

April 15, 2016



The Caller

Christian Community Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Many people have told me how they appreciated and benefitted from Joy Bibles' "Deacon's Corner" columns. Several of her columns focused on getting rid of stuff. Joy said, "If you want to get your spiritual life in order, you have to choose what to keep and what to give away or toss." For too many of us, our stuff has become our stuffing.

Joy knew we get attached to many of our possessions. Some are precious to us because someone we loved gave them to us. Other items are treasured because they remind us of happy moments in our lives. When a fire destroyed a senior citizens building in DC last week, the pain of the dislocation was greatly diminished by the fact that the sprinkler system and the rapid response of the fire department gave time for everyone to get out safely, and to go back and retrieve their priceless papers and pictures.

When you are forced to downsize, what criteria do you use when deciding what to save and what to throw away? One current guiding principle is: Does it spark joy? This principle is the mind child of the wildly popular decluttering wizard Marie Kondo. Kondo offers this question and several other decluttering ideas in her mega selling book, "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up." The book has inspired KonMarie Pinterest boards, spawned thousands of Facebook groups featuring before and after pictures, and testimonials from people who have finally gotten a handle on their stuff. Although Kondo's followers are legion, there are no shortage of homes for the TV show "Hoarders."

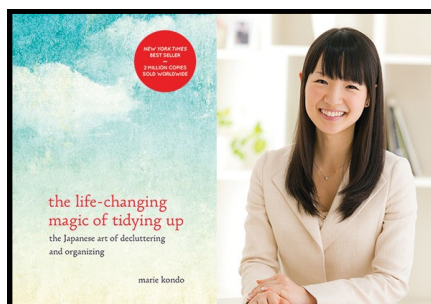
Kondo suggests that when you decide to get rid of something, you should bid it goodbye and thank it for fulfilling its purpose. "So long old socks, thanks for protecting my feet." It's good to like our stuff and to appreciate its utility. She also believes we could do a better job of taking care of things so we don't spend so much time and money buying new things. Presbyterian Pastor Michael Lindvall suggests we start the decluttering process earlier. Before purchasing something, we should ask ourselves: "Does this item spark joy? How long will it make me happy?" Sadly, sometimes little longer than the time it takes to open the box.

My wife, Andrea, has a great method of preemptive decluttering. You buy less stuff in the first place. We have a rule — you cannot buy anything new unless you get rid of something of equal size. When we do our spring cleaning, if I have not worn something since the previous spring, it goes in the pile for the next Vietnam Vets pick up. This January, I cleared out 20 boxes of books from my office. New book purchases have already refilled 2 of the 12 shelves I cleared out. Not once have I went looking for a book I gave away.

I hope that Kondo's work moves past just helping people declutter their lives. I hope it helps folks examine the question of what really makes us feel content. In the meantime, just stop shopping. You won't miss most of the stuff, and your kids will save the cost of the dumpster when you are gone.

To grace and clean closets,

James Brassard



The objective of cleaning is not just to clean, but to feel happiness living within that environment.

~ Marie Kondo ~

Worship Notes

April 24th: The Book of Revelation is fascinating and says things that most people have not been taught about this book. In *Revelation 21:1-6*, people do not go to heaven, but rather God comes down to dwell with mortals. Christians are not called to escape into a new world, but rather to partner with God in ways that allow the power of God to be experienced in the world. The sermon is titled, "A Tale of Two Cities." We will celebrate the baptism of Ellis James Dorsey.

May 1st: Princeton Seminary President Craig Barnes wrote that if the church is the bride of Christ, then Jesus was married to both Rachel and Leah — to the church he wants and to the church he has to take. How do we love the community we have while seeking to build the community we dream about having?



In Memory of Elsie Bell

Elsie M. Bell, 86 of Bowie Maryland died peacefully on April 8, 2016. She was a faithful and quietly joyful member of Christian Community Presbyterian Church and was ministered to by her church family and friends, especially Rev. James and Andrea Brassard. She participated with love, concern, a listening ear and hospitality. She loved her garden and handcrafts and having people in her home for dinner. Her greatest joy was her grandchildren, John Wood Mellgard and Juliana Bell Mellgard, and her only real regret on her cancer diagnosis was a caution to "don't let this mess up graduation." She was their sponsor in the class of 2016 at the United States Naval Academy – and opened her home to them and their friends. She was a US citizen naturalized from Canada where she grew up in the prairie town of Mozart Saskatchewan. She resided in Toronto; Bay Shore, NY; Yorktown Heights, NY; and Georgetown, MA throughout her life.

