

# Fourth Press

Pastor's Page .....	2
Fourth Family Milestones .....	3
Deacons Corner.....	4
Women of Fourth.....	6-7
Media Center .....	8
Fourth School .....	10
Youth.....	11
Directory .....	12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

March 2011

## Seeking Love, Wealth, and Influence

*Rob Norris, Senior Pastor*



Though we do not always acknowledge it, and though we may not deliberately design to do so, most of us search for meaning in life in the love of others. We also look for security in the things we are able to buy or the wealth and influence we are able to gather. On top of which, we strive for acceptance in services rendered to others and by investing ourselves in good deeds.

Clearly there is nothing wrong in seeking deep and lasting relationships, in gaining possessions, or in doing good deeds to others; however, all these things can be subtle temptations, open doors through which our spirit slips away from our true anchor. It is easy to move our trust from the Living God to trust instead in our own strengths.

The result is often that we maintain the appearance of deep spirituality, yet find that our relationship with God in His Christ stagnates and becomes 'formal' rather than real, and our lives become dry. There is felt a sense of being internally "scattered" and there is a lack of security.

The remedy is always to be found in the grace of the Gospel, which calls me afresh to the repentance that closes the doors we opened, and brings rest and peace in the forgiveness and provision of our loving Christ. The remedy is to place our souls in the tender might of the Christ of God who has conquered sin and the grave for us, and who while we were far from Him came to us. That grace comes to us, so that what is scattered is brought together and finds its focus in the love of our Savior. It brings to the souls a state of feeling unlike anything we are used to, as it brings a kind of delight in God—the sure sign that it is not of this world and is a token of what we will gain when we stand in God's presence face to face.

Then, as St. Augustine wrote, "My soul is fed and medicined with goodness from Your hand, Oh Living Lord."

Volume 35, Issue No. 2

## Keep the Date: April Spring Festival

*Rob Norris, Senior Pastor*

On Saturday April 9, from late morning and into the afternoon, we will hold a Spring Festival here at Fourth Church. We plan to use the entire facility for events and activities for all ages, together with a meal. The reason for this undertaking is to provide an outreach to our community and an opportunity for all to invite friends and neighbors to share in our church life.

We encourage you to invite your non-churched friends to come and enjoy this time, experience something of our common life together, and gain a picture of the ministry of our church. This will be a time when everyone can experience the love of Christ in action. We aim to provide a non-threatening environment and a warm welcome to people who have never been to anything else at our church, allowing them to experience some of the joy that is the outworking of our faith.

Please plan to come, and invite friends to join you--to enjoy this event and capture something of the love of Christ and the welcome of our church.

## Inside this Edition

Fourth Family Milestones .....	3
CS Lewis Fellows Program .....	4
Crosspoint: New Singles Ministry .....	7
Movies to Check Out .....	8
Fourth School News .....	10

Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

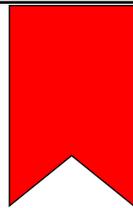
Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)



## From the Pastor's Study

*"Original Sin" by Alan Jacobs*

Alan Jacobs, in his latest book, "Original Sin," provides what he calls a "cultural history" of the idea of original sin, as an explanation of evil and pain within the world. It was not what I expected and proved to be an interesting and stimulating literary study from within the Western literary canon. He explains that he has tried to write for readers who have little interest in theology. While he begins with a review of the theology and impact of St. Augustine, he uses the idea to relate back into classical times and explore the notion of evil in pre Christian thinkers.

While I was initially disappointed in the lack of theological interaction,

I found myself increasingly engrossed in an intellectual tour of ancient and modern sources who have sought to make sense of ideas about original sin and the perfectibility of man through the ages in the West.

He is a vivid writer who is sometimes very funny, and his work holds the interest and captures the imagination, but in so doing I am afraid he is ultimately unsatisfying because, while providing an entertaining book, he has done so at the expense of the serious consideration of an important doctrine. His conclusion sums up the strength and the weakness of the book when he says "If everyone is bad to the bone...our condition is first and above all, comic."

---

Dr. Norris' copy of *Original Sin* is available for checkout in Fourth's Media Center.

