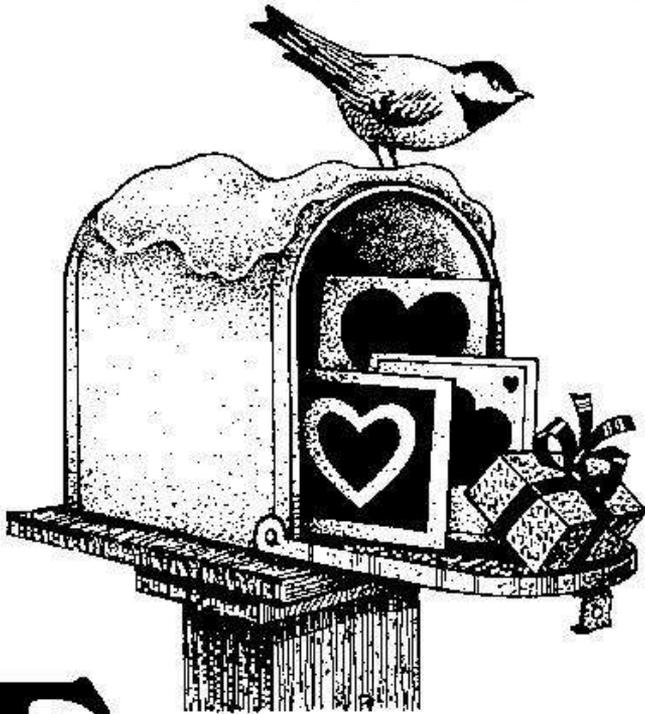


# THE QUEST

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
*Transforming the world & ourselves,  
together in community, fellowship, and faith.*



**FEBRUARY**  
**2017**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff and Council News	1
Youth	8
Worship and Music	12
500 x 500 Campaign	16
Service Opportunities	17
Fellowship Groups	22
Serving in Worship	23
Birthdays and Anniversaries	25

The deadline for inclusion in the March 2017 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, Quest, is Wednesday, February 22nd.

Articles can be emailed to Eve Nealon at:  
office@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

The **deadline** for inclusion in the **weekly bulletin** is at noon on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday the bulletin will be released.

Thank you,  
Eve Nealon,  
Church Administrator

Find us online!  
[www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net](http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net)

## THE STEWARDSHIP QUESTION...

Many, many thanks! You have been financially faithful in 2016. Your offerings allowed us to close the books on 2016 in the black. Because of you, Holy Cross Lutheran Church has been able to carry out the ministries to which Christ has called us in 2016. It is an honor and a privilege to serve such a faithful and generous congregation.

As we look forward to our life together in 2017, once again I commend the insights of poet Ann Weems. She reframes the stewardship question in a way I find provocative.

### PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

*O Lord, forgive our fears  
that so stifle our stewardship .  
Forgive our giving in and our giving up  
instead of giving ourselves  
to Christ's mission of love.  
Remind us that our hope  
is in standing up and risking,  
in taking our stewardship seriously.  
Help us to remember, O Lord, that  
the stewardship question is not really,  
How much we will give?  
The stewardship question is,  
How will we spend what we have been  
given?  
We pray that it will be faithfully  
and cheerfully.*

From *Searching for Shalom*. © 1991 Ann Barr Weems. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.

Whether or not you made a pledge for 2017, and I thank those forty-eight individuals and families who did pledge, I ask you to consider your personal spending plan in 2017. *How will you spend what God has given you?*

If pledging helps you make such a spending plan, then use that as a tool. If pledging is not a useful or comfortable tool for you, I encourage you to sit down and write out your own plan for faithful and cheerful spending in 2017. Check back with your plan in six months. *Are you on track? Are you spending what God has given you in a faithful and cheerful manner?*

May we all be faithful and cheerful spenders in 2017!  
Pastor Margrethe

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Today I was both honored and humbled that you chose to elect me to be President of our congregation for the next 2 years. This is not a position I take lightly.

