

MAY 2014

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## Building Community on a Foundation of Love



"Living Faith" refers both to living one's faith and to the aliveness of that faith ... its presence and practicality. Some people believe that to live one's faith means to obey a set of rules set down by their faith tradition. That's not the concept of "living faith" that I'm talking about. First, since we don't have dogma there are no rules to follow. A distinct and powerful element of our teaching is that we are imbued with volition ... we are choice making creatures. We get to decide what we will do and not do, what meaning we will give to or extract from circumstances, whether we will be controlled by circumstances or choose how we will engage with circumstances. Oh, and by the way, we get to choose how we deal with the consequences of our choices: we can be a student of them or claim to be the victim of them until we awaken to how

*Celebration Center for Spiritual Living  
 Promoting a way of life that honors all paths to God  
 Illuminating the Washington DC Metro area since 1985*

## Living Faith Rev Trish Hall

victimhood equates to powerlessness. As the student of our consequences we are empowered to make new choices ... choices that generate desirable consequences. Wow! It's all about staying awake, opening to new ways of perceiving, discerning and making decisions.

Because we are "dogmaless" to live our faith calls us to remember what we are - each an incarnation of the Divine - and to live accordingly. When we consciously remember what we are, it's not difficult to stay awake in order to treat all of creation (ALL not just the parts we like) with unconditional high regard ... to express loving kindness, or as Jesus guided us, to live the first two commandments, "Love God above all else and Love our neighbor as ourselves." Some people fall asleep, go numb and slip into ...

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## Practitioners' Corner

... Caron Ward, RScP

In the physical world, carbon is the essential element of life - it is present in all living things and is the basic substance upon which our survival depends. Carbon is remarkable in that it exists in so many forms. Depending on the number and arrangement of its fibers, carbon can exist as soft graphite or as the hardest substance known to man - diamonds.

I think of faith as the essential element in the life of a Practitioner, and in the life of each of us - it is always present, as God is always present. It forms the structural make-up of who we are. Faith is also remarkable, in that it is an unwavering conviction yet it is without proof or reason. And similar to carbon, as our faith becomes ever more imbued in the fiber of our being it, it continually strengthens, growing as strong as the hardest substance we know.

Living with faith, I see and recognize the potential of good in all that is. The expression of faith infuses all of my being - I experience life with an extra bright splash of color. I like the words of Christian D. Larson "Faith is not simply belief; it is an attitude of mind and soul wherein you place your own life in perfect contact with infinite life; and in consequence, when you live and work in faith, every thought and every effort will be charged with the power of infinite life. To work in faith is to give more life and power to your work, to think in faith is to animate and inspire your thought with a finer insight and a higher degree of understanding than you could ever receive in any other manner"

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### ***What is a Practitioner?***

A practitioner is one who endeavors to heal themselves and others through the recognition of the creative power of Mind and the ever availability of Good. Practitioners are individuals who have been trained in the art, skill and science of Affirmative Prayer. A Practitioner seeks to demonstrate the power of spiritual realization in everyday affairs and believes in Divine guidance. A Practitioner sees through whatever condition someone is facing to the spiritual truth of being, bringing about a change in the circumstance. Practitioners are bound by a high code of ethics and licensed to practice professionally.

Gary Belair—517/214-2130	Libby Hecker—703/580-0761	* Ed Preston—703/273-4272
LaMar Bennett—571/425-2525	Duke Height, Emeritus—703/998-3092	Gail Renwick—571-235-8689
* Laurie Bolster—703/534-2748 +	* Lyn Iannazzo—703/534-2748 +	Nancy Stephens—571/970-5668
Maxine Clair—202/364-6114	Irina Kurasiewicz—703/823-3826	Patricia Stocks—202/547-7104
Suzanne Delahaie—301/498-2025	Rich Kurasiewicz—703/823-3826	Mary Tanzer—703/671-0765
Peter Fitzner—703/532-0209	Tim Phares—301/498-2025	Leslie Waldrup—202/363-0067
Carol Haave—703/628-6649	Aimee Phillips—302/245-3533	Caron Ward—571/331-9273
Dorothy Hand—302/226-7776	Diane Preston, Emeritus—703/273-4272	Wyllene Watson-Wilfong—301/588-4418
		* Hospital Chaplain + Interfaith Minister

