



**Y**outh Sunday was wonderful. You could feel the energy and anticipation in the sanctuary. The pews were filled. The choir loft was populated with a large contingent of youth. Several of our youth offered special music while others read the scripture lessons for the day. The drama, *Bring Me Life*, was moving. Victoria Ilko, drawing on her experience as a waitress, taught the children that with Jesus there is always enough food and enough people to serve it. Justin preached on *The Value of Forgiveness* and reminded us the knowledge of being saved and the demands of living a Christ-centered life are both essential to following Christ. The Confirmation Class of **Alexis Ayuketah, Joshua Hawkins, Annie-Claudia Ndjana, Caitlin Shoemaker, and Wesley Shoemaker** affirmed the faith promises made by their parents at their baptisms and committed to putting their considerable talents to work for the Lord. A great day in the life of our church.

My duties for the service were limited to logistical support, officiating in the reception of the confirmation class, and offering the prayers of the people. During my drive to the church, I heard the first reports about the overnight mass shooting in Orlando. Initially, it was 20 dead and dozens wounded. I contemplated adding it to the morning prayers but without details, I didn't want to disrupt the flow of the service.

By the time our Sunday afternoon guests arrived to celebrate the opening of my backyard pool, the scope of the tragedy was becoming clear. It was now 50 dead and over 50 injured. The largest mass shooting in recent American history. Reporters were trying to ascertain the motivation of the gunman. He had a history of violence towards women and a known antipathy towards gays. What exactly pushed him over the edge is still speculation. We do know that the targets of such murderous attacks are not accidental. The killers attack places where the target group of people they hate (in this case the gay community) have a sense of belonging.

The nightclub that was attacked, Pulse, has a name that connotes life. It was opened years ago by a mother who lost a son to HIV. She wanted to provide a safe place for gay men like her son to gather and make friends. You can see by how the survivors carefully transported the wounded to the hospital that Pulse was a beloved gathering place in that city. It was a welcoming place in a hostile world.

The killer apparently identified with a culture that treats gays in unthinkable ways. In these places, some of the most despicable acts of murder, like throwing gay men off tall buildings, are even posted on YouTube. If you want to express your hatred towards homosexuals or lash out at a culture that celebrates diverse points of view and tolerates diverse ways to love, Pulse would top your hit list if you lived in Orlando. The killer wanted to destroy life and destroy a community. He won't succeed because love never fails.

I don't expect much constructive discussion given the divisive nature of this election year. I would hope that we can keep a few things in mind.

This is devastating for the friends and family of the killed and wounded. Pray for them. We should express our admiration for the law enforcement community in Orlando. They had not even recovered from the shooting of a popular singer, Christina Grimmie, when they got a 2AM call of a massacre and hostage situation. The police tried to negotiate with the killer for three hours and then when it looked like the killers next step was to detonate a bomb that would cause massive loss of life, they entered the bathroom hideout with an armored vehicle and ended the standoff. This decisive action probably saving scores of lives. The emergency medical response was equally impressive. A team of six highly skilled surgeons was summoned at 3AM to handle the life-threatening wounds. These well trained and dedicated public servants performed heroically under horrific circumstances.

I will close by sharing a prayer written by Jill Duffield, the editor of “the Presbyterian Outlook.”

Loving God, the scenes look hauntingly similar: devastated faces of survivors as they huddle together, clamoring for caring contact, their hands over their mouths, fear etched in their expressions. There are the law enforcement officers in their riot gear; there are armored vehicles, flashing lights, ambulances, fire trucks and news crews. The yellow tape eventually gets pulled across the landscape marking a border forever breached by violence. Then come the numbers, the body count, the injured, how many assailants, weapons unloaded and how fast. There are the details: the who, what, where, when, and how – and all the speculation about the why.