Before I talk about the future I would like to take a moment to thank those who have served on council over the past several years whose terms have ended. Suzanne served as our President over the past two years through what can only be described as difficult circumstances. Her service speaks to her commitment and God's support and guidance. I want to commend and thank her for her guidance, perseverance and faith.

Doug has served our congregation in an excellent manner as our Stewardship chair for the past several years. His guidance and cheerful contributions will be missed at our council meetings; as will his horse Diablo. Thank you so much for providing "Jenny" as a suitable replacement today. Lauren was our Evangelism Chair. Her guidance and enthusiasm will also be missed at council, but will be a great attribute on the Call Committee.

I cannot thank the Finance Committee enough for their assistance over the past two years. While I am comfortable with the numbers portion of a budget I am not always great with the lingo and euphemisms associated with it. Gene Bain, Vince Russo, Joel Flegal, Doug McAdams and Bob Thompson were always patient with me as I tried to grasp the concepts behind numbers. As Treasurer, Joe Baggett is also an advisory member of the Finance Team. I cannot thank him enough for the guidance and patience he has shown to me over the past couple of years. This congregation is truly blessed to have people of this caliber in leadership positions in the congregation.

On to the future. We as members of Holy Cross are truly at exciting time in our congregational history. As we move forward,

we have the opportunity to learn from the past and create the future. Our Transition Team stepped forward and completed the work necessary to give our congregation a solid foundation to propel us to into the future. Today this torch was passed to our Call Committee. They will carry on the accomplishments of the Transition Team as they work with the Synod to find the best person to lead our congregation as we move into the future.

A key element of our progress forward is ensuring the fiscal resources are available for our Call Committee to fulfill their obligations. As of last Sunday nearly 20% of the \$25,000 has been raised. This is an outstanding start. I ask everyone to continue this momentum and prayerfully consider contributing to our future. Be it \$5 or \$500 each contribution is one step closer to obtaining this goal and demonstrating our commitment to our future pastor.

The coming weeks and months will be filled with challenges, opportunities and fellowship through our various 500 challenges. Each of these moments represents opportunities to deepen our connection with our Savior and each other. Please try to make the time to take advantage of these events whenever you are able.

In closing, I will take the opportunity to repeat what I said about another acronym for the word **JOY**. **J**esus first, **O**thers second, **Y**ourself third. With this definition of **JOY** in mind let's help each move forward and embrace our future as a congregation and servants of Christ.

In God's Love and Understanding,  
Mike Berg

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

*The Old Rugged Cross* is a hymn that I often get requests to use during Lent. While it does not appear in our current hymnal it is still a great hymn and worthwhile to print in the bulletin for our use on a Sunday morning. Many people have fond memories of singing this beautiful hymn as a child.

George Bennard, author of *The Old Rugged Cross*, was born in Youngstown, Ohio, shortly after the end of the Civil War. Shortly after his father died and he was left to care for his sisters and mother, Bennard came to Christ through the ministry of the Salvation Army. Eventually Bennard moved to Chicago and began his ministry with the Methodist Episcopal church as a traveling evangelist.

On one occasion, after a difficult season of ministry, Bennard was searching for a better understanding of the power of the cross of Christ. He later said, "I was praying for a full understanding of the Cross. I read and studied and prayed. The Christ of the cross became more than a symbol. It was like seeing John 3:16 leave the printed page, take form, and act out the meaning of redemption. While watching this scene with my mind's eye, the theme of the song came to me."

It took several months for the words to formulate in his mind. As he preached through the Midwest, Bennard would carry the words with him, working on them, and sometimes singing them in his meetings.

With his hymn finished, he sang it for two friends, Rev. and Mrs. L. O. Boswick. The Boswicks were so moved that they helped pay the fees to have it printed. It soon appeared in hymnals across the country.

I hope you find comfort in the words of George Bennard this Lenten season.

