

February 15, 2016



# The Caller

Christian Community Presbyterian Church Newsletter

I was drinking a cup of coffee in my Dunes Manor Hotel overlooking the Atlantic in Ocean City on February 2nd. The news was on. Karl Rove was rehashing the results from the Iowa Caucuses. The main takeaway being Donald Trump lost because he blew off the latest debate that was hosted by Fox News.

Suddenly, they interrupted Rove's drivel with a live shot of the real big news story that airs every February 2nd: "Will Puxatauny Phil see his shadow?" With flashbulbs going off, the top-hatted master of ceremonies read a clever poem that ended with the news that for only the 18th time in 130 years the frightened Groundhog failed to see his shadow. An early spring is on its way. Yeah!

I reported the good news to my Presbytery colleagues who were downstairs eating breakfast. A pastor friend seated next to me had a friend who served the Methodist Church in Puxatauny, Pennsylvania. The pastor said Phil, like his three predecessors, lived in the basement of the largest bank in town. This seems appropriate for the groundhog is the biggest asset in the town's tourist business. But, what really put the winter festival on the map was Bill Murray's movie, "Groundhog Day."

The movie is about a crass, arrogant, and very self-centered newsman who gets stuck reliving groundhog day over and over again. Every morning, regardless of what he did the previous day, he would wake up to the same news, have to go through the same tedious filming of the tourist ritual, and endure the same series of daily nuisances and indignities caused by winter. After trying to kill himself in order to end the tedium, he decides to start becoming a better person. He starts trying to save the people from suffering in town. He learns to play the piano and becomes the teacher's best student. His news broadcast from the ceremony becomes one of poetic beauty about hope. After considerable effort over the many months of February 2nd, he becomes a better person. When the transformation is complete, he wakes up and it's February 3rd. His new life begins.

As I see it, the movie is a good example of what the season of Lent is supposed to be about. Lent is about becoming a better person. It is about acknowledging our sinful nature and seeking the spiritual renewal that will lead to a more Christ-like character. You practice the good and avoid the bad. With God's help we can change for the better.

Some people believe people don't really change. Many believe you are born with certain innate tendencies that stay with you throughout your life. Brain researchers have determined that evolution has wired our brains in such a way to prime us to learn quickly from bad experiences, but not from good ones. Our ancient survival mechanisms turn the brain into Velcro for the negative, but Teflon for the positive. Change is hard because we are fighting our thoughts.

Scott Peck famously said, "Life is difficult." However, God provides us each day with opportunities to build inner strengths to help us overcome our bad attitudes and correct our bad habits. We have an amazing capacity to change. Genetics is not destiny. Bad experiences do not doom us to an unhappy life. We can change for the better. Anne Lamott says, "We can throw away the first draft of our lives and begin writing a new story." The Apostle Paul said in Romans 12, "We can be transformed by the renewal of our mind."

For Lent, I will be doing a long sermon series titled, "Practicing the Good." Join me as we let the good news get into our heads and stick around long enough to change us for the better.

Here's hoping Phil was right,  
James Brassard





## Worship Notes

**February 14th:** First Sunday in Lent. It is also Scout Sunday. The Sermon is on the familiar love chapter, *1 Corinthians 13*. This text is often read at weddings. This is not however about romantic love or even about the feelings we associate with love. It's about a mature love that is based on actions associated with 16 verbs.

**February 21st:** *Luke 13:1-9* is about second chances; however, God's patience is not unlimited.



## Happy Retirement!

After 40 years of service, Rev. Rex McDaniel plans on retiring at the end of February. A retirement party is planned for February 27th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Calvary Presbyterian Church in South Pasadena. Anyone who would like to attend the celebration is welcome. It will be a catered dinner, so we are asking if you plan to attend that you RSVP at [office@cpcsouthpas.org](mailto:office@cpcsouthpas.org).

If you would like to send a note of remembrance, it would need to arrive by Feb. 25th.

You can either send a written note to:

Alyssa Ott  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
1050 Fremont Ave., South Pasadena, CA 91030

or you can email Alyssa at [cpc.southpas@gmail.com](mailto:cpc.southpas@gmail.com)

## Lenten Readings

If you are unable to attend the Lenten Readings, which are daily (except Sundays) at 7:15 AM in the Sanctuary, please feel free to take one of the print outs for the readings located on the shelf in the alcove of the Narthex.

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

# *Lenten Luncheons*

All Lenten Luncheons will be after the 10:30 AM worship service in Dodds Hall and everything will be provided.

**All you have to do is show up!**

**Sunday, February 21, 2016**



*Deacon's Potato Bash!*

**What is a Potato Bash?**

The Deacons will prepare baked sweet and white potatoes for you to top with favorites such as cheese, chili, broccoli, and sour cream. Enjoy with a salad and dessert! There will be some light entertainment too!

**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

*Children and Youth Ministries*

*Pasta Palooza!*

Children and Youth Ministries will host a pasta dinner with all the fixings!

**Sunday, March 20, 2016**

*Choir's Chili Cook Off!*



**Come one, come all!**

Sample more than ten different types of chili (from vegetarian to mega-spicy!), and enjoy salad, cornbread, and dessert with the CCPC Choirs after church on Sunday. You can vote for your favorite chili recipe, converse with your friends and neighbors, and not have to do the cooking! There will be non-chili luncheon options available as well. And, the Living Waters for the World Mission team will report on their latest installation in Honduras!