These scenes are too familiar, too frequent, too here-we-go-again. But Lord, as familiar as this carnage is, as similar the news reports, photos and horror, each person impacted, each gut-twisting time, is unique, beloved, known to you. The LGBTQ community in Orlando, Florida; students in Blacksburg, Virginia; the children in Newtown, Connecticut; the movie goers in Aurora, Colorado; the co-workers in San Bernadino, California; the church-goers in Charleston, South Carolina: each one’s story is non-repeatable, each one’s gifts non-replaceable, each one’s loss irreparable.

How, long, O Lord, how long? How long will we lament? Will we grow so familiar with these all-too-familiar scenes that we will forget that each person impacted by them is unique, beloved, unable to be duplicated?

Give us the courage to say, not just with our words, but with our action, advocacy, energy, and resources: NO MORE. Not one more time.

As we pray comfort for those most closely embroiled in this latest mass shooting, we pray boldness for all of us watching the devastated faces, the first responders, the ambulances, and news crews to do what needs to be done to transform swords into plowshares and usher in your longed for peace.

Amen.



## *Worship Notes*

**June 19th:** Men's Sunday and Father's Day. What attitudes give evidence that we are living by the fruits of the Holy Spirit? The Apostle Paul gives us an interesting list in *Galatians 5*. A Men's Choir will accompany testimonies by Carl Newman and Stephen Brock.

**June 26th:** The Service of Ordination and Installation of Officers. One of the "Fruits of the Spirit" is gentleness. Gentleness is central to the gospel of Jesus. In a world where the news is dominated by loud-mouthed domineering voices who seek to humiliate and humble those that disagree, Jesus calls for strength found in treating our enemies as wounded people, who like us, are transformed by God's love in Christ.

**July 3rd:** We will sing the National Hymns and examine "peace" as one of the "Fruits of the Holy Spirit." Following the service everyone is invited to a luncheon to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles Casto.



## *CCPC Linens*

LADIES, please check your laundry room for **long** beige linens. We appreciate you for taking them home to wash. We need them back though for our other church functions. Thank you, Sharon McNamara

## *Summer Callers*

Please note we will **not** be sending out a newsletter for July 15th or August 1st. The next newsletter, July 1<sup>st</sup>, will be the last one to go out until we pick back up again on August 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Robin in the church office at [ccpcbowie@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcbowie@verizon.net) or 301-262-6008.

## *Thank You!*

To My CCPC Family,

Thank you for the cards, flowers, books, magazines, and especially for your prayers while I was in the hospital and in rehab. I am now established in my new home.

