship to identify multiple ways we can love neighbors near and far. Your session continues to focus on loving neighbor as a theme this year, and will further reflect on ways we can do that together at our annual leadership retreat at Hebron House in Ellicott City (on the grounds of Mt. Hebron Presbyterian) on Saturday, January 31.



## 2015 Deacon/Elder Groups

### A. Emmanuel Addo (D) 443-271-9348

#### Vivian Smith (RE) 410-624-8123

1. Atkins, Angela
2. Bailey, Carol
3. Beebe, Fred & Ruth
4. Curtis, Colette
5. Gangadeen, Andy & Sandra  
Chelsea
6. Holland, Joann
7. Knauf, Chuck & Barbara
8. Ngang, Stella
9. Pusateri, Tony & Althea  
Jennifer & Mark
10. Robertson, Brian
11. Tenkeu, Stephanie

### B. Eva Hendrix-Shovlin (D) 443-465-5442

#### Malachi Mbenga (RE) 240-643-5644

1. Boggs, Hunter, Jackie  
Emily, Catherine
2. Bondima, Rene-Robert & Kely Gelin  
Bryan, Kyara, Alexandre
3. Henson, Michele
4. Hernan, Paul & Sharleen  
Maggie & Ella
5. Higbee, Joan
6. Hull, John & Virginia
7. Rhoades, Judy
8. Sparks, Craig
9. Tatis, Francisca
10. Wotany, Emma
11. Wyley, Louis

### C. Mojoko Wotany (D) 443-695-7696

#### Joi Akuche (RE) 301-751-8430

1. Abunaw, Etchu  
Marie & Franklin
2. Baker, Kim
3. Ebai, Dorothy
4. Elliott, Katrina  
Javon Dow
5. Fairbanks, Dick & Barbara
6. Gelin, Marjorie
7. McEachran, Dan & Deborah
8. Myles, Jacquie & Roach, Fernando  
Chris, Brandon
9. Ngatchou, Colette & Dolores  
Oceane, Serena, Stanley
10. Petro-Sewew, Roseline
11. Yamoah, Alex

### D. Sally Altman (D) 410-484-3294

#### Jessie Leonard (RE) 828-638-1773

1. Banks, Willa & Joe  
Joshua, Elizabeth
2. Burks, Harriette
3. Cushman, Sukie & Shawn Atanasoff  
Lily & Daisy
4. Fryer, Craig & Lydia  
Sydney
5. Hall, Jordan
6. Lambert, Thurm & Beverly
7. Lewis, Almeda & Darwin Jr.
8. McDowell, Elaine
9. Parker, Jamie Wilkins & Vincent  
Maia Wilkins & Jordan
10. Parks, James & Laurice
11. Snyder, Annette, Nzinga & Ted

**E. Ernestine Alston (D) 410-644-1355****Johnnie Summers (RE) 410-362-2487**

1. Bachman, Bill & Gail
2. Bayly, Kay
3. Bondima, Jean & Lucie  
Charles, Christian, & Leslie
4. Callahan, Dave & Ginny
5. Johnson, Brenda & Butch
6. Little, Joyce
7. Moore, Rhonda  
Mekhi, Amir, Amar, Amil, Ahroy
8. Rice, Johnny Sr.
9. Van Allen, Peter  
Alexander & Michael
10. Wilson, Will  
Devon Jr. & Dionne

11. Womack, Rodney & Angela  
Tyshawn Jackson Demi, Rodney Jr.

**F: Karen Spain (D) 410-581-9796****Suzanne Jewell (RE) 302-530-0821**

1. Addo, Emmanuel
2. Akuche, Bert & Joi
3. Alston, Ernestine
4. Altman, Sally
5. Hendrix-Shovlin, Eva
6. Leonard, Nick & Jessie
7. Makoge, Oscar & Mojoko
8. Mbenga, Malachi & Beatrice
9. Smith, Vivian
10. Summers, Johnnie

**Declaration from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cuba  
December 17, 2014**

Today we have been presented with the televised announcements of the presidents of the US and of Cuba in which both recognized the need to put an end to the more than half-century of hostility and to reestablish diplomatic relations between our two countries, taking steps to normalize our relations with one another. We also have received the wonderful news of the release of Mr. Alan Gross and other Americans imprisoned in Cuba, as well as the three Cuban prisoners in American territory, permitting an anxiously awaited Family reunión.

