



NEWTOWN SQUARE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# NSPC Connections

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REV. DR. JEANNE THOMAS—PASTOR

JANUARY 2020

## From Your Pastor



Dear Friends,

"When the wise men saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy." They looked for the sign "in the East" and drew near to Christ as the star led them to a stable in Bethlehem.

It is hard to put ourselves in the place of the magi. For when it comes down to it, we walk a fragile line between our desire to be open to God's leading, yet know exactly where we will be an hour from now.

A Calvin and Hobbes cartoon captures this tension well. Calvin, the sophisticated mixture of adult and child embodied in a hyperactive six-year-old, is reading a book and looks disgusted. He says to his imaginary friend Hobbes,

"You know, the *more* you know, the harder it is to take action. Once you become informed, you start seeing complexities and shades of gray. You realize that nothing is as clear and simple as it first appears. Ultimately, knowledge is paralyzing."

Calvin then throws the book away and says, "Being a man of action, I can't afford to take that risk."

That's how we often feel when new possibilities or insights are presented to us. And yet, that's exactly what God asks of each of us...to look for signs of God's presence beside us and before us as we begin this new year.

While the good news of great joy is still ringing in our ears, there is a star on the horizon, guiding you and me, our church, and our world. And even though we may not know exactly where it is leading us, any more than the magi did, what we do know is this: the same God who led these wise men leads US.

So let's keep searching for signs; let's keep drawing near to the God who longs to draw near to us. Let's keep looking for those little epiphanies that will change us, not just individually, but as a body of Christ that longs to be faithful disciples.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Sermons for the Month of January

1/5 2nd Sunday of Christmas  
Matthew 2:1-12

**"The Visit of the Magi"**

Communion

Reading of the Necrology



1/12 Baptism of Our Lord  
John 1:29-42

**"On Being Known"**

All Church Choir

1/19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
Jeremiah 17:5-10 & Psalm 1

**"Rooted and Grounded"**

**Annual Meeting and Lunch  
Immediately After Worship**

*(Snow Date 1/26)*

1/26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany  
James 2:14-24

**"Fully Known: Creating  
Authentic Relationships"**

Sara Boninu, preaching

**Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Join Us!**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, *still* proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

With anticipation as we enter the New Year,

Jeanne

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"  
~ Isaiah 43:19*

## SAVE THE DATE: January 19, 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation



Following worship on January 19, there will be an annual meeting of the congregation. We will convene in the sanctuary to vote on Pastor Jeanne's terms of call, and then recess to the Social Hall for lunch and reports. Please RSVP using the SignUpGenius that will be sent out via email later this week, or the bulletin insert that will be in the 1/5 and 1/12 bulletins. You can also sign up to help with set up, clean up, and/or make a food contribution to our luncheon, if you are able. **Come and hear the highlights of 2019 and the goals and objectives of each committee and commission for 2020.**

We are all a part of what makes this congregation such a  
***wonderful community of faith!***



The **Joy Offering**, an all-church project, was also sponsored by the Mission Committee. Sue Bechtold, Heather Impriano, Robbyn and Joe Marchesani organized this offering for NSPC. Thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful cause! Totals will be printed in the New Year.

## Offering Envelopes



### 2020 Offering Envelopes

Our 2020 offering envelopes have arrived! If you requested envelopes, please pick them up in the Narthex.

# Music Ministry

I want to thank you, our NSPC congregation, for your support for the 2019 music program. Cantata Sunday, "The Road to Bethlehem" was a great success. I am so proud of each and every individual who participated in the process. In the midst of busy schedules, they shared their time, patience and talent. I am grateful for all of you! Our guest harpist, Megan Landfair enjoyed making music with our chancel choir. She loves the energy of our church and she felt so welcomed by NSPC. I am hoping to invite her back sometime soon!