*the*  
**MEDIA  
CENTER**

### Library Renewal Line

Need to renew your books, movies, CDs, or DVDs?  
Call 301-320-3434, x465 and leave a message.  
*We'll take care of it for you.*

## *Fourth Press*

**MANAGING EDITOR**, Jeri Weaver  
**LAYOUT & DESIGN**, Natasha Gilliam  
**WEB MASTER**, Dale Meadowcroft  
**EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**, Bob Klassen  
**PROOFREADER**, Esther Steele

Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

# Fourth Family Milestones

**Births and Adoptions:** Lauren Reed, x231, [lreed@4thpres.org](mailto:lreed@4thpres.org); **Marriages:** Jean Erskine, x205; [jerskine@4thpres.org](mailto:jerskine@4thpres.org); **Anniversaries:** Jeri Weaver, x206; [jweaver@4thpres.org](mailto:jweaver@4thpres.org); **Deaths:** Carolyn Gwadz, x217; [cgwadz@4thpres.org](mailto:cgwadz@4thpres.org)  
 Information reported to these sources will automatically be included in this monthly listing unless you request otherwise.  
 We welcome your pictures! Send photos to accompany your announcements to [jweaver@4thpres.org](mailto:jweaver@4thpres.org).

## ~Births~

**Amelia Grace Jihae Chun** | *September 16, 2009*  
 Parents: Kenny and Sarah Chun



**Caleb Meyer** | *January 5, 2011*  
 Parents: Brien and Kelly Meyer  
 Grandparents: Rev. Ron and Michele Meyer

## ~Deaths~

**Ruth Alex Mitchell** | *November 26, 2010*  
 Wife of John Mitchell  
 Mother of Peter (Emily Gerrard) and Alex Mitchell



**Robert B. Stenstrom** | *January 19, 2011*  
 Husband of Joe Ann Stenstrom  
 Father of Kelli Stenstrom

## ~Anniversary~



**Louis and Inez Kramp** | *60th Anniversary*  
 Married March 25, 1951  
 In Billings, MT



Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)



## Deacons Corner

*Jackie Keller, Deacon*

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (-1 Peter 4:10)*

March marks the ordination of new deacons to the Deacon Board. We extend a warm welcome to the new members of Class of 2014: Vinod Charles, Rik deVoest, Robert Eisemann, Nancy McCrary Jones, Ben Newton, and Hannah Steele. Please pray that they may be wise stewards of the resources that God has given them and that God will give them the energy and wisdom to serve as He wills.

Thanks also to the members of the Class of 2011 who are now leaving the Board. We praise the Lord for their dedicated service. Though they may not always be sitting members of the Board, we are reminded that deacons are "Deacons for Life."

It is a great honor to serve as a Deacon. It is important for us to remember that when the Apostles instituted our office, they made it clear that deacons would be servants characterized by faith and a reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit for wisdom.

When Beth Gordon left the Deacon Board a few years ago, she summed up her experience as a Deacon for six years, and Board Chairman for two, as follows, "On the Deacon Board there are 37 individuals with distinct personality traits and diverse gifts. Though we may have differing points of view, we have commonality of heart and oneness of purpose—to honor Jesus and minister in His name. It has been a joy to watch how the Holy Spirit, somewhat like an orchestra conductor, used these individual traits and gifts, and even our differences, to create 'beautiful music' in the Deacon Ministry."

As we look forward to another year of "beautiful music," let us encourage each other as a board of the Church, to seek after God's will through the power of the Holy Spirit and then to serve Him.



*Carl Wylie, Elder*

Years ago, when I was looking for a way to deepen my relationship with Jesus Christ, my wife highly recommended a program that she had done a year earlier.

So, I applied for The C.S. Lewis Fellows Program, which has been offered since 1999 by the C. S. Lewis Institute in Northern Virginia. In that program, I joined a group of eight men to study Scripture and read books and articles on key themes such as grace, discipleship, love, humility, prayer, Scripture and other topics. After focusing on the theme of the month, we met the following Saturday morning to hear an outstanding lecture on the topic and to discuss the assigned readings in our group. I also chose a mentor, meeting with him monthly to discuss the topics and my life. I found that through the four-fold reinforcement—reading, hearing, discussing, and mentoring—I really deepened my understanding of aspects of the Christian life. Our group also met one evening a month to deepen our fellowship—an important part of the program.

I enjoyed it so much that I became a mentor in the program and have been privileged to spend time with many younger men who sought that same encouragement and growth that I found.

