

The Rev. Bettye Wolinski, Pastor

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2017

Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor Bettye Wolinski

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

—Acts 8: 30-31

This reading from scripture is entitled "Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch." It is about two unlikely travelers who find themselves on the same road. Actually this is not an accident, because earlier in the reading we read that the Angel of the Lord intervened in Philip's travels and guided him to this new friend.

The sum and total of this text has to do with what the new church after the ascension of Jesus was all about—explaining the story to those with ears to listen. Often times those ears did not look like the ears of the people the disciples were familiar with. They were—different.

As we have been studying the book of Acts as a Church Council, we have met the faces of the first church, made up of those who had witnessed the life of Christ, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension. These folks were so overwhelmed with the story of Jesus that they found themselves moved to share the teachings of the Old Testament and the promise of the Savior. Philip and his fellow disciples, who are now called apostles because they could give witness to having seen the Lord, find themselves on roads less trodden, talking to people they do not know or understand, bearing the Gospel message—fresh and new.

How scary can that be? What is it like to share our faith with others—whether we know them or not?

This is a very easy formula for doing just that: *look, question, tell, and let go.*

Look for: Be sensitive to the opportunity to engage people who cross your path in need of the Gospel message of hope. That is all you have to do, be observant.

Question: Take a risk and ask, invite, and place yourself in their lives, ever so gently seeking the means by

which you might be able to extend yourself to them as Philip did for the Ethiopian.

Tell: Be ready to talk to people to whom you have been sent; offer them a good word in the name of Jesus, a message of love and hope. After all, we are people of the empty cross and the empty tomb with a great truth to tell!

Let go! You have done the work of the Spirit, you have been guided to seek, speak, and offer God's love. The rest is not up to you, it is up to God to move in the heart and the life of that person.

In today's church, this is a new formula to be learned.

When you bring a family or friend to church, you have done exactly what Philip did, but in your way and in your context. The rest is up to God! It is a new world, where the population is not as aware of the Gospel message as we like to think they are. Most people do not go to church. Many people confuse Easter and Christmas—what happened when. We are being invited to share with God the recalling of God's people to hope as found in the message of the Gospel—we do not have to do it all, we do not have to do it alone. We only are called from deep within ourselves by the guidance of the Holy Spirit: *look, question, tell, and let go!*

Thanks be to God!

Serving in Joy!
Pastor Bettye



In This Issue of *The Trinity Messenger*

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal	2
Palm Crosses	2
Easter Lily Memorials 2017	2
From the Organ Bench	3
Christian Education and Family Ministry	4
Taizé Worship	4
The Raleigh Ringers Concert at Trinity on April 30	4
A Typical Day of Outreach	5
Annual Ryan Markle Bowling Fundraiser	5
Church Council President's Report	6
Ladies' Night Out Changed to Congregation's Night Out!	7
Senior Ministry	7
Bingo Night	7
Thank You!	7
April Birthdays and Anniversaries	7



Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

The Seder is the joyful family dinner and worship service that is held in Jewish homes on Passover. Seder means *order*. The Seder consists of a number of ceremonies of extreme antiquity. Through these ceremonies and symbols, we can feel the trials of the Jews of the Exodus—their embittered life of bondage and the joy of their subsequent triumph of freedom.

The Passover meal as celebrated on Maundy Thursday is quite a bit different than that of the Jewish tradition. It has been shortened, simplified, and adapted so that participants can have a sense of the ceremony. As Christians, we can experience the meal that Jesus served his disciples at the Last Supper and conclude the night with Holy Communion, the sacrament he left for us today. As people of God, we join together to experience that holy traditions in thoughtful reflection.

The Seder Meal begins at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on April 13. It is a thoughtful time for remembrance. The meal itself is symbolic and not meant to be served as a full meal.

In order to have sufficient food and space, please sign up for this event prior to April 9. No fee is required. A free will offering will be available.