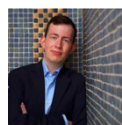


I am thrilled that our bell choir celebrated Christmas Sunday by presenting "The First Noel." Did I tell you that it is one of my favorite Christmas carols? Bravo! Also, the pageant on Christmas Eve was very successful. Kudos to all children and parents who were part of it, either by helping in the wings or by participating in the pageant. Kudos also go to Sara for her great leadership! And, of course, our chancel choir certainly enjoyed being accompanied by a string quartet on Christmas Eve. GREAT JOB TO ALL!

Highlights of January include the offertory "Evening Prayer" by Ola Gjeilo. It will feature our very own Michael Talento on his tenor saxophone! Mike will be improvising a bit in the piece with gorgeous singing from the choir. We will be presenting this same piece again on Maundy Thursday. Some lyrics highlights as follow:

*Watch, O Lord,  
With those who wake,  
Or watch or weep tonight,  
And give your angels charge  
Over those who sleep.*

## New Year, New Face!



I want to welcome our newest bass soloist at NSPC's music program. As some of you might have noticed, John Meyer started singing with us on December 22nd, and also on Christmas Eve. I am thrilled to have John. Please extend your warm welcome when you have a chance. Here is his short bio!

John Meyer is a baritone based in Philadelphia. He was last seen on stage as Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and General Tracy in *Manchurian Candidate* with Seagle Music Colony. John is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music where he was lucky to perform Pandolfe in *Cendrillon* as well as Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. An avid interpreter of new music, John premiered the role of The Narrator in Chris Burton's opera *The Nightingale* with the Heliantus New Music Ensemble. John is a proud two-year alumni with Seagle Music Colony where he was also seen as the title character in Händel's *Giulio Cesare*. John completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas.

Happy New Year! I wish everybody a healthy and fruitful 2020! The best is yet to come :)

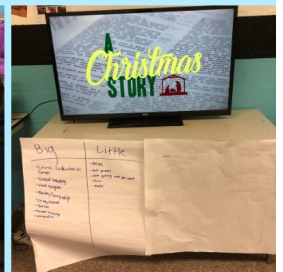
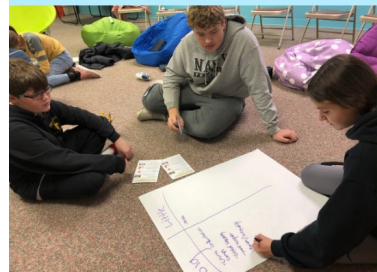
~Ting Ting Wong  
Director of Music





Baby, it's cold outside...but our hearts are warm from our lovely Christmas season! Youth Group, the Christmas Eve Pageant, Cocoa, Cookies, and Carols, and our Christmas party brought joy to our hearts as we celebrated the true meaning of Christmas.

During Advent, the youth learned of God's faithfulness through the story of the Holy Family. God had a specific plan for Jesus' birth, Mary, and Joseph, and he also has a specific plan for our lives. God calls each of us to do great things for the Kingdom, so we should have open hearts to receive His call. During Youth Group, we split into 2 teams and created "Big Issues" and "Small Issues" lists and discussed if God only cares about the "big stuff" in our world. The teens learned that God cares about all of it, and everything about our lives matters to him. We ended the month with a Christmas party, where we enjoyed games, an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, and a Gingerbread House Contest. Fun was had by all!




As we head into the New Year, prepare your heart to do miraculous things in God's name. Our children, youth, and families will continue to grow in faith through Bible studies, mission, and fellowship.

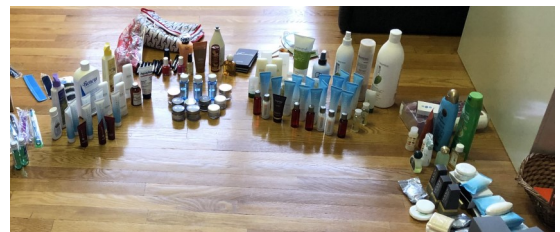
**Youth Group will reconvene January 5th at 4 PM, Kids' Group will reconvene January 12th at 11:15 AM, and the Sunday Social will occur January 12th at 2 PM. Stay tuned for more information!**



~Sara Boninu,  
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

We donated over \$200 worth of toothpaste, lotion, shampoo, and soap to Pathways PA, a local organization that helps women and children affected by domestic violence. They truly appreciated your generosity this Christmas!