This year, this growth opportunity will be available in Maryland. The C. S. Lewis Institute is starting a Maryland-based fellows program which will meet at Fourth starting in September. This program is intended for believers who already have a solid faith and who attend church or live in Maryland. The groups are divided into men and women and into broad age groups, such as Young Professionals and Mid-Career Professionals and Pre-Retirement.

You can find out more about the program at [www.cslewisinstitute.org/fellows](http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/fellows) or by talking with Carl Wylie, Robin King, Sandy Gavin, Rebekah Burrows or Jill Lindstrom (who have all participated in the Fellows program). Applications will be accepted through April 30, 2011.

**Men of Fourth Retreat**  
**March 11-13, 2011**  
**Speaker: Stephen Smallman, Author and Pastor for over 40 years**

# Top 5 Reasons for Not Taking the Shuttle Bus

James Crabtree, Parking Committee Chairman

Pastor's Page ..... 2  
Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3  
Deacons Corner..... 4  
Women of Fourth..... 6-7  
Media Center ..... 8  
Fourth School .....10  
Youth.....11  
Directory .....12

## REASON

**I was running late.**

**I came to the 8 o'clock service.**

**I had my family with me.**

**I'm a visitor.**

**I needed to leave quickly after church.**

## SOLUTION

The shuttle bus takes only 3 minutes to go from the shopping center to church, probably faster than you could find a parking spot.

We are delighted you came early so others could find seating at a later service. But to show our Christian witness, please take the bus and save the parking spots for the elderly and visitors.

What a wonderful opportunity to show the family how you are sacrificing for the Lord. And, kids love taking the bus!

Wonderful, welcome to Fourth church! We now have five visitor parking places in the front of the church. After you've parked there for 2-3 Sundays, we hope you'll try taking the shuttle buses.

That's why the buses run continually. With 2-3 buses running at all times, there is very little waiting. And you'd be surprised how friendly the trip can be!



The Parking Committee thanks the over 20,000 riders who rode the shuttle buses in 2010. As to the rest of you, why not join us in taking the bus?

*To the Family of Fourth:*

*Thank you for the love and concern shown to me on the death of my husband, Bob Stenstrom. The beautiful heartfelt notes, cards and other expressions of sympathy have meant much to my daughter, Kelli, and me. We appreciated the outpouring of support at the memorial service on January 30 and want to thank those who organized the lovely reception following the service. Thank you all for showing the love of Christ to us.*

*In His love,  
Joe Ann Stenstrom*

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

## 2011 Women's Retreat

*Linda Rhodes, WOF Retreat Publicity Chair*

Plan ahead to attend our Women's Retreat on April 30, 8:30am - to 5pm. The elegant **Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center** in Ellicott City, MD, is the perfect setting for renewal and refreshment. Experienced speaker, coach, mentor and writer Elizabeth Fitch will challenge us to rest in the Simple Pleasures of Living as Abba's Child.

What do you think when you hear that God invites us to live as His children? Too good to be true? During this retreat we'll consider His invitation to rest – to let Him take the initiative and bear all the weight of all our fears and what-ifs and if-onlys. Through presentations and small group conversations, we'll consider practical ways to say yes to the freedom and relief of finding ourselves loved.

### Our Speaker



The president of an agri-business, Elizabeth Fitch has taught school, practiced law, and has business and management experience in radio and real estate. She has been affiliated with the C.S. Lewis Institute and serves on the board of the Institute for Religion & Culture.

For the last ten years, she has taught seminars and led retreats designed to encourage others to explore new vistas in emotional, relational and spiritual growth, coaching individuals and small groups. She designs and leads

workshops, including the ten-week series, Abundant Living.

Elizabeth grew up on Virginia's shore and was educated at the University of Virginia. She and her husband live in McLean, VA, and have three adult children. In her spare time, she enjoys family and friends, swimming and photography.

### Our Retreat

Nestled in the rolling hills of central Maryland, Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center is located near Columbia and offers an elegant but peaceful getaway. The cost to register for the Saturday retreat program is \$65 before April 1 and \$70 after.

Although our retreat begins on Saturday morning at 8:30, you can opt to reserve a room for the previous night. Overnight guests can use the heated pool and jacuzzi or make an appointment at the spa. To reserve a room, call Turf Valley, 410-465-1500, and tell them you are a woman of Fourth Presbyterian. We will reduce by \$10 the registration fees of women who reserve a room (1-2 women maximum per room).