## May Theme: “Living Faith”

This month we are growing into “living our faith.” This encompasses a unique blending of the numinous (what we know without external learning) and what we glean from our teaching: spiritual tools that enhance our ability to awaken to and embody our faith. This combination makes it possible for us to truly *live* our faith ... to apply it practically in all areas of our lives. Our experience of life becomes richer and more rewarding the more closely we align our lives with our Spiritual Truth that each of us is an expression of the One. Grounded in that understanding we humbly develop the faith of God rather than placing faith *in* God as something apart from us. Join us for Celebration Service each Sunday morning and for meditation opportunities on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Date	Speaker	Title	Music
May 4	Rev Faith Woods	“Faith 101” We all have it - How are we applying it?	Bob Sima
May 11	Rev Raymont Anderson	“M.O.M 2.0”	Rev Ray & Amy
May 18	Rev Trish	“Is It Faith or Is It Belief”	Soul Pajamas
May 25	Rev Trish	Annual Honoring Ceremony	Celebration Choir

### .ANNUAL HONORING CEREMONY ...

Once each year, we dedicate a Sunday to honor those individuals who are making or have made a significant difference in our lives. These are people who are currently in our lives and those who are no longer in our lives whether we have parted ways or they have parted from this worldly existence and gone on to whatever the next life expression may be. We gratefully bless them for having blessed us. In this sacred ceremony, accented with roses and candle lighting, we acknowledge these dear ones who have shared their love with us, guiding and supporting us in myriad different ways through the challenges and celebrations of life.

Please complete a form by providing the name of each of those you wish to acknowledge together with a brief recognition statement that will be read during the service. Forms will be available in the Sanctuary starting Easter Sunday.

This year, our Honoring Ceremony will take place during our 11:00 AM service on Sunday, May 25th.

## Your Leadership Council ...      Your Help Is Needed!



President  
Janine Bilyeu

### Drawing on the Wisdom Within YOU!

A basic premise of our teaching is that the wisdom of the Universe is contained within and accessible by each individual because each of us is an expression of the Divine. Your Leadership Council has some major decisions to make regarding our space and space usage. Your input and guidance is essential. Please open to that wisdom and share what is revealed from within you to respond to these questions below. Please give of yourself in support of YOUR Center.



Vice President  
Inge Schweiger



Treasurer  
Caron Ward

### Your Leadership Council is asking for your input!

- What do you most value about Celebration Center?
- How is your Center serving/supporting you?
- What would make it even better for you?
- What are we not doing that you would like us to do?
- Are there ways you would like to share of yourself? If so how?
- How can we expand the numbers of people we serve?
- How are we to re-grow a children's program?
- How are we to attract young families?
- What can we do to serve youth and young adults?
- How can we control costs?



Cathy Cronin

Please share your wisdom with your Leadership Council. Your insights and guidance are needed and appreciated!

Please email your responses to: [info@celebrationcenter.org](mailto:info@celebrationcenter.org)

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Frank Mitko

Your Council wants to express its deep gratitude to Charles Lewis who has withdrawn from the Council due to a change in his work schedule that would prevent him from participating in Council meetings. As much as we will miss him, we are grateful that the new schedule will permit him to join us all for Celebration Service on a regular basis.

If by chance, you are curious about serving on the Council, please speak with Rev Trish or any of the other Councilors.



Rev Trish Hall

## Look Who's Coming ...



May 4th, Rev Faith Woods is our guest speaker on May 4th. She is the leader of the Stafford Study Group, an affiliate of Centers for Spiritual Living. We were blessed to have her wonderful presence here with us as our Assistant Minister for five years. Rev Faith earned her Master of Consciousness Studies at Holmes Institute. A delightful presenter, Rev Faith will be speaking about "Faith 101" (well, of course!).

Another favorite ... Rev Dr Raymont Anderson is an amazing presenter—the founding director and a performer of BELIEVE, an American Sign Language Theatrical Performance Company, he brings animation, entertainment and aliveness. Rev Ray is an ordained New Thought/Interfaith minister, author, teacher and workshop facilitator. For Mother's Day, Rev Ray has chosen, "M.O.M. 2.0"



### Concert with Matt Venuti

**Playing the "Hang" (pronounced "Hong")**

**... a Most Unusual Musical Instrument**

**Sunday, June 1st—6:30 PM**

**Check Out this Wonderful Sound on his website: [www.mattvenuti.com](http://www.mattvenuti.com)**

### First Sunday Feasts continue May 4th



May's "First Sunday Feast"

**"Spring Delights"**

Invite Your Creativity to Show Off!!

