

# Neighborhood News

*The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter*

## *The Director's Corner*

Happy New Year!

2017 was a year of change for my family. We have enjoyed exploring our new home and community in West Virginia with hikes, tubing trips, shopping in quaint towns, and discovering battlefields. My youngest daughter graduated from NYU and began working for Nickelodeon in NYC so we are officially empty nesters. My husband and I both said goodbye to jobs we had for over 11 years in a community where we raised our daughters. My husband's hobby became a full time job this year, and I was blessed to find the Neighborhood Learning Center and St Andrew. I have met so many wonderful people associated with the NLC and St. Andrew who have helped me with all of these transitions. It is an absolute JOY to work with your children at the NLC and St. Andrew.

2018 has arrived and we are ready for it at the Neighborhood Learning Center! We have exciting things planned, kicking off with Wildlife Ambassadors visiting on January 8th and "The Very Frozen/Frosty Show" by Dean Alan on January 25th. WAC (Wednesday Afterschool Café) resumes on January 3rd, and all of our teachers have been busy on their January lesson plans to make it a fun month of learning about Winter Wonders. In addition, we are working on improvements for both our front playground and basement. We will also finalize plans for our 2018 Summer Camps and will begin registration for Summer Camps for school age kids in February.



We are excited about the New Year and we welcome any and all ideas that will enhance our Center as we here at the NLC strive for EXCELLENCE in customer service, early childhood education, and the love and care given to all the NLC children.

Blessings,

Jo Anna Rich

## *January Highlights*

**January 1**  
**NLC Closed** for New Year's Day

**January 8**  
Wildlife Ambassadors—  
"Wildlife in Winter"  
10:00 am

**January 15**  
**NLC Closed** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**January 20**  
Parents' Night Out  
5:30—9:00 pm

**January 21**  
Music with a Cause—  
Brian Ganz: "Celebrating Chopin" 4:00 pm

**January 25**  
Dean Alan Magic—"The Very Frozen/Frosty Show"  
10:00 am

**January 29**  
LCPS Closed, NLC Open

**Sunday worship and Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00 am**

## This Month at School...

January is a time to learn about winter and all of the wonderful things that accompany this time of cold and (hopefully) snow. Of special note this month:

- The NLC will be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.
- **Wednesday Afterschool Café (WAC)** will be held every Wednesday this month. EVERYONE is invited to dinner on Wednesday nights, whether you have a child in WAC or not. Please join us for some food and fellowship! WAC is a fantastic program for school aged kids from kindergarten through high school. After some down time and a snack, kids are engaged in Bible Study and game time before heading up for dinner and then Children's Choir. Bring a friend!
- **Wildlife Ambassadors** will pay us a visit on Monday the 8th to share some winter animal friends with us. From their website they say, "As the temperatures dip and snow begins to fall, what happens to the animals? This program explores migration, adaptation and hibernation. Meet an Eastern screech owl, opossum, snakes, turtle, bunny, and ferret."
- The NLC will be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 15th in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Dean Alan will return with his magic on the 25th at 10 am, this time presenting "**The Very Frozen/Frosty Show.**" Dean is a master at engaging children in magic and wonder.
- On Monday, January 29th, LCPS will be closed, but the **NLC will be open** as usual. Care is available for school agers, with a "School's Out" charge applicable. Please sign up with your child's teacher.



**Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page for reminders, announcements, and fun pictures!**

### *Inclement Weather Policy & Winter Weather Reminders*

Notice of delays/closures due to winter weather will be sent via email and text message by 6:00 am. We generally follow the Federal Government closures/delays, but we reserve the right to stay open/close based on local weather conditions. With many of our staff members living in West Virginia we need to observe road conditions not only in Purcellville, but also further out, ensuring that it is safe for our staff to come in to work.