The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cuba gives thanks to God and celebrates these agreements with rejoicing. For decades we have built bridges of encounters with the exchange of visits among Cuban and US churches; we have been engrossed in the góspel ideal of fighting for peace and justice; and we have lifted our voices against the harsh economic and commerical sanctions which the US government has placed upon our people.

In the same way we have received the clear backing of our sister church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), through its resolutions and through its conversations with members of Congress and other government representatives.

We recognize the efforts of the Vatican, in the person of Pope Francis I, as well as the Canadian government, in the attainment of these understandings. We trust that an era of peace between our nations is much closer, especially on the eve of the celebration of Christmas, when we remember the divine purpose of peace on earth and good will to all.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:14, NRSV

Dr. Reinerio Arce Valentín  
Moderador

Rev. Francisco Marrero Gutiérrez  
Presidente del Concilio

Rev. Daniel Izquierdo Hernández  
Secretario General

(translated by Deborah McEachran, Dec. 22, 2014)

## Please join us for Worship

January 4	The Flight to Egypt	Matthew 2:13-23
	Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Psalms 11:1-3
	Cents-ability Offering to combat hunger locally	
January 11	Jesus is Baptized	Matthew 3:1-17 Psalm 2:7-8
January 18	Preparation for Ministry	Matthew 4:1-17
	Ordination and Installation of officers	Psalms 91:9-12
January 25	The Be-Happy Attitudes?	Matthew 5:1-20
		Psalms 1:1-3



### In The Loop: Update

Our 2015 representatives to In The Loop ministry group (12 churches in the southern part of the city, all within "the loop" - 695) will be Elaine McDowell (returning) and Johnnie Summers (new). Watch for updates from Elaine and Johnnie on In The Loop happenings.

### Save the date: In The Loop MusicFest

April 25, 2015

6-8:30 pm at Central Presbyterian

### Congratulations to our December graduates!!!

Beatrice Tangie, Bachelor of Nursing;

Lucienne Bondima, Registered Nurse;

Michael Van Allen, Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Management

*Blessings on you as you move forward on your career paths!*



As we approach the new calendar year, many of us are taking stock of our lives and perhaps making resolutions for our future. Personally, I can hardly believe that I've been working at Hunting Ridge for nine months. I want to take a moment to thank the members of the choir for their hard work and support throughout the year. We've made some great music throughout the year, and they have also helped me get the music program and the music room more organized.

As for the future, I'd like to hear from you about what the music program can do to make your worship more meaningful. I often hear positive feedback after a particularly moving piece, but I'm equally appreciative of suggestions and constructive criticism.

*Craig Sparks, Choir Director*

## January Calendar

<b>Sundays</b>	10:00 am	Adult Forum :	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 am	Worship Service (Nursery care for children under 3 and Faith Place for 3 years - 5th grade)	Sanctuary
	1:00 pm	Baltimore Falam Baptist Church	Sanctuary
	4:00 pm	Free Community Yoga	Fellowship Hall
	4:00 pm	English Class	Conference Room
	5:30 pm	Korean Presbyterian Fellowship	Sanctuary
	<b>Thursdays</b>	7:00 pm	Imani Bell Ringers Rehearsal
7:30 pm		Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
8:00 pm		Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting	Fellowship Hall
<b>Friday</b>	7:00 pm	Korean Presbyterian Fellowship	Sanctuary

### January Birthdays & Anniversaries!



- 1- Dorothy Ebai, Mekhi Moore
- 4 - Cheryl Somers
- 6 - Etchu Abunaw
- 9 - Darlene Rice, Nzanga Snyder
- 14 - Ernestine Alston
- 17 - Devon Wilson
- 19 - Carol Bailey
- 20 - Joyce Little
- 24 - Amir & Amar Cousin
- 25 - Nick Leonard
- 26 - Willa Banks
- 29 - Victor Jones
- 31 - Nicole Somers



**In the event of inclement weather this season:**

**Visit our new website!**

[huntinridgechurch.org](http://huntinridgechurch.org)

You will also find calendar information, sermons, contact information for the ministries we support, rental forms (tell your friends who are looking for a hall for their family events), intake forms for the choir/bells and lots, lots more.

Giving button coming to website soon!

 **GIVE NOW**



Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church

4640 Edmonson Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21229

[www.huntingridgechurch.org](http://www.huntingridgechurch.org)