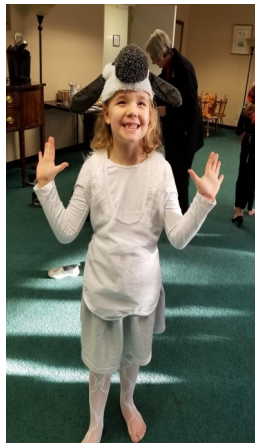






**CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT**  
**O COME, LET US ADORE HIM**

**DECEMBER 24, 2019**







## Church School Chatter

...from Christian Education



### ***Cocoa, Cookies, and Carols***

Sunday, December 8th, friends and family attended one of our favorite annual events at NSPC. Cocoa, Cookies, and Carols is a wonderful combination of festive fun, scrumptious cookies, delicious cocoa, and singing of traditional Christmas carols. A special visit from Santa warmed the hearts of all the little children and those of us who continue to be children at heart. Thank you so much...we love you, Santa. Many thanks go to all who helped make the evening so memorable. A gigantic thank you goes to Pastor Jeanne Thomas, Sara Boninu, and the youth group who kept the cookies and cocoa flowing. And of course, thank you to all who attended, donated cookies, and helped in the celebration by lending your voices in song during this magical, joyous Christmas season. *(Check out more pictures on page 7)*



### ***Christmas Eve Pageant***

Our annual pageant was a worshipful experience as the children and youth performed "O Come, Let Us Adore Him." Every animal, Holy Family member, Magi, and reader did a spectacular job reenacting the story of Christ's birth! Thank you to Sara Boninu for directing the pageant, Ting Ting Wong for accompanying, and all the volunteers who made it possible. If you missed it, take a look at the next page for pictures from this glorious night!

### ***Feed the Babies***

Patrick Donovan, the deaf autistic son of a very dear friend, has been collecting baby formula and food for 10 years. As a teenager, he saw a program on hunger and asked his mom, "Can we help?" With that, "Help Patrick Feed the Babies" was created. Patrick has delivered thousands of pounds of baby formula, food, and other items to organizations in our area for the distribution to needy families. This is a cause very close to his heart, and he looks forward to continuing this project each holiday season with lots of help from caring neighbors and friends like us at NSPC. This year, donations will be gratefully accepted through January!

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and we wish all a very blessed New Year.

~Nancy Gingras,  
Church School Superintendent



### COCOA, COOKIES & CAROLS

# BUILDING & GROUNDS

A workday is in the planning stages for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 to clean closets, and the kitchen in preparation for renovations and construction.

We are still investigating what appears to be excessive water usage. We will work to complete an analysis by the end of January.



We do have a positive ending to our sewer plumbing issues. We have had someone from General Sewer review and inspect our situation. The conclusion is that it is not an issue with our sewer mains. It appears to be the float settings in the toilets. We'll be making adjustments to allow more water flow along with implementing other recommendations. We will also inspect bathroom roof vent stacks for obstructions which when cleared would improve water flow.



## MEN'S GROUP

### FIRST WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Men's Group will meet again this Wednesday, January 8th in the Lounge from 8-9 AM.

Please join other men of the church for fellowship and discussion.



# Mission News



Dear Church Family,

**Mark Your Calendars...On March 8, 2020**, members, friends and family will once again be packaging meals on behalf of Rise Against Hunger. Since its inception, **Rise Against Hunger (RAH)** has provided over 501,172,984 meals in 77 countries. They have also provided medicine, medical supplies, medical equipment, clothing and blankets to millions of hungry, vulnerable people, as close to home as the disaster victims of September's Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.



After a successful meal-packaging event, Rise Against Hunger sends the supplies to countries with whom they have partnered. The food goes directly to schools and orphanages, which are often the sole source of daily nutritious meals for the children. Parents send their children to school for the food, enrollments rise, and these well-fed children become educated and are then able to give back to their communities.