Palm Crosses

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., the Altar Guild teams of both services will meet in Fellowship Hall to make palm crosses to be given to the congregation on Palm Sunday. All are welcome to join us. Contact Inge Dudda Inge Dudda, icdudda@aol.com (301) 991-8297, or Sharon Michael, (301) 730-9588, for more information.



SUNDAY APRIL 16 AFTER THE EASTER SERVICE

We will serve egg casseroles, French toast casseroles, sausage gravy and biscuits, muffins, yogurt, and fruit.

Tickets will be on sale Sundays, after both services. Adult tickets are \$6; tickets for children aged six to 12 are \$5; children aged five and younger are free.

Please sign up to help with preparations on Saturday and to clean up on Sunday.

Easter Lily Memorials 2017

Here is an order form that to purchase one or more Easter lilies to honor and remember loved ones. The lilies will decorate the church on Easter Sunday.

Please fill out and return this order form to the church office with your payment of \$10 per plant. The deadline for orders is Friday, April 7.

A booklet will be available on Easter Sunday with the names of all donors and the person or persons who are being remembered.

Contributions for the Easter lilies may be made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. Please designate on your check: "Easter Lilies."

Number of lilies: _____

Purchased in memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Amount given: _____

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook



Dear Flock,

With the change in the seasons and some shifts in my own life, I've been pondering *change* in general.

Human life brings us times of change. Personally, I prefer "transition" to "change." So . . . life is full of transition. Most of us intellectually know that and can, for the most part, accept it. We already know that change is inevitable for us. I think most of us accept, process the initial shock of, and work through times of change. Transition involves movement, shift, change, relocation among other things. What we also know is that transition can be positive or negative, and that it can bring with it all sorts of feelings and emotions.

Failing to make transition when it is time for transition can be disastrous and can cause untold frustrations. God is a God of seasons, and we need to be like the sons of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32), who understood seasons and knew what to do.

Transition always brings new roles and responsibilities. Sometimes this transition involves building from scratch, starting a new life, forming a new routine, establishing new relationships, looking for schools, adjusting to a new way of living, depending on what kind of transition it is. The thought of starting all over again can be daunting and fearsome, hence the hesitation, procrastination, and stagnation that so often occurs.

The Bible is full of individuals, leaders, and nations going through transition. There are invaluable lessons we can learn from the scriptures. Let's look at a few examples. In Genesis 12:1, we watch Abraham and his family being called by God to make a major move to another land. Tough times! When the transition is God-initiated, as Abraham's was, God usually sends reassurance and promises, as God did for Abraham. In Genesis 12:2-3, God's promise was that He would bless Abraham wherever he was going. Abraham did not resist transition, but fully cooperated with God in the matter, and He left us a rich legacy of faith, and an example of obedience and sacrifice.

Then there is the transition of the children of Israel from Egypt to the promised land. Sometimes our change takes us through wilderness times, and we grumble and complain (who, us?) and think about turning back. We look back with nostalgia and sigh heavily. However, if we backtrack, we will never know what opportunities and possibilities lie ahead. Change . . . I mean transition, can be liberating. Can we say we are adequately prepared like Moses? Ruth? Joshua? The list goes on. All encountered changes in their lives and transitioned into new places.

As we revisit and process these stories, do we stop to see the common denominator in all of them. God carries us through the times of transition.

I recently had the pleasure of attending Bishop Gohl's meeting with local Lutheran clergy and yes, it was a meeting about transition and change. I don't know when I've left any kind of meeting or gathering with such excitement and hope as I did that afternoon. It was all thoughtfully prepared and worked out and presented, and it was Spirit-driven. And yes, it was about change, good change. I have a friend who years ago said, "Remember, God doesn't bring us this far just to drop us on our head." She is correct. Sometimes it's difficult to remember that, when things get scary in the wilderness and we tend to complain and mutter under our breath to God.

Remember that the "good old days" were good and remain "good" to us because there was probably a plan, and a willingness to try new things. We don't ever think about the struggles and evolution that occurred to get to those "good old days." I don't have to tell you that our world is radically different than it was in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. I remember people asking in the 1970s, "How will we ever survive this?" and yet we did.