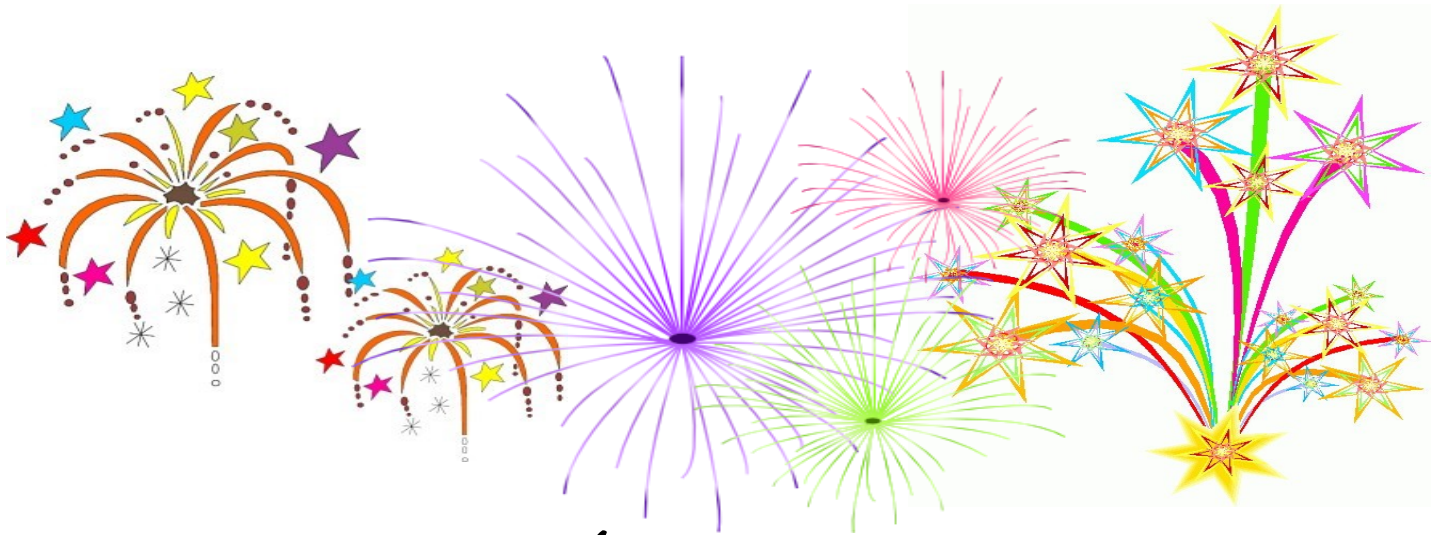
Annapolitan Assisted Living Community

84 North Old Mill Bottom Road, Room 330, Annapolis, Maryland 21409

My phone number is 410-349-1590.

Blessings, Sarah Hyde

**And,** please note Margaret Levitan has moved. If you would like her new address, please email the church office. Her phone number stayed the same.



# *100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!*

On June 25th, we will be celebrating Charles Casto's 100th birthday at the Bowie Bay Sox Stadium. Gates open at 5:30 PM.

See Jackie Lindbeck for details and to buy tickets.

Tickets are also available from the church office. Please make sure you have the exact amount as the office is unable to make change.

Tickets are \$8.00. There are a limited amount of tickets, so get yours soon!!



## **And . . .**

There will be a birthday celebration on July 3rd after the worship service in Dodds Hall for Charles too! All are welcome!





## *Welcome New Members!*

*Welcome and congratulations to our newest members who were confirmed on Sunday, June 12, 2016:*

**Alexis Ayuketah**

**Joshua Hawkins**

**Annie-Claudia Ndjana**

**Caitlin Shoemaker**

**Wesley Shoemaker**

## *Youth Group Retreat*

This year's retreat will be from June 24th through June 26th at Meadowkirk Retreat Center in VA.

Cost is \$40.00. Sign up packets are available.

Contact Justin for details at [ccpcdirced@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcdirced@verizon.net) or 707-344-3325

## *Vacation Bible School!*

**June 20 through June 23**

The theme for this year's VBS is *Cave Quest Following Jesus The Light of the World!* It will be for four nights from 6 to 8:30 PM for children age 3 (potty trained) through grade 5 (Fall 2015).

Dinner will be served each evening in the Cavern Café. Registration is due now with a fee of \$10 for one child and \$15 for 2+ children. Scholarships are available! Questions or volunteer opportunities, contact Justin Devine at [ccpcdirced@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcdirced@verizon.net).





**CCPC's**

## *College Graduates*

Congratulations to all of our 2016 graduates:

***Brooke Armstrong***, Maryland Institute College of Art

***Kim Cates***, Nursing School

***Casey Conrad***, University of Maryland Law School

***Sophia Evankovich***, Kent State University

***Matthew Gallagher***, Catholic University

***Chris Leaman***, Temple University

***Sarah Rogel***, Towson University



## *Gadabouts*

The Gadabouts will not be meeting in July or August. We'll get back together on September 6th.  
Have a great summer!

If you have any questions regarding the Gadabouts, please contact Marge Clark at  
mhclark@verizon.net or 410-451-0833.

## *Knits with Sticks*

We will be suspending our meetings until  
September 19th. Many thanks for the dedication of our knitters! We will continue working on our  
own during the summer.

Priscilla Bouic

# 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](mailto: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](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 [info@ImagineThePlace.com](mailto:info@ImagineThePlace.com). Scholarships available.

