



**N**ow that December has come it is full speed ahead to get ready for Christmas. Haul out the lights, decorate the tree, write the cards, book your travel, and memorize your lines for the Christmas Play. Yes, I am playing Martin Luther, Reformer turned Brewer. Don't miss the play on December 18th – "It's A Wonderful Christmas."

But, underlying all these simple acts of getting ready is a longing for the things we associate with the arrival of Jesus. We long for peace. For beauty. For light to emerge from the pervasive darkness of our public discourse. We dream of magic and laughter and sugar plums dancing to the Nutcracker score. This year everyone wants a merry little Christmas.

But, the longing runs deeper than this. We long for a more uplifting civic life after an embittered, fear-based campaign. Please everyone: enough of the attacks on the integrity of our voting system. We do pray for peace for the innocents in Aleppo and Mosel. We long to sit at the table and tell old stories and laugh and just enjoy being together. I can't remember when daily discourse has been so difficult.

The words of the Advent song say it well, "There Is a Longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us ... there is a longing for justice, for freedom for mercy ... for healing, for wholeness, for new life ... be near, hear our prayer, O God." Is it just me or is that longing deeper this year?

Thankfully there are several opportunities around the church to see those longings answered. We had plenty of joy at the service and luncheon on Sunday around the baptism of Ariel, Nathan, and Nchabanu Atangcho. Wasn't that fun! We celebrate the fact that all of the 150 plus kids were adopted in our Christmas families program. I can't wait to stand around wrapping gifts while listening to Christmas music. Those longing can find fulfillment if you look and open your heart.

Christmas always has an incredibly high level of expectation attached to it. We believe that if Christmas can't set what's wrong in our lives right, then what can. We keep watch and light the advent candles with the hope that we can see and feel God working in our lives and our world. Come Lord Jesus, come. But make sure you arrive on Christmas. Especially this Christmas.

It is my hope that you can come to church each week and experience God's love arriving. You can come and worship and let the divisions you feel pass into the background of your mind. I hope that we can come together and see God's promise to abide with us and hold us in the community being fulfilled. In order for God to do a new thing in our lives, we have to be open to it. We have to set aside the doubt and the fear. We must let go of the anger and the blame. We have to get on our knees and reach out our arms to receive the new life God is bringing to us.

Get ready. Jesus is coming. And soon.

Grace and peace, James Brassard



## Stewardship Update

The Estimate of Giving Card's continue to trickle in. So far we have received 87 cards with commitments totaling \$352,856. Thank you. We still have about 20 individuals/families that made commitments last year who we have not heard from yet. Cards are available in the office or the box right outside the Sanctuary doors.

Also, please pick up your Offering envelopes for 2017 in the Atrium.

In other good news, this year's Alternative Christmas Market was a big success. So far we received \$22,615 in gifts towards various local and international mission organizations.

Steve Donoian, Stewardship Chairperson.

# Worship Notes

**December 4th:** Second Sunday in Advent. The prophet Joel 2: 12-13, 28-29, talks about renewal coming through the arrival of the Holy Spirit. What does a Presbyterian version of this arrival of God look like? Justin Devine will be preaching: Rev. Brassard will be officiating at the communion table at both services

**December 11th:** Third Sunday in Advent. The Prophet Isaiah brings encouraging words to the families who return to their homeland after 80 years in exile. The people arrive to discover their precious homes and farms have been reduced to rubble. In *Isaiah 61*, he preaches about the possibilities in "Second Chances."

**December 18th:** Fourth Sunday in Advent will feature the Christmas Play: "It's A Wonderful Christmas." The play features 29 of our children and youth and a couple of adults. Justin's homily is titled "What If." There will a reception afterwards and our special visitor from the North Pole will be in attendance. Bring your camera.

**Christmas Eve:** Services are at 6:00 and 8:30PM. The 6 PM service will feature an original poem by Justin, a short chancel drama about Mary's Ponderings, and a candlelight ceremony. The 8:30 service will include communion. Rev. Brassard's Christmas Homily is titled "Mary Did You Really Know?"