**Since March of 2016, NSPC has enthusiastically packaged over 79,000 meals for hungry school children.** On March 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, we will once again support Rise Against Hunger and package an additional 20,500 meals. We will then be almost at 100,000 meals packaged at NSPC!

**Personalized Rise Against Hunger Gift Cards:** Thank you to all those who purchased Rise Against Hunger Gift Cards in someone's name. 100% of the proceeds will go directly towards our meal-packaging event.



**Money Jug:** The giant money jug is back in the foyer by the church office. Please consider dropping in a few coins (or cash) as you walk by. It is amazing how many meals we have been able to purchase simply from donations of your spare change.

**UNO's Dough Raiser:** Stay tuned for an opportunity in late January or February to share a meal with your church family at Uno Pizzeria & Grill, here in Newtown Square.



## Christmas Card Tree Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who contributed a card to the PW Christmas Card Tree. Your card and generous postage donation helps to support our mission projects throughout the year. Christmas Greetings and wishes for a prosperous New Year were sent to the NSPC family and friends from:

The Arraya Family, Flossie Barnes, The Bechtolds, Ginny Berman,  
The Bross Family, Peter & Mary Burgess, Ginni Condo,  
Bernice Eder, The Kelly Family, Nancy Kemp,  
Lois Peck, and The Thomas Family



### NSPC Delivery "Santas"



Thank you to our Delivery Santa Bob Bechtold who delivered toys to Chester Eastside. The project is sponsored by the PW and NSPC members pay for the purchase of the toys. \$200 was spent when the toys were on sale for 75%off. So \$800 worth of toys were purchased and filled the delivery sleigh!



Dolores Hart was not available for a picture but she was the designated Delivery Santa to theVillage. The box in the coat room was full and overflowing. Thank you for your donations to the project sponsored by the PW and donations from all of NSPC.

The DeCrays were the Delivery Santas to Chester Eastside Ministries. The DeCrays also delivered canned goods and Wawa contributions along with the coats.

*We have had several coats donated but there is always room for more. Please bring your own hanger since we cannot spare the new white one. Thanks.*



\*\*\*\*\*

### Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Feeds Twelve Families Christmas Dinner!

Charity begins at home, and what better way to spread the spirit of Christmas than to bless twelve homes with delicious turkey dinners – delivered to the Garrett Williamson Foundation. This Mission activity, sponsored by the NSPC PW, is always a combined effort to purchase, pack, and deliver these meals – and this year the team included a much-loved member who passed away in 2019, Jeff White. Jeff was an integral part of many activities at NSPC, and he rounded up many of the canned goods earlier this year. Along with Jeff, our thanks goes out to Pam Lounsbury, Program Coordinator; Sue and Bob Bechtold, Marg MacDonald, Bernice Eder, Allen and Lynne Corle, Terri McCarthy, and the many members who contributed funds and food to this wonderful annual event!

Alex Morrison, Director of Camp Garrett, conveyed their thanks this way: Garrett Williamson cares for hundreds of families in our child care and camp communities all year round, and subsidizes almost 40% of our children with scholarships. The turkey baskets from NSPC are so deeply appreciated, and allow us to serve the neediest families during this holiday season. Thank you so much for your contribution!



## Silent Auction to Benefit Rise Against Hunger

On Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday February 9th, the Rise Against Hunger committee will once again be hosting the very popular silent auction in the church lounge.



### Looking for Auction Items/Gift Cards/Certificates/Tickets For Silent Auction to Benefit Rise Against Hunger

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Rise Against Hunger Committee will be hosting a silent auction from **February 2nd through February 9th** in the church lounge.

Please consider donating an auction item/gift card/certificate/ticket you have and don't need. Perhaps you received one for Christmas that someone else might enjoy. If you do not have any, how about asking a business you patronize or company where you work for a donation? We are looking for gift cards/ certificates/ tickets from restaurants, convenience stores, coffee shops, spas, department stores, grocery stores, car washes, flower shops, candy stores, jewelry stores, sporting events, concerts, theater, etc.