(Hot or Cold)

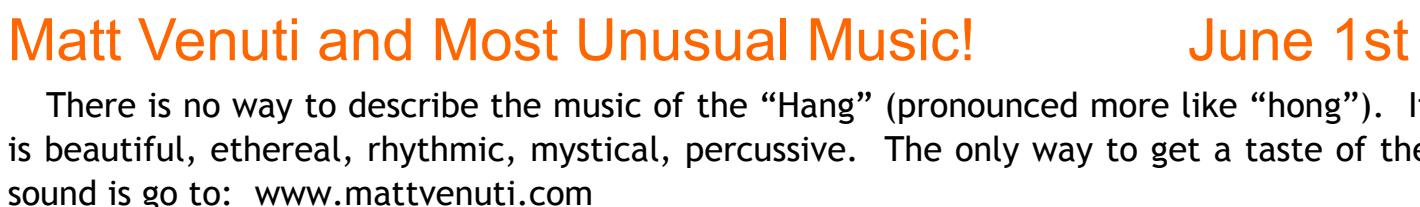
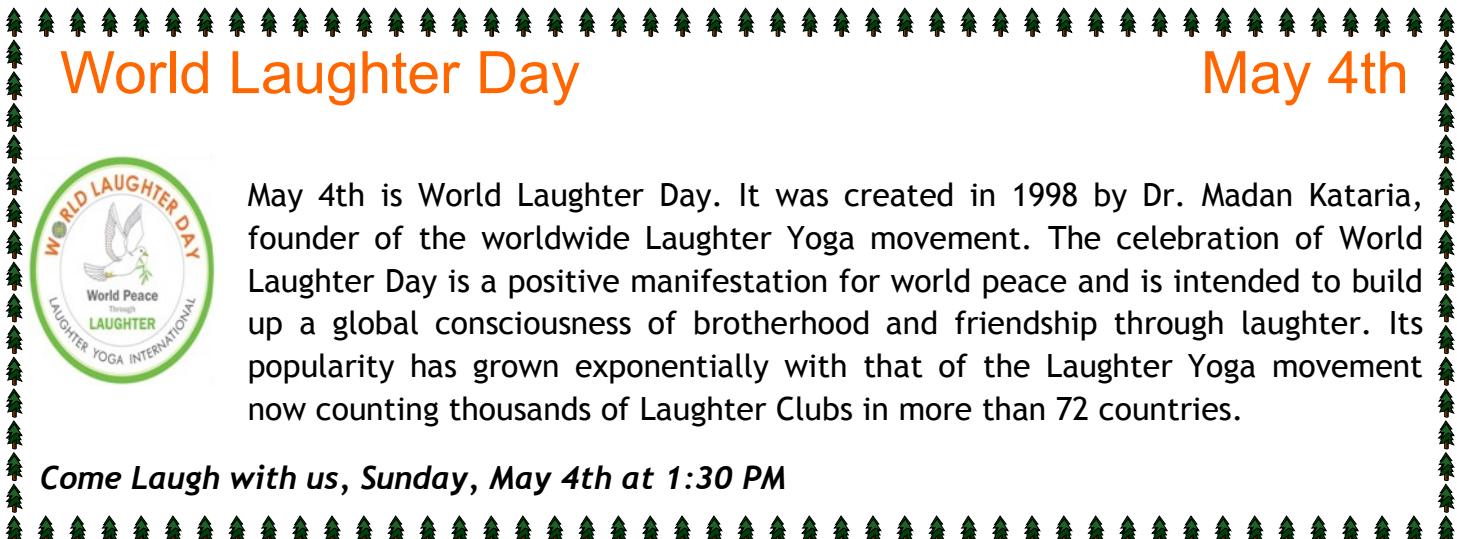
or

Sign up for side Dishes such as:

Veggies—Breads—Salads

Desserts





## Summer Classes start in June

Decisions ... all the time decisions! Which class is calling you?