# *Warm Nights*

## **Wrap Up**

On behalf of the Mission Committee I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Warm Nights Program.



## **CCPC had another successful year!**

We could not host Warm Nights without the active participation of many congregation members. It takes the involvement of the women's circles, the Paper Tigers, the Youth Group and the many families and individuals who sign up to perform so many tasks.

Between the last-minute schedule changes, and the snow storm that stranded many, this year was a unique challenge. The way that our congregation pulled together to help those in need was truly inspiring. Monday night, in particular stands out, as the group that was supposed to supply dinner was snowed in, but with the generous support of Becky Pfarrer, Cyd and Bill Radden-Lesage, Justin and Mikaela Devine, and the Youth Group, a hot meal was still provided to our guests.

CCPC provided almost 600 meals during Warm Nights and over 180 warm beds (almost 30 per night for six days). More importantly, you showed compassion to those in need and helped them maintain their dignity while they work to resolve personal and financial issues, which is something that cannot be measured by any statistics.

**Thanks for all you do!**

Ryan Remley

# *Souper Bowl of Caring*

## **Update**

Children's Ministry raised \$427 in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring offering. Your donations will go to the Bowie Food Pantry.  
Great Job!!

# *Tiger Lilies*

Tiger Lilies will finish our discussion of David Brooks, "The Road to Character," at our March 7th meeting. Please bring ideas for future books to discuss.  
Contact [andreabrassard@verizon.net](mailto:andreabrassard@verizon.net).

## *Straight from the Source*

**New Adult Bible Study** starting on February 29th at 7:00 PM. We will be reading through various bible stories sharing thoughts, ideas, and applications.

This class will be led by Justin Devine and is open to all adults.

The Study will be held on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday's of the month in either the Adult Ed Conference room or the Parlor.

# **SLOW!**



## *Reunion Ahead*

**Were you a member of  
CCPC's Charity Circle in the 1980's?**

**A June 2016 reunion is being planned!  
Peggy Oates & Marty Sippel are looking for you!**

The reunion will be at Jeanne Padgett's home in Pasadena, MD, and is planned for

## **June 25, 2016**

An "archival" list is being compiled. If you were a member of the Charity circle, please contact Peggy by email or phone: [peggyoates@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyoates@hotmail.com) or 301-262-6959



# BRIDGE

## New Class Starting!

Bridge is a card game that began in the 16th century. Ever since then the popularity of bridge has remained strong both as a social activity and as a competitive sport. Playing bridge is good for mental stimulation and many believe it is important for longevity. Learning to play bridge requires some effort, but once the basics are learned, playing bridge becomes an enjoyable activity. Bridge is a wonderful partnership game that offers a variety of challenges and opportunities for social interactions.

A series of bridge classes will begin on Thursday evenings starting February 25, 2016, at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. The first class will cover the basics for those who never played bridge and will include a presentation on bidding, playing, defending, and scoring. Handouts will be available to support material covered in the presentation. Those who have a limited knowledge of bridge or only play bridge occasionally are encouraged to attend the first class.

Future classes will progress from simple bridge playing to more difficulty bridge scenarios. Participants who volunteer will play bridge hands that will be followed by a review of performance in order to improve skills. The teaching will advance at a rate that allows all class participants to become familiar with material presented.

Questions, no matter how simple, will be encouraged.

The lessons will continue as long as there's a sufficient interest among the participants to learn more advanced aspects of the game. Thad Uehling, who recently became a Bridge Life Master, will serve as leader. For more information, please contact Thad at [tuehling@verizon.net](mailto:tuehling@verizon.net).

*"No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table."*

*~ Martina Navratilova ~*

*The Chesapeake Chorale*  
**presents**  
**Come to the**  
**Cabaret**

**March 4th & 5th at 7:30 PM**  
**CCPC's Dodds Hall**

**Enjoy an evening of popular song from Broadway  
and radio in an intimate cabaret setting.**

**A full array of tempting desserts,  
tea, and coffee are included.**

*Jesse Parker, Artistic Director*  
*Susan Ricci Rogel, Accompanist*

**\$20 General Admission**  
**\$15 Seniors & Military**  
**Free for Children & Students**

**Preorder tickets on the website or buy at the door.**  
**Credit cards accepted!**

**410-721-5422**  
**[www.chesapeakechorale.org](http://www.chesapeakechorale.org)**



# Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.

*Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community,  
and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.*



## Belair Cooperative Nursery School

The school is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization. It's located in the CE Building of Christian Community Presbyterian Church.

Call 301-464-5782 or Email [info@belaircoop.org](mailto:info@belaircoop.org)

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



## Imagine - Yoga & Wellness Center



Located in the CE building, offers yoga and a variety of wellness programs to CCPC members and the community. For more information, visit [www.ImagineThePlace.com](http://www.ImagineThePlace.com), call 443-510-6308, or e-mail [Ann@ImagineThePlace.com](mailto:Ann@ImagineThePlace.com). Scholarships available.