**Christmas Day:** December 25th, we will have only one service at 10:30 AM. No Sunday school or Adult Education. Rev. Gary Cox will preach on *Luke 2:21-38*: the witness of Anna and Simeon.

## 2016 Christmas Poinsettia Orders



Christmas poinsettias will be here soon. We will have 7" pots with 30 reds, 6 whites, 6 pinks, and 12 marble. The price is \$14 each. Poinsettias will be delivered on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and **all orders must be in by Sunday, December 11th**. Any questions, please contact Judyann Feinstein at [judith.a.glazener@gmail.com](mailto:judith.a.glazener@gmail.com) or 240-351-4121. Thank you!

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Given in **memory** of (please print clearly):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Or  
Given in **honor** of (please print clearly):  
\_\_\_\_\_

7" Poinsettia - Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14.00 each, for a **TOTAL of \$** \_\_\_\_\_

(Specify color)  
\_\_\_\_\_ red \_\_\_\_\_ white  
\_\_\_\_\_ pink \_\_\_\_\_ marble

**DEADLINE to place orders is Sunday, December 11th**

*Thank you so much for your generous contribution.*

*The Flower Committee.*



## PWOC

### *Winter Potluck*

All women of CCPC (you do not have to be a member of a Circle) are invited to a winter potluck luncheon after worship on Sunday, January 8th.

Come join us for great food, fellowship, and entertainment. Dane Frandsen will be providing special music for us. Mark the date on your calendar and bring a dish to share.

## *2017 Honduras Mission*

The Living Waters for the World (LWW) Honduras Mission Team is excited about its trip to the mountain village of San Jeronimo, Honduras on January 13—21 to install a clean water system and educate adults and children in the use of clean water. Members of the team are Judyann Feinstein, Julia & Claire Leaman, Paul Sell, and Marjorie & Charles Tanner.

This is Claire's first trip to Honduras.

As you can imagine, there is a lot to do to prepare for this trip. On Saturday, January 7, at CCPC from 9 AM to Noon, we will have a work morning to make name tags, assemble folders, and cut out items for use with our education classes. We really need your help. Come join us on January 7 and be a part of this ministry which will help bring clean water to the people of San Jeronimo.

## AND . . .

During last year's trip to Honduras, the team visited Barnabas House, the clinic where we did our first water system installation. The nurses there told us they had a real need for toothbrushes and toothpaste for their patients. The LWW team would like to help supply this need. We invite you, the members of CCPC, to help by contributing kids and adult toothbrushes and toothpaste (around 3 oz. size because of weight limitations). There will be a box in the office for your donations. **Deadline is January 7.**

## *Family Movie Night Potluck*

**Saturday December 3, 2016 5pm-8pm in Dodds Hall**



Please join us for a night of fun and fellowship to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with a family movie night and potluck dinner. Bring your camp chairs, blanket, pillow, and come ready to stretch out and enjoy a movie in Dodds Hall, have dinner with your church family, do a craft and make your dessert.

There will be ham and we will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a salad or side. There are 15 slots provided via SignUp Genius, also there is also a paper sign up on the kiosk in the Atrium. Please feel free to RSVP via the Facebook link or via email to [ccpckids@gmail.com](mailto:ccpckids@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome to attend and feel free to invite a friend!

## *Directory Updates*

### New Addresses

Margaret Levitan  
19121 Staleybranch Road  
Germantown, MD 20876

Dick Parlow  
907 Morattico Circle  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

# Christmas Families 2016 Schedule

The schedule in the last newsletter was not correct; Robin's fault-sorry!  
The correct schedule is below.