**ALL SUMMER CLASSES WILL BE SCHEDULED IN RESPONSE TO PRE-REGISTRATION!**

Possibilities include:

**Essential Ernest** This class is a loving tribute to Dr. Ernest Holmes and all of the wisdom he brought to our world. The course is based upon What We Believe and each week the student has the opportunity to examine these ideas and uncover ways to make the power of this teaching come alive in his/her life. Each week has a meditation on light that takes the student progressively deeper and deeper into the light to find inner truth. Pre-requisite: A foundational class Thursday evenings with Rev Trish Hall

**E Squared** Based on the book by Pam Grout, *E-Squared is composed of Nine Do-It-Yourself Energy Experiments That Prove Your Thoughts Create Your Reality*. Obviously anyone can go through the book on their own, however, coming together in a group adds a wonderful additional dimension to all the exercises. Tuesday evenings with Libby Hecker, RScP

## Compassionate Listening—to Others and Ourselves

The urge to help or fix a problem can be so strong that sometimes we rush over the step of just being present to what is. Marshall Rosenberg's "Non-Violent" aka Compassionate Communication teaches us to pause and be present.

A group facilitated by Teri Murphy and Rev. Faith Woods got a taste of this practice last month. Now the group is beginning a six week cycle to expand the learning. They are using a format developed by Rev. Katherine Revoir at the Center for Richer Living in Mill Valley, California. This format minimizes the lesson portion so most of the time goes to practice. And the main practice is simply listening and reporting back the observations, needs, feelings, and requests that we hear. Listening in this way builds our ability to discern our own observations, needs, feelings, and requests when we are stressed.

The group had two spaces available as of this publication. If you are interested in joining in, please contact Teri Murphy at 703 524-4438. Gifts of gratitude welcomed.

***Join us Sundays, June 8, 15, 22 (but not 29) and July 13, 20, 27 (but not 6)***

*Continued from page 2* Living with faith I consciously choose to let loose the power of this faith in my life. And what power this is! For this power is the power of *absolute* knowing that God is within us, God is the energy, unlimited, unbounded, seeking to express all the good in our lives, in ways that we haven't even begun to think about! How could we *not* choose to live, move, and breath in this consciousness? For as we strengthen our faith, we grow in certainty that all things are possible. How awesome is that!!!

## Meditation Opportunities ... to suit everyone

### *Embodied Meditation & Healing Circle*

#### *"We Are The Temple"*

Albert Einstein reminds us that *"Matter is Energy. Energy is Light. We are all Light Beings."* Embodied Meditation is a collection of globally inspired spiritual practices that open us to the Light that we are, what Isadora Duncan calls *"the luminous manifestation of the soul."* Together we become companions on the same journey, with the freedom to experience and express our natural divinity. Monthly Embodied Meditation & Healing Circles provide opportunities to deepen, to commune with Guidance, and to build joyful community together. *All are welcome!!* For more details, contact leader Sandra Kammann: [skammann@aol.com](mailto:skammann@aol.com) [www.wethetemple.com](http://www.wethetemple.com)

Where: In the Sanctuary

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays 6:30-7:30PM

### *"Join Me in the Silence" is Maxine Clair's Invitation Every Wednesday*

Come discover or re-awaken to the loving support that group meditation can give to your personal practice. No matter what religious or spiritual leanings you subscribe to, the simplicity of sitting in stillness expands the gifts of presence, awareness and attention you allow yourself to experience.



When: Wednesdays, 7:00 - 7:30 pm and 7:45 - 8:15 pm

Doors open at 6:45.

Where: The Loft. For your quiet arrival, you will enter the library area and then proceed to the central Silence Zone

### *Special Meditation with Tibetan Bowls*

*First Sundays - 6:30 PM*

(Please arrive early to prepare to start promptly)

Immerse yourself in healing sound of the Tibetan bowls. Through a range of tones and overtones you will experience physical and spiritual release. Attendees are encouraged to lie on a yoga mat and feel the vibrations carry along the floor and enter into their bodies. These vibrations help you meditate and provide healing energy at a cellular level. While sitting or lying on the floor you may experience physical, emotional and/or spiritual healing.

- 1) You may wish to bring a yoga mat and small blanket so you may sit or lie down in comfort.
- 2) For those who arrive late, you are welcome to join us ... as quietly as possible.

## *Life Visioning*

You are invited to join Rev Trish and others in Revealing

God's Highest Expression as Your Life ... and ...