I leave you with the reminder from the story of blind Bartimaeus (John 9:1-41) that was the Gospel reading for March 26. We, too, are sometimes blind to what could be. The *status quo* has become comfortable, a way of life for us, because we know what to expect. Fear of the unknown is . . . well, fear. Bartimaeus wanted to see. Choosing to see opened him up to new possibilities. As a church community, let's choose to see, to build, to be the best we can be at sharing the Gospel. And in doing so, we carry with us the providence of God, the teachings of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. That is a lot of strength for the journey.

I thought the final two stanzas from the Hymn of the Day for March 26 were worth revisiting:

The blind, the poor, the outcast too, found Christ to be their friend.

"Have mercy!" Bartimaeus said. "I want to see again."

With great compassion and with grace, Christ gave him back his sight.

Through deeds of power, deeds of love, he filled our world with light.

O Lord, we see your wondrous signs and know through faith-filled eyes:

You are new wine that brings us joy, true bread that satisfies.

You give clear vision to your church, you make the wounded whole.

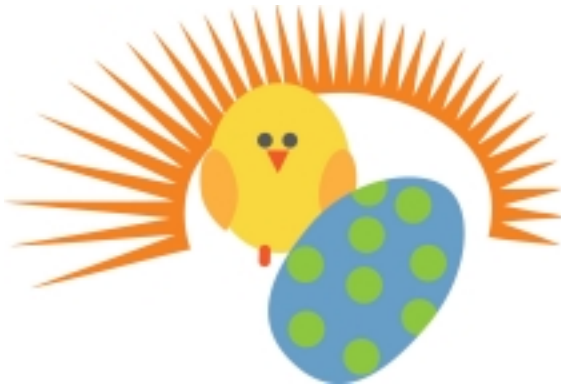
You give us hope when seas are rough; for you are in control!

(Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Copyright © 1999)
The church is no different than anything else. I think we need to take the story of blind Bartimaeus to heart, process it, and model it. Let us not look back, but instead look ahead.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Greg

Upcoming Events for Christian Education and Family Ministry

Stephanie Angles



APRIL

- April 16: Easter breakfast—no Sunday School
- April 23: Youth Sunday during the 8:45 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall
- April 23: Children Helping Children Offering collected following both services
- April 26: Christian Education Committee meeting at 6 p.m. in the Parlor—all are welcome
- April 30: Sunday School students receive student recognition forms; complete and return by May 7
- April 30: Scholarship packets are due

MAY

- May 7: Last day of Sunday School
- May 14: Meet the Teacher Sunday/Youth Recognition Sunday/scholarship recipient announced/Sunday School teacher appreciation
- May 21: Youth Sunday during the 8:45 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall
- May 21: Children Helping Children Offering collected following both services
- May 25: Christian Education Committee meeting at 6 p.m. in the Parlor—all are welcome

JUNE

- June 4: Pentecost Unity Service / Confirmation
- June 19-23: Mobile Mar-Lu Ridge Vacation Bible School
- June 25: Youth Sunday during the 8:45 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall
- June 25: Children Helping Children Offering collected following both services
- June 28: Christian Education Committee meeting at 6 p.m. in the Parlor—all are welcome

Taizé Worship

What is Taizé worship and how can it be used? (How might its characteristics contribute to “regular” worship?)

In the south of Burgundy, France, lays a small village called Taizé. This village, founded more than years ago by Brother Roger, is home to a monastic community devoted to prayer and reconciliation. The community is made up of brothers from all countries and major denominations who gather together three times a day, seven days a week, throughout the year to pray (whether there are 7,000 young people present or only 20). More information on the community, its history, and on-going work, is on their website.

While many people make pilgrimages to Taizé to experience the community and prayer life, most experience Taizé through the ways that community comes to us, namely by the characteristics it has contributed to Christian worship practices. While Taizé worship, as practiced in the monastic community, cannot be simply imitated, it can and has been adapted by many Christian communities in the United States.