Day	Time	Event
Sunday, November 13		Christmas Families Kickoff
Sunday, November 20		Sign Ups Continue
Sunday, November 27		Sign Ups Continue
Sunday, November 27 – Sunday, December 4		Early Gift Drop Off (Library)
<b>Sunday, December 4</b>		<b>Final Deadline for Gift Drop Off – by Noon</b>
Wednesday, December 7	9 PM	Set Up Dodds Hall for Gift Sorting & Wrapping
Thursday, December 8	9 AM – 5 M	Gift Sorting & Checking
	6 PM – 9 PM	Gift Sorting, Checking, & Wrapping
Friday, December 9	9 AM –3 PM	Gift Wrapping
	10 AM	Pick Up Non-Perishable Food Order from Aldi's
	5 PM –9 PM	Gift Wrapping Continues
Saturday, December 10	9 AM –2 PM	Gift Wrapping Continues, if required (Time is tentative)
	2 PM – 3 PM	Reset Dodds Hall for Food Sorting (Time is tentative)
<b>Sunday, December 11</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Baked Goods Due</b>
	11:30 AM – 2 PM	Food Sorting (Water & Dry Snacks Provided)
	2 PM – 4 PM	Consolidate Gifts & Groceries
Monday, December 12	7 AM – 8 AM	Pick Up Perishable Food Order at Aldi's (Includes turkeys and chickens)
	9 AM – 1 PM	Family Pick Up/Delivery (Refreshments provided)
	6 PM –9 PM	Family Pick Up (Refreshments provided)
Tuesday, December 13	9 AM – Noon	Pick Up & Deliver Make Up Day, if needed
	Afternoon (TBD)	Clean Up Dodds Hall

## CCPC's Christmas Post Office

**The Christmas Post Office will open on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>!**

To help facilitate the sorting and delivery of your Christmas cards, the Youth ask that you observe the following courtesies:



1. Please arrange your cards in alphabetical order with a rubber band around them.
2. Do not bring cards for out of town or shut in members.
3. Please pick up your cards by January 3rd.

Donations for postage will go to the Youth Mission trip next summer.

Thank you to our Youth for taking charge of this important annual event!

Kim Tavel is the coordinator of this service.





## Adult Education Class

On December 4th, Justin Devine will continue the "Great Preachers" series by looking at Rick Warren and Joyce Meyer.

On December 11, Mary Brock will conclude the "Great Preachers" series by considering Antoinette Brown Blackwell and Julia Foote who were "called to preach" when women were prohibited from speaking in public.

## Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday & Happy Retirement to Skip Oates!



**COME JOIN US! Sunday, December 4, 2016**

We will be celebrating Skip's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and his full-retirement this December with a light lunch and birthday cake in Dodds Hall after the 10:30 AM worship service. All are welcome!

## Tiger Lillies

The Tiger Lillies finished reading "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving who writes on page 219 "Either I'm intentionally and strategically working against racism or I'm adding and abetting the system." We discussed moving from being bystanders to allies. The Tiger Lillies will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 9 when we will start discussing "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. Readers welcome to join us! Contact [andreabrassard@verizon.net](mailto:andreabrassard@verizon.net) or 301-352-0075

## Chesapeake Chorale's Christmas "Gloria"

Kick off the Christmas season with the Chesapeake Chorale on December 3, 2016 at **7:30PM** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Crofton! This annual tradition is a highlight of holiday celebrations in this area of Maryland, and this concert begins the Chorale's 36th season!

The concert will blend heartwarming, traditional carols such as "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High", arranged by Mack Wilberg, with new carols such as Rosephanye Powell's thrilling "Ring the Bells". J. S. Bach's majestic "Gloria" from Cantata No. 191 will fill out the program with Baroque splendor!

Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors or military) / Free for children (18 and under) and full-time students.

Questions? Please call 410-721-5422.

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

at

## Imagine Yoga and Wellness Center

**Saturday, December 17 at 12:00 Noon**

Wander over to Imagine Yoga and Wellness Center for their annual FREE Holiday Open House. Warm up with a cup of wassail, snack on some tantalizing treats, and allow the staff to show you everything Imagine offers year-round: Yoga, Reiki and Sound Healing, Peaceful Kids Program, Family Hip Hop, Zumba®, SoulCollage®, Modern Dance, Tango, and more. Spiritual gifts and gift certificates available.

Happy Holidays from your friends at Imagine!

# 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.