How Spirit Desires to Express as Celebration Center!

We use a Visioning Process similar to that used by Agape International

**First and Third Sundays—9:30 AM in the “Loft”**

*No experience needed ... the Divine within knows exactly how to do it!*

## *Every Third Sunday Practitioners Connee Chandler and Ed Preston Invite You to the Calm of Evensong*

Evensong is a worship service spoken or sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of day with gratitude and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming week. Our Evensong is a peaceful, relaxing combination of prayer, meditation and music. This precious gathering is serene ... a coming together of Heaven on Earth and the Even Song's endless fulfilling of the Divine through the motion of the Universe. Give yourself a gift. Set the tone and intention of every third week within peace, grace and God centered living.

Where: In the Sanctuary

When: 6:30 PM *every 3rd Sunday*

Come prepared to be restored, renewed and revitalized within the loving experience.

## *Experience Taizé ... Become Entranced by the Melodic Chanting and the Glow of Candlelight 4th Sundays*

Taizé evokes a rich collective consciousness that joins with others around the world. It is a prayer of peace. It is characterized by simple songs and musical lines that are sung or chanted by the whole assembly of various nationalities, languages, and denominations. Participants immerse themselves in the simple yet profound harmonies allowing themselves to go more deeply into the meditative experience in the music offset by periods of silence and prayer.

Where: In the Sanctuary

When: 6:30 PM *every 4th Sunday*

*Continued from page 1 ... complacency. Some claim it's simply not practical to really apply those practices in the world the way it is. I contend that the world is never going to be any different unless each one of us does exactly that. It is by living our faith, putting it to practical use, we can experiment with new ways of expressing ourselves. It was Einstein who declared that the definition of insanity is to keep repeating the same behavior and expect a different outcome.*

There's a very interesting correlation: people with high self-worth tend to be deeply grounded in their faith so it is no surprise that people with high self-worth are more adaptive when change comes, more trusting, more willing to lean wholeheartedly into new possibilities. These demonstrations of resiliency are directly related to how consistently they live their faith. Faith is a numinous experience, that is, it is not dependent on external validation. It comes from within, from Spirit within and is known without the benefit of the five senses. It is the "ground of being" that is irrefutable.

Faith of this strength is the outpicturing of your divine nature which makes divine attributes available to you. You, like all of creation, are an expression of the Divine. As Jesus said, "it is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" and the gift has already been given. It is in you, as you! Your experience of it requires that you open, in faith, and draw more of It into your life experience. It is up to you! There are two little words that can make an immediate difference in your life. They are: Start Now! Start now to live your truth. If it feels a little shaky because circumstances try to cloud your thoughts, live "as though" you are an incarnation of God and soon you will find that you are living the Truth: You are a spiritual human being ... an activity of God ... living faith with grace and ease.

Namasté ... Rev Trish

### **Area Science of Mind Directory**

#### **Hampton Roads Center for Spiritual Living**

Sundays—10:30 AM  
Virginia Wesleyan College,  
1584 Wesleyan Drive, Norfolk, Va. 23502  
[www.hamptonroadscl.org](http://www.hamptonroadscl.org)  
Rev. Ruth (757) 271-1552 [ruth@ruthlittlejohn.com](mailto:ruth@ruthlittlejohn.com)

#### **Stafford Study Group**

Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM  
Where: Frank P. Moncure Masonic Lodge  
2001 Courthouse Rd, Stafford VA 22554  
Info: Rev. Faith Woods: 703-216-6601

#### **Center for Spiritual Living DC**

Sundays on Capitol Hill—11:00 AM  
Wednesdays in Takoma DC—8:00 PM  
[www.CSLDC.org](http://www.CSLDC.org)  
[RevAlex@CSLDC.org](mailto:RevAlex@CSLDC.org) 202-906-0754

#### **Anne Arundel-Maryland City Study Group**

When: Alternate Thursdays 7:00 PM  
Where: Maryland City Russet Library, Laurel, MD  
Info: Tim Phares, RScP or Suzanne Delahaie, RScP  
(301) 498-2025

#### **Sterling Study Group**

First & Third Sundays  
Where: Hampton Inn off Route 7 in Sterling, VA  
Info: Connee Chandler, RScP (703) 406-3427  
or website: [www.sterlingstudygroup.org](http://www.sterlingstudygroup.org),