The characteristic of Taizé worship that is most prevalent in our worship has been the use of a kind of repetitive prayer set to simple musical lines. Repetition is not a new phenomenon nor unique to Taizé. The use of repetitive prayers is a long-attested reality in the history of Christian spirituality and liturgy (for example, in the Jesus Prayer and the Rosary). What is unique to the prayer of Taizé is the adaptation of the repetitive form to simple musical lines and core biblical texts that can be sung by a whole assembly of various nationalities, languages, and denominations. The duration of repetitive songs (whether in canon form or ostinato) during prayer is not to be timed nor the number of repetitions calculated beforehand. The assembly is to immerse itself in the simple but profound harmonies and let itself be carried by this sung prayer.

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The Raleigh Ringers
In Concert
Sunday, April 30, 2017
3:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
15 Randolph Ave.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Tickets: \$20 per person and available thru the Trinity Lutheran Church office at 301-733-2878.

A Typical Day of Outreach

June Habeck

IN THE FOOD PANTRY

Volunteers begin arriving around 9 a.m. to open up the waiting room, restock shelves from the storage area, turn on the monitoring system, make copies of required paperwork, and write up an inventory list of available meals that are in the freezers that day.

When Ralph Conrad or Junior Michael arrive (10 to 10:25 a.m.) with boxes of from Save-A-Lot, the team sorts out rotten or damaged fruits and vegetables (when they are available) and then set out the remainder on tables in the hall. This is also when frozen meat arrives.

At 11:00 a.m., the team unlocks the side door and begins serving guests, based on sign-up order. From 11 a.m. to noon, volunteers greet each guest and collect the required government information from them, punch their Community Action Council Good Bank Card for that month, and then lead them to the outreach hallway. There the guest may select preferred meats from those available, and parents may select flavors of cereal and juice.

Guests then help themselves to foods placed on hall tables along with available fresh foods: crackers, breads, deli items, and desserts. Meanwhile, volunteers gather the appropriate amounts of food for the size of the family, including canned or packaged beans, tuna, chicken, stew, potatoes, a variety of vegetables, peanut butter, mac and cheese, pancakes, syrup, fruit, ravioli, spaghetti and sauce, and soups.

A full cart is then rolled to an area in the hall where guests select plastic or paper bags or boxes to pack up their food (three days of food is provided). Whatever the guests don't want or need they leave on the cart for us to redistribute.

Anywhere from 12 noon to 1 p.m., if all guests have been served, volunteers from the Food Pantry and the Clothing Bank break for lunch for 30 minutes. After lunch, the volunteers serve any guests who have gathered in the waiting room. At 1:45 p.m. the door is locked, and clean-up begins. This involves refrigerating breads and desserts not taken, clearing the halls, and breaking down boxes for recycling.

IN THE CLOTHING BANK

Volunteers begin arriving at 10:30 a.m. and assess the time needed to sort any donated, bagged clothes that have been brought in. They put out as much of the newly donated items as they can before it is time to open. They also restock their storage closet with underwear (purchased with financial donations from Trinity) and hygiene articles: tooth brushes and toothpaste, deodorant, combs, shampoo (often hotel items donated by travelers at Trinity).

The team takes two to three people at a time into the Clothing Bank in the order of sign-up. Guests select two items per family member and pack them in bags. Volunteers only record large items taken by guests (blankets, quilts, towel and sheet sets) so they are equitably distributed.

During any available time during the day, volunteers sort and display the remainder of the newly donated clothing items. Then, at 1:45 p.m., the doors are locked, and volunteers serve the guests who remain.

Around Christmastime, many of the volunteers from the Food Pantry and the Clothing Bank meet at the G&G Grill for breakfast and to enjoy holiday time together.

Even though all of this is a well-learned routine, in just the two years I have been a volunteer, Jeff Reed has applied more efficient, logical, and meaningful methods that are positive changes for both volunteers and guests. So we evolve as needed!