Are there any hymns you remember singing as a child that aren't in our current hymnal? Let me know and we might be able to sing them still.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music Ministries

*The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world,  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above,  
to bear it to dark Calvary. *Refrain*

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
a wondrous beauty I see;  
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
to pardon and sanctify me. *Refrain*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Christ will call me some day to my home far away,  
where his glory forever I'll share. *Refrain*

## RESULTS FROM THE 2017 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ELECTIONS

### Elected to Council:

President - Mike Berg  
Vice-President - Deb Reilly  
Secretary - Helen Wolfe  
Evangelism - Esther Samuelson  
Stewardship - Mike Faulkner

### Nominating Committee:

Suzanne Flegal  
Marcia Kratzke  
Doug MacAdams  
Roy Geiger

Trustee: Gene Bain

### Synod Assembly:

Gene Bain  
Suzanne Flegal  
Nicole Lopez  
Esther Samuelson

### Call Committee:

Suzanne Baggett  
Sam Carter  
Vivian Jefferson  
Sylvia Moran  
Mike Rose  
Lauren Weatherhead

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Congregational Meeting and the election and who put themselves forward to serve Holy Cross in the coming year.

## YOUTH

### **KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL IS THRIVING . . .**

Thanks to amazing help from Jeremy Shoop (song leader and periodic music workshop leader) Alice Shaw (craft master extraordinaire).

We sing,

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

Deep and Wide

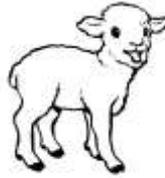
I am a C, I am a CH, I am a CHRISTIAN

We laugh,



*(Here's Evan volunteering to be—he doesn't know who until fully garbed—John the Baptist.)*

We imitate camels walking and lambs bleating,



We craft, we draw, we color—all while exploring great Bible stories.



*(Here, l to r, Evan, Noah, Justin, Justin's mom Jennifer, Justin's little brother Logan, Ms. Shaw, and Avery are making their John the Baptist masks.)*

January through Easter we are exploring Jesus and John the Baptist, Jesus Feeding the 5000, Ten Men Healed, The Last Supper, Holy Week & Easter. Wow!

Meet us in the sanctuary choir loft at 9:50. Find us in Room 201 of the Ed Wing at 10:45.

## RAISING FINANCIALLY FIT KIDS

The book of Proverbs is filled with practical guidance for living a life rooted in the faith. One well-known, often quoted verse is Proverbs 22:6, “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” In other words, if we teach kids good practices and disciplines when they’re young, those ideas will likely stay with them for the rest of their lives.

As parents, we do our best to prepare the children in our lives for adulthood. We serve as role models, we teach them about God’s love and grace, how to be kind, have good manners and treat others as we want to be treated. We want them to be successful, to thrive and to live abundant lives, yet many of us stop short of teaching them basic money management. We have good intentions—after all, they are little and we don’t want to burden them with such adult matters. But why not consider preparing them to develop solid values and good money habits while they are still children? It doesn’t have to be burdensome or complicated!

To support you in this, Thrivent Financial has designed materials to assist you in having age-appropriate conversations around the financial values you want your children to have. We’ve simplified the conversation by creating three basic money choices:

- **Sharing:** We can share our money with organizations and causes we care about, such as our church or local food shelves.
- **Saving:** We can save money for our goals, such as a new bicycle or a college education.
- **Spending:** We can spend our money wisely on things we need and want, such as food or a family vacation.

One day, you’ll look at your kids and realize they’ve grown up to be successful adults who understand the importance of being good stewards with the resources God has entrusted to their care. And, for a parent, what could be better than that?

This article provided compliments of Thrivent Financial Dulles Group, 703-631-3898, [dullesgroup@thrivent.com](mailto:dullesgroup@thrivent.com).

