



# Bayside Presbyterian Women December 2018



## Christmas Chaos: Finding Peace

She found peace through an unlikely Christmas song. by Cynthia Ruchti



"To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace." Luke 1:79 (NLT)

As November turned to December, I created a playlist of favorite Christmas songs that accompanied any car travel, housework, and sometimes computer work as I prepared my heart for a Jesus-centered holiday.

A handful of songs rose above the rest. More than atmosphere-setters, they became part of the illumination of the season for me. I hit Replay over and over and let the Holy Spirit use the music to pry my heart open wider for the celebration of Christ's birth. One of those songs has a title not instantly connected with Christmas classics: "All Is Well." But in some ways, it defines the message of Christmas.

The year I most appreciated the song, everything seemed anything but "well" in our household. Personal messages from friends told of family crises, rough diagnoses, breath-stealing challenges. And in our own home, we were approaching the date predetermined for my husband's company's downsizing, which meant the end of his job.

Against that backdrop came the song "All Is Well." As soon as the last note ended, I hit "replay." I needed to hear it again. It turned into a prayer of gratitude that Jesus came to our messy world to let us know it would get even messier, but we could still know deeply embedded peace. The poetry of the lyrics found their footing in the truth foretold in ancient times in anticipation of the arrival of Jesus on the scene: "For tonight darkness fell/Into the dawn of love's light."

Circumstances have no power against the relentless "dawn of Love's light," against the unstoppable presence of Jesus, the Light of the world. —CYNTHIA RUCHTI

**FAITH STEP:** *This Advent season, inscribe your "darkness" concerns into the wax of a pillar candle. As you burn that candle each evening, watch those concerns melt as the light—the Light—takes over.*

## Benevolence in the spotlight



**EDMARC**  
Hospice For Children

Edmarc is a non-profit organization. The mission of Edmarc Hospice for Children is to ease the trauma of a child's illness or death, and to reduce the disabling effects of pediatric illness, loss, and bereavement on families in the Hampton Roads Area. A small portion of health care services are reimbursed by insurance. Other services are paid for through donated funds, Edmarc is a United Way agency and receives support through Combined Campaigns. However, since 90% of their funding comes from donations they encourage and welcome individual and group contributions. Edmarc Hospice for Children believes a family faced with a child's life-threatening illness should be kept together whenever possible. They provide whatever's necessary to keep children in their familiar, loving home environment. They assess each family's social, emotional, spiritual, financial and other needs, and provide professional support in meeting these needs. All of Edmarc's services (home healthcare, hospice care and bereavement support) are designed to alleviate the family's pain, anxiety and fear. Edmarc works with CHKD, Make-A-Wish Foundation, American Cancer Society and National Children's Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Jewish Family Services of Tidewater, Lee's Friends, Angel Flight, LifeNet and First Hand Foundation. Learn more at <http://edmarc.org>



**Beginning Balance:** \$ 1535.69

**Ending Balance:** \$ 2063.56



### Upcoming dates to remember:

- Caroling at Bayside Health Care; Dec 1st 10am
- Angel Tags due Sunday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>
- Celtic 12 December, 7pm
- Living Nativity 15 & 16 December 5-8pm
- Longest Night Service; Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 7pm
- Christmas Eve Services; 10:00, 4:00, 7:00 & 11:00



Always needed:  
- Juice (approx. 64 oz) any kind  
- Canned fruits of any size





## Circle Reports

Circle 3: 12 Ladies attended our meeting . Two are not members of Bayside but are residents of West Minster Canterbury. One of these Ladies has become an active member of our circle asking others to visit and share our Bible Study, What a joy!! We passed out our angel tags, shared and discussed the PW treasure's and reported on how the Thanksgiving offering is used and encouraged the members to support it. Prayer List: Buck and Betty Steere, The Shanks family and The Borchers Family

Circle 4: 7 members were in attendance. Hostess: Betsy Kennedy. Bible Moderator: Amanda Long. We shared in joys and concerns. Discussed the holiday party on the 10th of December. We decided to continue our annual gift exchange - this year gifting books to REACH - an organization that promotes literacy for at risk children throughout Coastal Virginia. The program involved a simple model- volunteers reading, crafting, and giving books to children in homeless or domestic violence shelters. <https://reachreads.org/> Joyce agreed to take the angel tags and shop for the circle. We will cover the cost out of our Sunshine Fund. Amanda agreed to utilize our Food Pantry money to purchase 2 turkeys and \$35 worth of canned goods for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

Circle 6: 9 members and 1 guest were in attendance. Hostess: Linda Allen. Bible Moderator: Sandy Ronan. Bible study focused on the subject of discouragement. Two phrases were repeated often: "Be strong and courageous" and "God is with you". We discussed and collected the Thank Offering. Dana purchased our angel tag gifts for an 8-year-old boy. We noted with sadness the passing of Dolores Miller, a former member who moved away with family. She was 100! Prayer Concerns: Berny Wallace following knee surgery.

Circle 8: 12 members were present. Hostess: Nancy Walker. Bible Moderator: Bobbie Brenton  
Linda Wallace opened meeting with story that fit our bible study. Treasurer's Report \$235.17  
Our Circle selected 6 Angel Tags. Gifts which will be funded by our treasury and returned to church by December 9<sup>th</sup>. Receipts to be turned in to Marie. We have a college student . Brendan Scolamiero who is attending college in Ithaca, NY. Beth Montoya will be our Circle contact. Our circle will NOT meet in Dec for our regular meeting. Instead, on **12 Dec**, we will go out to dinner at 5 pm at the 1608 Craft House and then attend the Celtic service at the church at 7 pm. Our Retreat will be **April 26, 27, 28<sup>th</sup>** at the Outer Banks at Joy's beach house. Our circle will pay for a Christmas Poinsettia from "the women of the church".  
**January 14** meeting will be at Marie's house. Nancy Walker has the lesson and we will discuss lessons 4 and 5. Circle Prayer concerns: Linda and Gene Wallace