Annual Ryan Markle Bowling Fundraiser

Diana Markle

Come and join in fellowship with the Markle family on April 1 for the annual Ryan Markle bowling fundraiser being held at Sunshine Lanes in Waynesboro from 1 to 4 p.m. Three games and shoes for \$12. What a perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon—remembering Ryan at one of his favorite hangouts.

If you cannot attend, but would like to donate, please make checks payable to the Ryan Markle Education Fund. Proceeds go towards a scholarship for a graduating senior at Smithsburg High School. Thanks for your continued support and love.

PLEASE CALL US IF YOU NEED US

If you have a caregiving emergency, please call Pastor Greg on his cell phone. It's okay to leave a message on the office phone (ext. 206), but should you have an immediate need, his mobile number is the best way to contact him: (301) 992-1305.

It's okay to leave messages there, as they will be heard and addressed sooner.

Thank you!

Church Council President's Report

Judy Conrad, Council President

On Sunday, March 26, 2017, as part of the Church Council's Year of Transparency and Accountability, a brief informational congregational update meeting was held after the Praise Worship Service and after the Traditional Service. The intent was to give members an idea of what has been going on and to seek questions or concerns from our members.

As part of the handout for the meeting, the names and contact information of the Council were provided:

Members of the Executive Team

- Pastor Bettye Wolinski, emwolinski@msn.com (410) 292- 2360.
- Judy Conrad, rjm13911@aol.com (301) 992-5855, President, Liaison to Finance Team
- Sam Young, syblueridge@aol.com (301) 791-1251, Council Vice President, Liaison to Mutual Ministry
- Inge Dudda, icdudda@aol.com (301) 991-8297, Treasurer
- Mike Mowen, mowen.michael1953@gmail.com (301) 739-1243, Council Secretary Liaison to Personnel

Members of Council

- Crag Fentress, cmfentress@hagerstowncc.edu (240) 675-0950, Liaison to Tech Team
- June Habeck-Holler, jhabeck@myactv.net (240) 291-0892, Liaison to Social Ministry
- Brian Hammond, bchammond@myactv.net (240) 469-8983, Liaison to Property Team
- Erin Harman, erin.harman@myactv.net (301)988-7269, Liaison to Tech Team
- Carol Martin, carol.john.martin63@yahoo.com, (240) 675-5080, Liaison to Senior Ministry
- Junior Michael, jrmichael123@earthlink.net (301) 739-0170, Liaison to Fellowship and Parish Life
- Lauren Rowe, lawillia@gmail.com (240) 217-4300, Liaison to Worship and Music
- Barbara Smith, rsronsmith@aol.com (301)730-0513, Liaison to Personnel
- Barb Winebrenner, bwinebrenner@mac.com (301)992 3777, Liaison to Christian Ed

We provide this information because we really want to hear from you! Each team has written goals for themselves and is working toward those goals. As we become more goal oriented, we can begin to develop a strategic plan for Trinity.

Here are the highlights from our meetings:

1. At the end of March, we will send our first quarterly payment of the Synod Benevolence voted on at last year's congregational meeting. We pledged 3 percent of projected offerings, or \$2,400 quarterly.
2. The February financial report was handed out, as the March report is not completed yet.

3. Our Outreach Program is in need of blankets, towels, and men's shoes. They are also looking for drivers to assist with the food pick ups on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
4. The air conditioning in the Sanctuary is in need of extensive repair. The work would need to be done in the ceiling of the balcony, and will be at a cost more than \$100,000.00. At this point, the Property Team has contracted for an engineering plan. After that plan is complete, we will be able to seek bids and make better plans. It is inevitable that at some point the Sanctuary will be under construction and closed to worship. When that happens, the Worship and Music Team has a tentative plan to move all worship downstairs to Fellowship Hall. This has happened previously, when the Sanctuary was completely renovated in the 1990s. We will keep you posted as the plan comes together.
5. Please check out the Trinity website at www.tlchag.org. Our Tech Team has been working hard to make it up to date and easy to navigate. If you have any information or photos that you would like to suggest to them, please send them to Craig Fentress or Erin Harmon.
6. The photo directories are finally in!! If you had your picture taken, you will be receiving your book first. We ordered plenty of extra copies, so there should be enough for anyone who wants one.
7. Please join us for our Wednesday Lenten Suppers. We have a wonderful meal of soup, fruit, and bread, and then a reflective worship service led by Pastor Bettye.
8. On Thursday, April 13, we will have a Christian Seder Service in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up or call the office if you are planning to attend. We want to be sure we have enough places set and enough food.
9. Easter Sunday brings our Resurrection Service at 9 a.m., followed by Easter breakfast. Please get your tickets soon!
10. Hunt Hardinge has taken on the huge task of keeping our calendar up to date and organized. If you schedule any events, please let him know at (240)818-5633 or hunt.hardinge@gmail.com. This will prevent having two events scheduled in the same place at the same time. There is a lot going on!