## Women's Potluck Brunch

Saturday, March 12, 10am-noon in the Upper Room



True intimacy with God cannot grow apart from prayer. Like intimacy with a friend, we cannot know someone deeply if we are not talking with them. Come and spend time along with your sisters in Christ communing face-to-face with the Lord as we enjoy a feast of prayer on Saturday, March 12. Bring a friend and join in a feast of food, fellowship and God's presence with women of all ages. Register in Halverson Hall after Sunday morning services. Contact Melissa Carder at x275 with any questions.



*To all our lovely members at Fourth Church who have kindly remembered me during my recent accident: Your cards and your prayers have comforted me and brought much joy! Thank you for your prayers and support. I will be looking forward to attending services soon.*

*Your Sister in Christ,  
Anne Wetzell*

Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

# A New Fellowship at Fourth

*Dave O'Connell, Pastor of College and Career Ministries*

With great excitement, we introduce Cross Point Fellowship, to begin soon.  
Dr. Norris first announced it at our recent Annual Meeting.

## Here are the basics.

Cross Point Fellowship:

- Is for single adults in their mid-30's to mid-50's.
- Meets a few times a year for a fun and relaxed dinner in the Upper Room after the evening service.
- Will have a few socials and events planned during the year.
- Is not a class. It is just an occasional get together for fellowship.
- Is a non-threatening place to invite those who do not know Christ to our church.
- Is a simple place for singles to connect with one another, while still remaining connected with the whole of the church body.



## Here are the specifics.

The first Cross Point Dinner will be on Sunday night, February 27, following the 6pm evening service. There will be no program, just dinner and fellowship. It will also be free for all who attend. If you or someone you know would like to attend, just email [crosspointfellowship@4thpres.org](mailto:crosspointfellowship@4thpres.org) and ask for the official invitation (which we will send through Evite).

The first Cross Point Event will be on Saturday, May 14. A member of our church has graciously offered to open his home, located just outside of Saint Michaels, MD. We will enjoy a beautiful day boating around the Eastern Shore, playing volleyball, kayaking, and relaxing in hammocks and Adirondack chairs by the water. Of course there will be plenty of time to stroll around Historic Saint Michaels, enjoying local restaurants, sites, and shops. It will be a wonderful day with friends in one of the most beautiful parts of Maryland.

---

Please keep this new fellowship in your prayers, asking the Lord to bless it, and be honored through it.  
If you have any questions about the events or the fellowship, please contact Rev. David O'Connell,  
301-320-3600, x227 or [crosspointfellowship@4thpres.org](mailto:crosspointfellowship@4thpres.org).

## Crafty Women

*Carol Bontempo, Women of Fourth Craft Ministry*

The Women of Fourth Crafts Ministry is a small but dedicated group of knitters and crocheters whose purpose is to make lovely, useful items for various ministries. The past year has given us many opportunities to serve in this way while we exercise our God-given creativity. We've provided afghans/prayer shawls to numerous people on our long-term prayer list; these are much appreciated, especially by those who spend a lot of time in bed or in a chair, and may often feel chilled.

During the Christmas season, we made hats and scarves for the Tender Loving Care ministry to Appalachian children, and for the inner-city Faith in Action ministry. Now we've turned our attention to the Rockville Pregnancy Center, where the young women who decide to keep their babies are given one of our handmade blankets, which encourages them and makes them feel special as they await the baby's arrival.

It is truly a joy for us to serve the Lord's people through these efforts—and incidentally to enjoy the fellowship of other crafters. We meet in Room 130, 7-9pm, on the first Friday of each month (with some exceptions); our next time together will be March 4.

Even if you've never held a needle or a hook, we'd love to have you join us in this rewarding ministry; materials and instruction are available to all. If you have any questions, please call Carol Bontempo anytime at 301-946-2286.

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

# NEW DVD*s*

## In the Media Center

Amish Grace	The Note
Behind The Easter Story	To Save A Life
Book By Book: Genesis	Soul: Christianity Explored
The Cross: The Arthur Blessitt Story	Standing Firm
Faith Lessons 7: Walk As Jesus Walked	The Trial
Faith Lessons 11: Path To The Cross	Upside
How Great Is Our God - Louie Giglio	The Way Home
Kabul 24	What Would Jesus Do
Kayla	Yeshua / Jesus
Letters To God	

### the MEDIA CENTER



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Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