## FIRST COMMUNION CLASS APRIL 29th

A first communion class will be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12:30 pm with a pizza lunch and concluding at 3:30 pm. The class is designed for children ages 6 to 9 and will be held in the Fellowship and kitchen (we will be baking communion bread to be used on First Communion Sunday. If you feel your child or grandchild is ready to take First Communion please contact the church office to register. **First Communion Sunday** will be on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Shrove Tuesday



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

The Youth of Holy Cross will hold their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at Holy Cross on Tuesday, February 28th. Tickets are \$5 for individuals, \$15 for families of 3 or more.

## SCOUT SUNDAY 2017

Sunday, February 12, 2017 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. Scouts and Scouters: Please wear your uniforms to church on Scout Sunday as we celebrate 107 years of Scouting in America (107 years for Boy Scouts; 105 years of Girl Scouts; and 87 years for Cub Scouts).

Go to <http://www.scouting.org> for more information on the Boy Scouts of America and <http://www.girlscouts.org> for more information on the Girl Scouts of America.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC EVENTS



**GUEST PREACHER:** We welcome Deacon Kate Miller-Holland of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS-NCA) as our guest preacher on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. She will also offer an adult forum on the work LSS does in our area.

Deacon Kate Miller-Holland began her career at LSS/NCA in 2004. She oversees our programs that have significant intersection with congregations and the grass-roots community, especially Youth Haven Camps, Caregiver Services, and Disaster Response. She loves to visit area churches and confirmation classes to help them learn more about how they can get involved in social justice and service-learning through LSS/NCA.

**YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SING ALLELUIA** is Transfiguration Sunday, February 26th! We will bury the Alleluia for Lent at both worship services. Join us for this last Alleluia before Lent.



**1st & 3rd Sunday**

**February 5<sup>th</sup> - to Embry Rucker Shelter.**

**February 19<sup>th</sup> - to LINK.**

If you would like to deliver the donations after the late service then please contact Mario Ceste at (703) 400-5526 or [mceste@gmail.com](mailto:mceste@gmail.com).

March's Food Donation Sundays will be the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>.

***Thank you!***

## ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR 2017

If you would like to donate altar flowers for a particular Sunday next year, please sign up on the new 2017 Flower Charts which are in the Narthex. The cost for one vase of flowers is \$40.00, and the cost for two vases is \$ 80.00. If you would like to donate flowers, please print your name next to that particular date on the flower chart. If you would like to donate both vases for that Sunday, you'll need to sign both flower charts. Print your dedication as you would like it to appear in the bulletin, i. e. "in memory of" or "in honor of" or "in celebration of." You may mail your check to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Please be sure to note on the check that it is for altar flowers. If possible, please remit a separate check for flowers instead of including payment in your weekly offering. If you have any questions, please contact Joan MacAdams by phone 703-851 7987, or by email - [jmacadams8@gmail.com](mailto:jmacadams8@gmail.com).



## 500 x 500 CHALLENGE



### JANUARY - FEBRUARY

We would like to send 500 pairs of underwear and gloves to 500 needy residents of the Embury Rucker Shelter by the end of February.

Please help by purchasing socks and gloves of any size and color and place them in the box that is in the Narthex by **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**.

Thank you for your help and consideration. We are making a difference not only in our church but in our community as well!



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### **COOKIE BRIGADE - VOLUNTEER POSITION OPEN!!!**

Our previous, wonderful, team leader Janice Abrams recently moved out to Manassas. We give her many thanks for leading such a great ministry at HCLC! This also means that we are looking for a volunteer to help lead the Cookie Brigade going forward! For those who may not be familiar with what the Cookie Brigade does, this ministry delivers fresh baked cookies to new visitors who come to Holy Cross and sign our guestbook. As we enter this time of transition, having a presence in the community is especially important. If you are interested in helping out and would like to volunteer, please contact Esther Samuelson at [esther.joy.samuelson@gmail.com](mailto:esther.joy.samuelson@gmail.com).