*In January, donation forms will be available in the church office or in the west narthex coat area. Please submit the form with your donation(s) before January 30th to the church office.*

As always, thank you for your support in helping to raise money to package over 20,500 meals during our **5th Annual Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event on March 8th.**

Please contact Bob Bechtold (610-745-0064) or Lynne Corle (610-563-5355) if you have any questions. Thanks in advance for your support.

For more information about Rise Against Hunger, visit [www.riseagainsthunger.org](http://www.riseagainsthunger.org)

~ Lynne and Allen Corle & Sue and Bob Bechtold

## CWS Blankets – Comfort. Warmth. Passion.

NSPC has long supported this Church World Service mission program. As we do every January, in 2020 our Blanket Drive will run January 12 through February 2. During that time, we're asking for a contribution of \$10 from anyone and everyone in our congregation who would like to provide a warm blanket to comfort someone recovering from a disaster such as hurricane, flood, fire, earthquake, etc. That \$10 may also go toward providing cleanup supplies, tools, food, and other emergency items to help those impacted by disasters stateside and around the world. Just in the United States, there have been so many tragic disasters – tornadoes, hurricanes which brought unsurpassed flooding, fires in California, and very early winter storms in the Midwest. Of course around the world, there was much destruction resulting from volcano eruptions and a host of other destructive events.



Your \$10 is a wonderful gift that can provide hope and healing to one of God's people who is much less fortunate than you or I. Please look for the special envelopes in the pew racks, provided for your convenience in giving **whatever you can**...and may God bless you for your generosity. Make checks payable to PW-NSPC, and note on the memo line *2020 Blankets*.

*"They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity."* 2 Corinthians 8:2

~Pam Lounsbury,  
Chair, CWS Blanket Drive,  
an NSPC-PW Mission Ministry





# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## January Circle Meetings

*All women are welcome.*

*Join us for fellowship, and personal and spiritual growth.*



### Phoebe Circle

Date — Monday, January 6

Time — 1:00 PM

Location — Lounge

Hostess — Marge DeYoung

Devotions — Ginni Condo

Study Leader — Ginni Condo

### Miriam Circle

Date — Monday, January 13

Time — 12:15 PM

Location — Conference Room

*\*Weather Permitting*



### **PW Board Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 21

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Place:** Conference Room

## RADA Soup Mixes

The PW is selling four delicious RADA soup mixes. Make a warm, delicious dinner in a snap with one of RADA's mixes! Our selection will include the following choices:



*Baked Potato*



*Cheddar Broccoli*



*Roasted Corn Chowder*



*Pasta Fagioli*

Price for 2 soups will be \$8. Contact Ginny Berman if you have a request!

Starting January 12, we will have **RADA dips** available for sale. Just in time for the Super Bowl!



Spinach Artichoke Dip



Tomato, Garlic & Basil



Guacamole



# January Birthdays

1/3 — Joel Sanders

1/5 — Kristy Ebersole

1/5 — Jennifer Kelly

1/6 — Kim Hewes

1/8 — Cole Robinson

1/8 — Courtney Seltzer

1/11 — Jim McCarry

1/12 — Bernice Eder

1/12 — Kristina Schultz

1/12 — Sean Smitheman

1/14 — Lois Ashman

1/14 — Tami Kliefoth

1/14 — Beth McCarry

1/15 — Marguerite Boehm

1/19 — Joe Fioravanti

1/19 — Scott Hess

1/22 — Pat Deluca

1/24 — Max Mazzone

1/24 — Collins Vokhiwa

1/27 — Francis O'Donnell, Jr.

1/27 — Anne Pennington

1/28 — Lois Bortle

1/28 — Judy Niggeman

1/30 — Ginny Berman

1/30 — Lynne Corle

1/31 — Siobhian Robinson

## *The Last Tuesday Book Club*

The very popular *Last Tuesday Book Club* takes place as its name implies, on the last Tuesday of each month. We meet at 1:00 in the church lounge and the gatherings usually last about an hour and a half. We read from a variety of genre and volunteers take turns leading the book discussions. It is a fun, stimulating and relaxing get-together. New members are always welcome!