# Fourth's Movie Night

*presents*

## **SECRETARIAT** and **CARS** *(for kids)*

Saturday, March 5

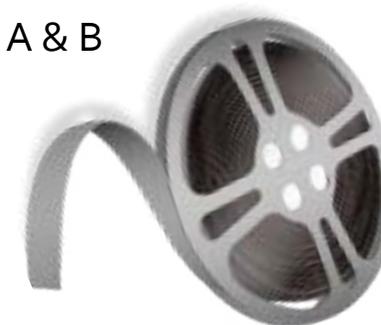
5pm dinner, 6pm movie Upper Room

The two movies will be shown simultaneously in Upper Room A & B

Bring your family and friends to

### ***Fourth's Movie Night***

and enjoy fellowship and relaxation.



With pre-registration, child care will be provided for children under five years old (at no charge).

There is no charge to come watch the movie.

**Dinner is \$2 per person or \$5 per family.**

For dinner and/or childcare, sign up in Halverson Hall on Sundays,  
or call the Congregational Care Office, 301-320-3434, x216.

*Sponsored by the Evangelism and Church & Family Life Committees*

.....

### ***Note:***

Volunteers are needed to help with registration, setup, clean-up, child care.

Please call x216 to volunteer.

Pastor’s Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

# Small Beginnings, Great Results

*John A. Murray, Headmaster*



Last year, Pastor Todd Smedley gave a sermon on Matthew 13:31-33 with the following challenge: “Don’t be fooled by small beginnings—God grows His Kingdom.” Although Fourth is a young school, I have been greatly encouraged by the ways God is growing and using us in the lives of our students and the DC community at large.

First, we have successfully moved to the final stage of our school’s accreditation process. The Association of Independent Maryland Schools Executive Director wrote, “We were pleased with the [Fourth] School’s Self-Study Report, and we know that your Action Plan will continue to reflect both the School’s seriousness about this process and its high standards.” Following successful completion of the Action Plan, we will be recommended for full accreditation next fall. We are thankful for the opportunity to be a light among the top private schools in our area.

Secondly, next year our school will include Pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and we will graduate our first 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Recently we surveyed our students about what they valued most in our middle school program. From a list of over 24 things they valued, I asked them to circle their top five choices. Their number one choice was our open, Christ-centered environment.

As you know, the middle school years can be difficult for adolescents as they navigate physical and emotional changes and develop their identities. A Christ-centered, small school environment, with caring teachers who know their students well, can make a huge difference in the lives of middle schoolers—preparing them to enter high school, confident in who they are and what they believe.

With the addition of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, our sports program will be able to expand to JV and varsity teams, as we offer boys and girls soccer and basketball, as well as baseball and softball. Our electives and after school programs will include visual arts, choir, theater, a digital yearbook, an online newspaper, and band.

We will kick off the school year in the fall with our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade three-day team building retreat to Echo Hill, while our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will attend a three-day leadership retreat in DC where they will meet with Christian congressmen, Capitol Hill staffers, media, and other political and cultural influencers, as we prepare our students to engage their generation for Jesus Christ.

As a parent, I know that choosing how to educate our children is a personal and important decision. It is thus a great privilege to partner with other parents to raise their children during these challenging times.

May the Lord give us courage, confidence and hope in the growth of the kingdom that He is growing in and through Fourth School. Don’t be fooled by small beginnings.



Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)

# FOCUS ON THE YOUTH

*Please join us in praying for our youth this month.*

**March 1-5** Pray for the eleventh graders and staff away on Junior Weekend (4th-6th). Pray God might use each for leadership as seniors, to encourage spiritual growth, and to deepen fellowship.

**March 6-12** Pray for each grade in the middle and high school (6th-12th) - for time in the Word and prayer, for protection from the world, and for being a light at school. Pray specifically for the sixth, eighth, and senior class as they move to their next stage in ministry in the coming months. Pray God will mightily bless each class during these transitions.

**March 13-19** Pray for the youth family—committed examples of Christ to middle and high school youth; pray times in the Word would be rich; pray each would be reflective of Christ's love and guarded from temptations; pray God might grant visible fruit from their faithful labors.

**March 20-26** Pray for the future summer staff members who begin ministry with us in two months. Pray God might prepare each for this summer of service. Pray for wisdom for the full-time staff as they prepare to receive and lead them.

**March 27-31** Pray for K-Groups, where high school students meet together, geographically, with the intent of growing in faith and friendships and as a ministry, and D-Groups, where middle school students meet to study the Bible and encourage one another.