## **Cookie Brigade**

# Altar Guild



We've a definite need for new members willing to serve on the Fifth Sunday! In 2017 these are in January, April, July, October, & December. No experience needed; only requirements are for a willingness to commit to these Sundays and to be trained, an eye for details, and an open heart.

We do have a need for additional members on regular Sundays. If either of these commitments to service appeals to you- Please contact Joan MacAdams directly, by phone 703-851 7987, Or by email - [jmacadams8@gmail.com](mailto:jmacadams8@gmail.com). You may also contact the church office at 703-437-1883.

For your prayerful consideration,  
Joan MacAdams

## MEMBERS OR FRIEND OF HOLY CROSS

**Want to have the time of your life?** If you love PEOPLE, EAGER LEARNERS, and extraordinarily REWARDING EXPERIENCES, then you just MIGHT LOVE teaching students in Holy Cross' exceptional ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program. Or as we like to think of it . . .

English, Education

and

**Socialization**

for

**Others to gain**

**Literacy**

- ❖ **No experience** necessary
- ❖ **No fluency in other languages desired** or required
- ❖ Training, texts, lesson plans **provided**
- ❖ **Spaces available** for Mondays and/or Wednesdays

For more information, please call

Ellen Atwell at 703-201-2900

or

Suzanne Baggett at 703-864-5562

## **ESOL – English Speakers of Other Languages MY ADVENTURE**

My name is Claudia, I am married to Alejandro and we have three daughters and we are a Colombian family.

Our life in Colombia was fine. We had good jobs, but my husband wanted to develop an innovative technical project and this country offered him the opportunity and tools to achieve his dreams. I was scared but I decided to support him in this adventure, so we submitted our documents to the U.S. Embassy.

Everything went very fast between our decision and the time we were granted work visas. It was the moment I realized it was a fact.

We began the process to move to the USA. The hardest thing was leaving my mom behind, knowing the effect it would have on her emotionally. We sold our property and we said goodbye to relatives, friends, and to our past life.

In 2011, my husband, I and my daughters of 10, 4, and 3 years old arrived in this country, with little luggage and a big dream. Also, I came loaded with memories, mixed feelings, and questioning if it was the right decision.

I was in shock to begin a new life, especially in the first year. I realized the immigration process in a new country was more difficult than I believed. Everything was dark; I felt lonely, missed my family, friends, foods, and aromas. Sometimes I woke up feeling that I was back in Colombia but I immediately realized that I was here. Everything was worse because I did not know English well; I was unable to communicate with other people, I felt frustrated and silly when I could not understand what they told me. To take a driving test, schedule a medical appointment, ask

about a product in the store, talk to my daughters' teachers; things as simple as these terrified me.

I started looking for places where I could study English and take care of my young kids and in the fall of 2011 I found the ESOL program at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. I began to study English and my daughters enjoyed going because it was nice and the nursery attendants took good care of them. Gradually, I improved my English, and also learned American history and customs. Then I realized that the program was not only teaching English, but also allowing students to meet and get to know their peers. It helped me to not feel so alone because there are other people who were going through a similar process.

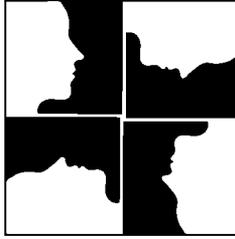
The ESOL program has made me confident with my English; has allowed me to make great friends and meet wonderful teachers with a big sense of service. It has also made me feel less foreign and more part of the society.

I'm very grateful for the support and the tools that the program has given me; the time spent with us, and the samples of appreciation offered to the immigrants, such as the food every Monday and Wednesday; Christmas party and presents, and field trips.

Now, I know that coming here was the right decision, even though we have not accomplished all the things we planned, because I have found more unexpected good things such as learning about other cultures and seeing the world in others ways. I had to find courage, grow as a person, open my mind that was stale and understand that life is made of more than possessions, and look for the things that are more important.