- ⇒ We have recently conducted test text messages. If you did NOT receive a message please let one of our administrative staff members know so that we can verify your cell phone number and email address.
- ⇒ We send the kids outside to play if the weather is above freezing and it's not raining, so be sure to send them in layers, including hats and mittens/gloves.
- ⇒ Be sure to update the extra change of clothes in your child's cubby to warm, seasonal clothes. There's nothing worse than needing a wardrobe change and not having anything available!
- ⇒ LABEL everything your child brings to school! Lost mittens, hats, coats, socks, sweaters, and scarves abound this time of year!

**Don't throw away that Advent wreath form! Please bring it back and return it to the box in the entry.**

Tax statements for 2017 will be sent by 1/31/18 to the primary email addresses we have on file.

If you would like a paper copy please let the administrative staff know.

# Hello Parents of the Neighborhood Learning Center!

My name is Malloch Henderson and I am currently a Life Scout and a member of Boy Scout Troop 969. I have been an active member of St. Andrew Church for many years, so I felt it was only right to dedicate my Eagle Scout project to the Church.

I spoke with Session and the NLC Director about project ideas and they tasked me with finding a solution to help prevent children from tripping over the exposed tree roots in the playground. These exposed roots have caused many accidents like cuts and bruises on kid's arms and legs. My plan for the NLC playground (shown below) is to redo the current mulch area to make a larger play area for the kids. With that, I will also be constructing a wooden ark -shaped playground set for the kids to play on. There is an additional benefit to this project in that if you have been to the Church while it was raining, you know about the run-off and erosion problem that happens in the playground. With the proposed new mulch and ark playground area, I will be able to install a French drainage system underneath the mulch that will transport the water without eroding the land.

## I need YOUR help!

This project will make a big difference for your children and the NLC, however, I can't do it without you. The fundraising for this project is very important. The estimated cost for this project is approximately \$7,500.00. I really need monetary donations but donations of materials as any help fundraising would also be welcomed as well. I am grateful for any assistance I can get and I bet your kids will be, too!

If you would like to discuss a personal donation, or need a letter to submit for a corporate sponsorship, please let me know. You may contact me by email at: [mallochh900@yahoo.com](mailto:mallochh900@yahoo.com) or call me at 703-999-2276.

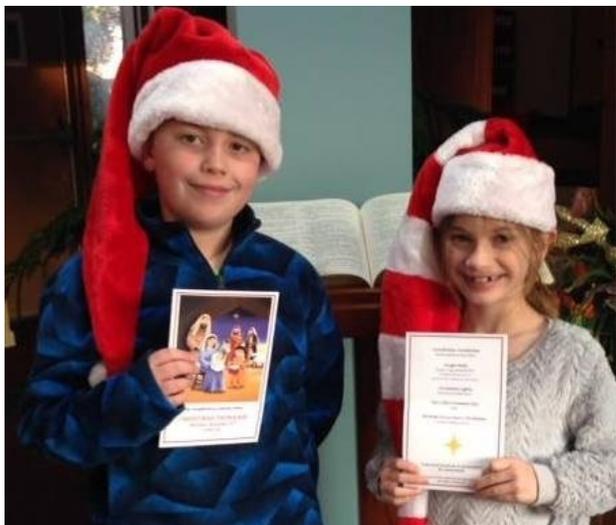
Thank you!

Before:

After:



Some of our favorite moments from December! There are lots more are posted on our Facebook page, so don't forget to give us a



Several of our school agers supporting their younger classmates by handing out programs for the Christmas Program!

Polar Express Day is always a favorite way to kick off the Christmas season—a special “thank you” to Pastor Dave for being our Conductor!



What a beautiful Christmas Program! The preschoolers had such fun singing the songs they had learned from Ms. Rachel during weekly Music & Movement!

The school agers were so proud of the “gingerbread” houses they made during the Winter Break camp!