In a recent sermon, Pastor Bettye used the phrases "Some things change, some things stay the same." That is very true for our congregation here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our numbers have changed. How some of us worship has changed. Our leadership changes every year. But our love for the Word of God does not change. We are still here, still standing and trying to do the right thing for Trinity, our community, and our faith. Please join us.

Ladies' Night Out Changed to Congregation's Night Out!

Everyone is invited to dinner and a night of country gospel music performed by Kevin Booth. Please join us on Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Tickets will go on sale soon—\$12 for adults; \$6 for children 6 to 12 years of age; free for children under 6 years. A freewill offering will be taken at the event to give to our singer.

Bingo Night

There will be Bingo for all ages of the congregation on Thursday, May 11, in Fellowship Hall. A light supper will be served at 6 p.m., with Bingo following at 6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Please bring an item for the prize table. We will be collecting for the Trinity Food Pantry that evening.

This event is sponsored by the Senior Ministry Team. Please RSVP by adding your name to the signup sheet after services or by calling the church office. If you need transportation, please contact Karen Spessard at (301) 791-1532.

Senior Ministry

Karen Spessard

Senior Ministry meeting date changes: there will be no April meeting, and the May meeting date has been changed to May 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Thank You!

To Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

The family of Richard J. Harne would like to thank you for the beautiful service that was provided for him. He so loved the church. A special thanks for all who helped with the reception after the service—it was great. Thank you all.

Dennis & Mary Ann Harne and Family

Dear Trinity Family,

I would like to thank my dear friend Vi Carlson and her daughter Sarah for bringing me the most beautiful fresh flower arrangement for my birthday.

I spent my birthday in a sick bed with acute adult bronchitis. The visit and the flowers brightened my day. Thank you so much.

Also, thank you so much for the delicious spaghetti dinner from the exchange club—two meals I didn't have to fix.

With love,
Dottie Rhodes



Birthdays

* Indicates under 10

** Indicates over 75

- 2 Aaron Dopson
Jane Drawbaugh
Timothy Higgins
Kathy King
Patrick McCarthy
- 4 Michael Brashears
- 10 Robert Hardinge
Jeffrey Reed
- 11 Bambi Boutelle
Kim Kline
Georgia Newman
- 12 Dottie Cochrane**
Nancy Lehman
Sarah McCarthy
- 17 Shanta Pickett
- 23 Stephanie Angles
- 24 Therese Ramey
- 26 Bradley Kline
- 30 Leslie Allen
Kelli Palamar
Shane Pryor



Anniversaries

* Indicates 50 years or over

- 2 Jack & Diana Pryor
- 3 Scott & Diona Minnich, Sr.
- 12 Raymond & Dorinda Roof
- 13 Linda & George Lemen*
- 16 James & Kelly Rohrer
- 22 Craig & Judy Robinson
- 23 Charlie & Jeanne Riley
- 25 Kevin & Nanette Dagliano

Trinity Lutheran Church

15 Randolph Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 www.tlchag.org

Sunday Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:55 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank: (301)733-5651

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Washington County Literacy Council: (301)739-4208

Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Non-Profit Org.
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Hagerstown, MD
21740

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