*- 2011 High School Winter Retreat*

# Who to call at Fourth when you need...

Pastor's Page ..... 2

Fourth Family Milestones ..... 3

Deacons Corner..... 4

Women of Fourth..... 6-7

Media Center ..... 8

Fourth School .....10

Youth.....11

Directory .....12

Click here to open a copy suitable for printing

**ALPHA** .....Jennifer Chen, 301-208-9811

**ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS**.. Martin Holdrich, 214

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**  
.....Rev. Blair Smith, 286

**ADDRESS CHANGES** ..... Sandy Long, 209

**BAPTISMS/WEDDINGS** .....Jean Erskine, 205

**BIBLE STUDIES**  
Singles/YCF/College.....204  
Community Bible Study at Fourth Church:  
Janet Montague ..... 301 320-3950  
WOF Circles-Melissa Carder .....275  
Precepts..... Melissa Voorhees, 301-654-1067

**BODY & SOUL**.....Heather Johnson, 301-871-3420

**BUILDING USE/CHURCH CALENDAR**  
..... Martin Holdrich, 214

**BULLETIN INFO** ..... Natasha Gilliam, 245

**CHILDRENS LIBRARY**.....Holly Gochnour, 244

**CHILDRENS MINISTRY** .....Carol Van Duzer, 218

**COLLEGE/SINGLES MINISTRY**  
.....Rev. Dave O'Connell, 227

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE/COUNSELING**  
Pastor Ron Meyer .....235  
Carolyn Gwadz .....217  
Daven Petite .....216

**Church Office: 301-320-3600 (receptionist)**  
Direct Line: 301-320-3434 (automated)

**COUPLES IN CHRIST**  
George & Leanne McPherson ..... 301-869-0070

**CLOTHING DONATIONS**  
Collection for Inner City  
Pamela Roylance..... 301-424-4742

**COUNSELING**.....249

**DEACON NEEDS**  
Financial/Spiritual – Deacon voice mail .....223

**DIRECTORY UPDATES** ..... Sandy Long, 209

**DIVORCE CARE/BLENDED FAMILIES**  
.....Rev. Ron Meyer, 235

**EPC & RELATED CHURCH QUESTIONS**  
.....Jean Erskine, 205

**ESOL**..... Margaret Cudney, 301-299-7385

**FLOWERS FOR SANCTUARY**  
.....Patricia Windsor, 301-320-3600

**FOURTH PRESS** ..... Jeri Weaver, 206

**FINANCIAL QUESTIONS** .....Fred Lofberg 239

**GIVING ENVELOPES**.....Ruth Williams 241

**KITCHEN USE** ..... Jennifer Shoultz, 703-465-9689

**LIBRARY RENEWAL LINE** .....465

**MEDIA CENTER/CHILDREN'S LIBRARY** .....211

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** ..... Arlean Campbell, 204

**MEN OF FOURTH**.....Rev. Blair Smith, 286

**MISSION INQUIRIES** .....Rob Yancey, 282

**NEW BABY (Rose on organ)** .....Lauren Reed, 231

**NEW MEMBERS CLASSES**  
..... John/Barbara Hocker, 301-263-2958

**PRAYER LINE (24 hour line)** .....420

**SESSION INFORMATION** .....Jean Erskine, 205

**SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF MARRIAGE CLASS**  
Rev. Ron Meyer .....235  
Daven Petite .....216

**SUPPLIES/PURCHASING**.....Ruth Williams, 241

**URBAN MINISTRY** .... Tim Perrin, Chair, 301-320-0573

**WEDDING COORDINATOR**  
..... Jennifer Shoultz, 703-465-9689

**WOMEN OF FOURTH**  
Melissa Carder..... 475  
Arlean Campbell .....204  
Tickets: Betsy West ..... 301-881-1373

**YOUTH**  
Rev. Corey Gray .....212  
Hannah Culbertson.....210

**YOUNG AT HEART** ..... Liz Blalock, 301-765-0007

The 9:30am worship service is broadcast each Sunday at 11:00am on WAVA 105.1 FM. CDs and audiotapes of morning services are available in the Media Center (x206).  
Dr. Norris' morning sermons are also available in print in the Media Center and in text and audio formats on Fourth's website: <http://www.4thpres.org>  
CD recordings of special musical programs can be obtained through the Music Office (x209).