Claudia Suarez

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS



### **Small-Group** *Schedule*

#### **JOY (Just. Older. Youth)**

Lisa Toney will be taking a hiatus from planning events for JOY this year! If anyone is willing to step up and take over please let her know. Please don't let this stop you from planning social events or gatherings. She hopes everyone continues to come together in fun and adventurous ways. See you around church!

**Tuesday Evening Small Group:** We are a group of several women who meet for fellowship and a Serendipity Bible lesson in the Small Conference Room Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM.

**Fiber Arts Small Group:** We invite you to visit and learn a new craft skill. Would you like to make your own prayer shawl? Or perhaps you'd like to join in the prayer shawl project for use by the congregation? We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room. For more information on joining us please contact Joan MacAdams: (703) 851-7987 or at [jmacadams8@gmail.com](mailto:jmacadams8@gmail.com) or Anne Geiger: [Gei2@verizon.net](mailto:Gei2@verizon.net); (703) 437-9413.



# Serving In Worship

## Greeters

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
February 5th	Chris Nelson	Lauren Weatherhead
February 12th	Scout Sunday	Scout Sunday
February 19th	Joe Baggett	Brian Virnelson
February 26th	Joy Heuer	Stanley Medikonda

## Readers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
February 5th	Chris Nelson	Lauren Weatherhead
February 12th	Scout Sunday	Scout Sunday
February 19th	Joe Baggett	Brian Virnelson
February 26th	Joy Heuer	Stanley Medikonda

## Assisting Minister

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
February 5th		Anne Geiger
February 12th	Becky Morgan	Anne Geiger
February 19th	Violet Reges	Ben Breene
February 26th	Mike Faulkner	Mike Rose

## Communion Assistants

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
February 5th		Len Owens
February 12th	Deb Reilly	Jon Morgan
February 19th	Ina Laemmerzahl	Hope Shearer
February 26th		Frank Podczerviensky

**Ushers**

	<b><u>8:30</u></b>	<b><u>11:00</u></b>
February 5th	Suzanne Baggett Joe Baggett	Roy Geiger Howard Miller Mike Faulkner Diana Virgo
February 12th	Sally Moser Mark Roe	Gary Wolfe Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal
February 19th	Vince Russo Lynn Russo Jane Pattison Denis Pattison	Kathy Makowski Joe Makowski Marge Nafey
February 26th		Roy Geiger

**Altar Guild**

	<b><u>8:30</u></b>	<b><u>11:00</u></b>
February 5th	Lori Newcomb Joan MacAdams	Sharon Carter Nancy Jones Alice Shaw
February 12th	Denise Robinson Pat Berg	Claudia Woods Pam Darby
February 19th	Lynn Russo Sally Moser Joan MacAdams	Brian Virnelson Cathy Pfisterer Hope Shearer
February 26th	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Carolyn Rose Carol Shaffer Beulah Medikonda

## ***Birthdays:***

- 1 Javier Cortes, Karleigh Grande
- 3 Joyce Wenrich
- 4 Pat Berg
- 6 Vanessa Roos
- 8 Scott Kordella
- 9 Linda Rademacher
- 10 Logan Beatty
- 11 Heather Steiner
- 12 Tuula Toney
- 15 Pam Darby, Jenny Podczerviensky
- 16 William Bain
- 17 Clayton Newcomb, Greg Warwick
- 20 Mike Piersol, Deb Reilly, Rita Russell
- 21 Sharon Dugo, Frank Podczerviensky, Hope Ruissell
- 22 Paolo Dugo
- 23 Jo Roe
- 24 Jill Reichow, Brian Virnelson
- 25 Lauren Weatherhead
- 27 Mark Roe
- 28 Jean Goldsby
- 29 Kathleen Makowski



## ***Anniversaries:***

- 4 Val & Rosina Kern
- 15 Gary & Melissa Sauer
- 16 Gary & Amy Hylton
- 27 Gary & Maria Schweigert



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170  
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HERNDON, VA 20170  
Permit #10