Elsie was a professional secretary before the term administrative assistant became popular, and retired from Litton in College Park. She had many professional friends and was also very involved as the secretary of the Buick Car Club. Those club members became loyal visitors and friends.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Rev. Rob Mellgard of Clearfield, Pennsylvania and their children – and was the wife of the late Al Bell. Her sisters, Evelyn and Karen, survive her in Calgary and her sister, Maxine, and brother-in-law, Luke, in Medicine Hat, Alberta and their families. She was predeceased by her sister, Joan, and brothers-in-law, Bill and Jerry.

A memorial service will be held at Christian Community Presbyterian Church at 11 AM on April 23. In lieu of flowers the family asks that any gifts be made to the church for plantings and care of their gardens which she loved.

Although she is absent in the body we are blessed by the memories of her determination and spirit.

Mission Dinner and Program

CCPC supports missionaries, Jeremy and Luta Garbat-Welch, who serve in the Malawi and Zimbabwe region of Africa. Luta will be visiting our area on Friday night, May 6th. The Mission Council will be hosting a dinner and program for Luta starting at 7:00 PM in Dodds Hall. In addition to Luta's presentation, we will have singing, great African food (and a few American dishes), and lots of fun! Kids are welcome.



Adult Education Class

On April 24, 2016, join Wayne Smith in the Adult Education Conference room for a discussion about: "What is the Most Significant Political Phenomenon to Occur in Your Lifetime?" Wayne will explain it to you and he will not mention a president nor a politician, an assassination nor a war, Huey Long nor Donald Trump.

Hope to see you there!

Easter Egg Hunt Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you, Carrie Ahearn, Steve Donioan, Sue Evans, Becky Murphy, Ryan Remley, and Wayne Smith who helped fill Easter eggs and prepare for the egg hunt. Thank you to the youth who helped hide the eggs and kept the kids safe as they moved through the parking lots of the church. Thank you Justin Devine for helping it all to run smoothly. Thank you for all of the donations of candy from the congregation. Your generosity met all our candy needs for the egg hunt. Thank you to everyone for helping Children's Ministry to offer this annual event for the kids. Your efforts are very much appreciated!



Alex Bourne & Kemi Komlan

CCPC WORSHIP DRAMA TEAM



On behalf of the CCPC Worship Council, I would like to form a Worship Drama Team to assist with small skits, dramas, dramatic readings, etc. that will be presented during our various special worship services throughout the year. I have collected a large library of worship drama materials over the years that can be used or simply to provide ideas for creating original presentations. Scriptures for a specific service or season can be used as a guide to write an original script. I would like to shine the spotlight on others in our creative efforts as I cannot always be available. There will be members of the Worship Council on this team: Susan Ricci Rogel, Justin Devine, Carrie Casto, Becky Pfarrer who represent music, education, and technical assistance and choreography.

Areas where we would like to have help are in writing and editing as well as acting and presentation.

***** Tear Here *****

If interested, please indicate area(s) of interest on this section with a checkmark. Tear off and leave in collection plate or email Sharon Youngdahl at soyoungdahl1@verizon.net

_____ Writing, Editing

_____ Acting, Presentation

NAME: _____

Thank you!

Sharon Youngdahl and The Worship Council



Alaina and Kevin Clemence are making music at the Jack and Nancy Becker Center for the Performing Arts at Indian Creek School in the musical, *In the Heights*, on

**April 15 and 16, 2016 at 7:00 PM
and April 17, 2016 at 3:00 PM.**

Tickets went on sale to the public on Saturday, April 9 at Noon.
You can find show details and the link to purchase tickets at:
<http://www.indiancreekschool.org/arts/upcoming-shows>

Also, if you want a bit of information about the show, here is a link with information from Broadway.com's website at
<http://www.broadway.com/shows/in-the-heights/>

Hope to see you there!



Chesapeake Chorale Chamber Singers

The Chesapeake Chorale Chamber Singers will present a concert at All Saints Lutheran Church (16510 Mount Oak Rd. Bowie MD 20716) on

Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 4PM

"A Choral Sampler" features a sampling of some beautiful music, both old and new, from Brahms and Fauré to Stevie Wonder and Carole King.