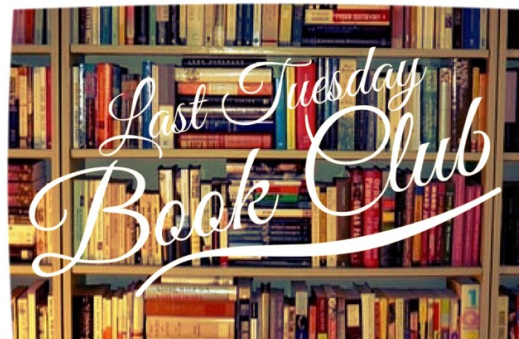
This month, we will meet on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Our January book is entitled *Between You and Me: A Novel*, by Susan Wiggs. ***Our upcoming books are:***

February 25th: *The Beneficiary* by Janny Scott

March 24th: *The Aviator's Wife: A Novel* by Melanie Benjamin

For more information, contact Lynne Corle at (610-563-5355) or [corle217@gmail.com](mailto:corle217@gmail.com)

Happy Reading!







# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 6 pm AA 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	3	4
5 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship 4pm Youth Group	6 10 am Knitting for Peace 1 pm Phoebe Circle 7 pm B&G Mtg	7	8 8 am Men's Group 10 am CE Mtg 7 pm Deacons	9 6 pm AA 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	10	11
12 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Kids' Group 2 pm Sunday Social	13 10 am Knitting for Peace 12:15 pm Miriam Circle	14	15 7 pm Session	16 6 pm AA 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	17	18
19 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Annual Mtg of the Congregation 4 pm Youth Group	20 MLK Day 10 am Knitting for Peace	21 11 am PW Board	22	23 6 pm AA 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	24	25
26 10 am Worship/SS 11a m Fellowship 4 pm Youth Group	27 10 am Knitting for Peace	28 1 pm Last Tuesday Book Club	29	30 6 pm AA 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	31	

***In Ministry Together at Newtown Square Presbyterian Church:***

Pastor ..... The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Thomas  
 Director of Youth and Family Ministry ..... Sara Boninu  
 Director of Music..... Ting Ting Wong  
 Church Office Administrator ..... Heather Impriano  
 Sunday School Teachers.....Alexandra Adams, Barbara Corsi, Brad Kohlhepp, Sara & Morgan Boninu  
 Accountant..... Julie Bergstrom (ext. 19)  
 Director, Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Nursery School..... Jane Fioravanti  
 Asst. Director, Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Nursery School ..... Meghan Kazanjian  
 Clerk of Session..... Buff Biddle  
 President, Board of Trustees.....Jim Shea  
 Treasurer .....Dave Sampson  
 Head Usher .....Grant Snyder  
 The Sacristy Guild of St. Martha..... Pam Lounsbury  
 Presbyterian Women .....Ginny Berman

***Plus... all the members of NSPC***

**SESSION/BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Thomas

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Ginny Berman	Lynne Corle	Buff Biddle
Joe Falcon	Jerry Schauer	Rich Digby
Dot Gauntlett	Jim Shea	Rebecca DiPersia
Lindy Rustam	Debbie Weiss	Jane Fioravanti

**BOARD OF DEACONS**

Moderator: Sue Bechtold

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Ed Arraya	Kim Biddle	Marg MacDonald
Sue Bechtold	Barbara Meahl	Robbyn Marchesani
Nancy Gingras	Kristina Schultz	Barbara Nicolardi
Stacey Kucera	Marian Wellington	Jim Thomas

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 Sara Boninu (cell):.....757-814-5097  
 Ting Ting Wong (cell): .....412-608-5588  
 Rev. Thomas (email):.....jeannethomas@comcast.net  
 Sara Boninu (email): .....sara.nspc16@gmail.com  
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