#### **For other Centers of Spiritual Living,**

#### **Teaching Chapters & Study Groups**

**Go to: [www.csl.org](http://www.csl.org)**

## Ministry, CORE & Team Leaders...

We deeply and gratefully acknowledge the selfless service given by  
our CORE, Team and Ministry Leaders and Members

<b>COREs, Teams and Ministries</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
CORE Council	Janine Bilyeu	703-309-4067	Janine_38@hotmail.com
Enhanced Visibility			
Opened Mind Bookstore			
Tucker-Hill Library	Suzanne Delahaie	301-498-2025	tbpsmd@cavtel.net
Vision CORE	Rev Trish	703-677-7102	revtrish@cox.net
Stewardship CORE	Rich Kurasiewicz	703-823-3826	rikivin@yahoo.com
Operations & Finance	Duke Height	703-998-3092	Israel.height97@verizon.net
Loving Our Home	Rick Kearney	916-799-6720	rkearney06@aol.com
Ecclesiastical CORE	Rev. Trish Hall	703-677-7102	revtrish@cox.net
Practitioners	Suzanne Delahaie	301-498-2025	tbpsmd@cavtel.net
Family Ministries			
Music Ministry	Amy Conley	703-671-1802	amidee01@aol.com
Educational Services	Duke Height	703-998-3092	Israel.height97@verizon.net
Welcoming Team	Melinda Erdberg	703-876-9693	lindae703@aol.com
Kitchen Angels			
Special Events			
Congregant Services CORE			
Care Team	Nancy Newman	703-409-2881	nnewman123@cox.net
Congregant Connections	Frank Mitko	703-405-8384	Frank_mitko@verizon.net
Sacred Service	Libby Hecker	703-580-0761	lib3by@verizon.net
LGBT and Friends			
Men's Group	Sam Jenkins	703-866-2478	ysmtysam@yahoo.com



*"The Sanctuary"*

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*Mailing Address and "The Loft"*

2830 Graham Rd #220, Falls Church, Virginia 22042

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[info@celebrationcenter.org](mailto:info@celebrationcenter.org)

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



Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1985, the Celebration Center is a multi-cultural, inter-generational Center that embraces and nurtures all people seeking personal growth and spiritual transformation. We teach the transformative philosophy of Science of Mind and Spirit that empowers people to awaken to their own Divinity and that of all life. We encourage everyone to expand their receptivity to an ever expanding experience of the Divine, since we know that "the limitless givingness of Spirit is available to all to the degree that they are open to receive".

Each Sunday, we offer an array of opportunities in which to immerse oneself in Spirit. Our Celebration Service and our Family Ministries Programs for youngsters of all ages are at 11:00 AM . We also have a 6:30 PM evening service. Throughout the week there are classes, discussion groups and activities to suit varied interests.

To learn more about us, go to our website: [www.celebrationcenter.org](http://www.celebrationcenter.org). email our Community Spiritual Leader, Rev Trish Hall at [revtrish@cox.net](mailto:revtrish@cox.net), call our offices at 703/560-2030 or come to services. All are welcome here!

## Calendar

### Sunday Service Schedule

11:00 AM Celebration Service

6:30 PM Evening Service

-**1st Sunday** Tibetan Bowls/

Meditation

-**2nd Sunday**-Embodied

Meditation & Healing Circle

-**3rd Sunday**-Evensong

-**4th Sunday**-Taizé

-**5th Sunday**-Meditation/

Chanting

### On Going .... in the "Loft"

#### Sundays

1:00 to 3:00 PM

**1st Sunday**—Practitioners' Meeting

#### Tuesdays

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays**

Men's Group 7:00-9:30 PM

#### 2nd Tuesdays

Leadership Council 7:00 PM

#### Wednesdays

Silent Meditation 7:00 PM

### Wednesdays ... in the Sanctuary

Choir Rehearsal—7:30-9:00 PM

### Celebration Center Staff

#### Senior Minister

Rev Trish Hall      703/677-7102

#### Office Manager

Duke Height, RScP Emeritus  
703/560-2030

#### Music Director

Amy Conley      703/298-3026

#### Bookstore Team Manager

#### Family Ministry

Link to these booksellers through our website and generate commissions for our Center.

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