We hope to see you there.

No tickets required, but a free-will offering will be collected.

CCPC's

1st Annual Golf Tournament

May 7, 2016 at Bowie Golf Club

To benefit the 2016 Mission Trip to Mexico and CCPC Youth Ministries

This is a four-person scramble tournament from
10 AM to 11:45 AM with a staggered start.

The entry fee includes:
18 Holes and a Cart
Post-Tournament Luncheon
Longest Drive Contest
Closest to the Pin Contest
Hole-in-One Contest

Also available are Raffles and a Putting Contest.

Entry fees are \$85 for individual golfers; \$320 (\$80 each) for Four golfers;
Veterans receive a \$5 discount; Active/Retired military receive a \$10 discount.

Sponsorships

Your donation will help send church and community youth to Mexico on a
house building mission trip this summer.

Whole House Sponsorship \$1,000

Signs displayed at hole of your choice, logo in golfer packets, sign in the banquet area,
name displayed on banner and table leaflets

Ceilings and Doors Sponsorship \$500

Sign displayed at hole, logo in golfer packets, sign in banquet room

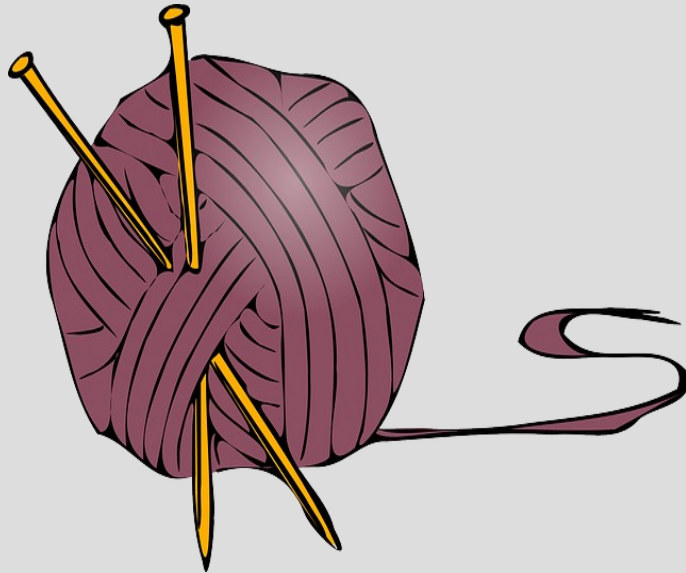
Walls and Windows Sponsorship \$200

Sign displayed at hole, logo in golfer packets

Foundation Sponsorship \$100

Logo in golfer packets

Registration forms are on the table in the atrium and also available through the church office.
If you would like one mailed to you, please contact Robin in the church office at (301) 262-6008 or
ccpcbowie@verizon.net. Any questions regarding this event should go to Justin Devine at
707-344-3325 or ccpcdirced@verizon.net.



Knits with Sticks

**Knits with Sticks will meet
Monday, April 18, at 1:00 PM in
the Parlor at CCPC.**

We will continue our discussion of where we want our donations to go this year.

At the moment, anyone wishing to donate to the "67 Blankets for Mandela" project can turn in a 10-inch knitted or crocheted square to Priscilla Bouic by May 1. On May 7, Priscilla will take any donations to the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival where they will take donations and put the blankets together (4 squares by 5 squares). This is a charitable project started in South Africa, and it has gone global now. The blankets collected in this area will be laid at the foot of the Mandela statue in Baltimore on July 18, his birthday, and then will be distributed to the needy in the Maryland area. The number 67 is to encourage people throughout the world to spend at least 67 minutes of their time helping others in recognition of Mandela's 67 years of public service.

I will place some suggested patterns (showing gauge) in the Knits with Sticks pattern holder in the Atrium for anyone interested. If we have 20 squares, I will put them together to donate as a single afghan, and any extras will be dropped in the donation basket. Please label your contribution as to fabric content (acrylic, wool, etc.)

For information on our group or on this project, call Priscilla Bouic at 301-262-4906.

AND . . .

Don't Forget this Sunday is . . .



Children's Sunday

**April 17, 2016
10:30 am Service**

The children will be leading us in worship — Children's Church Style

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
Web: <http://ccpc.bowiemd.org>
E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net



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

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, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail info@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