## The Pastor's Epistle: *Nurturing Families*

Christmas Eve was a delight. The children participated by displaying stars on the ceiling and by adding light to the sun, a spotlight on Caesar, and light for the angel who sang, "Glory to God, peace on earth," to the shepherds. But the evening's delight came from characters of Mary and Joseph, played by Mitch and Clark Seipt, who found their way to Bethlehem riding on a donkey named "Eeyore," without a Dunkin' Donuts to fill up their mugs of coffee. Despite the darkness and the hardship of their journey, the birth of their baby, Jesus, became the source of a new, gentle and fresh light giving us hope. Several NLC families were there to join in the celebration – the whole gathering of worshipers lighting candles from the Christ candle – as we considered how we might bear that light of hope to the world.

As January begins, I have started a sermon series to follow up on the Christmas Eve theme. Since September we've taken several "journeys through the Bible," seeing how it has spoken to questions like who we are, where we find home, and how does it speak to us about wealth, work and charity. In January, we focus on what the Bible has to say to us as we nurture families.

Because we have been telling the Christmas story, last week I spoke to how Jesus was a "child of promise" in ways that we also can see our children be the promise of newness. Part of what gave Jesus that sense of promise was the way his family raised him within the covenant defined faith life of Israel. In the biblical world, God gives a gift – of life, of freedom, of love – and then asks those who receive

this gift to respond to it. Loving my own children, I told of how proud and pleased I am that they have become good people – caring for others, especially those who have borne social injury, caring for our earth (my daughter works at the EPA), and through loving God as a centerpiece of their lives. I find it so essential that we nurture our children with such covenants as "love God with all of your hearts, soul and strength," and "love your neighbor as yourself." Threats to the future come from the despairing rejection of such covenants which end up saying: "I'm the only one that matters," "I've got to protect only those around me," and "might makes right."

In the coming weeks, I will be talking about how too much burden is put on parents alone to raise their kids – about how partnerships with extended families, church, schools, and the like are needed; how discipline and freedom work in a balance together as we nurture our kids and so on. After the worship services, some tables will be set up where parents can hang together to talk about their delights and challenges in parenting over a cup of coffee. If this is something that you might benefit from as an NLC family, I invite you to join us again for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew Church.

Yours in Christ's love,



Pastor Dave Milam

## *Coming Up at St. Andrew...*

**Weekly Worship:** *Sundays 10am*

**NOTE:** Child care is available for the littlest ones during worship. For children age preschool and up, Sunday School is provided during Sunday worship services—your child starts the service sitting with you, will leave for Sunday School and then will return to you before the service concludes.

**January 21st—Music with a Cause Concert—Brian Ganz: "Celebrating Chopin" 4:00 pm:** The concert will benefit Community Coalition for Haiti, a non-profit organization committed to providing Haiti with community-driven solutions in healthcare, education, and community development. Tickets \$20 at the door, \$15 online. Kids under 12 are free.

# January 2018

Monthly Theme: Winter Wonders

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NLC CLOSED for New Year's Day	2	3 WAC Dinner: Ital- ian Night at 5:45	4	5 Music & Movement	6
7 Worship & Sunday School 10 am	8 Wildlife Am- bassadors – "Wildlife in Winter" at 10 am	9 Chapel	10 WAC Dinner: Breakfast for Dinner at 5:45	11	12 Music & Movement	13
14 Worship & Sunday School 10 am	15 NLC CLOSED for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16 Chapel	17 WAC Dinner: Deli Night at 5:45	18	19 Music & Movement	20 Parents' Night Out 5:30 - 9:00
21 Worship & Sunday School 10 am Music with a Cause – Brian Ganz: "Celebrating Chopin" 4:00 pm	22	23 Chapel	24 WAC Dinner: Taco night at 5:45	25 Dean Alan Magic – "The Very Frozen/ Frosty Show" at 10 am	26 Music & Movement	27
28 Worship & Sunday School 10 am	29 LCPS Closed, NLC Open	30 Chapel	31 WAC Dinner: Old Fashioned Grandma's Soup at 5:45			

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Music with a Cause will feature pianist Brian Ganz performing Chopin, with all funds raised going to support Community Coalition for Haiti, a non-profit organization committed to providing Haiti with community-driven solutions in healthcare, education, and community development. Tickets \$20 at the door, \$15 online. Kids under 12 are free.