

When we first announced the CAT Scan there was a lot of good energy I heard from people. Along with that one consistent comment: "Please make sure you actually use the data for something". This is something our committee has taken very seriously. When we first received the data, it was a bit overwhelming trying to put it all together. There were three things that stood out to me from the data itself as goals for the future:

1. An overall desire to offer more programming for a wide variety of ages.
2. A desire for more frequent mission and fellowship opportunities
3. A need to improve our overall Spiritual Vitality.

This left our team with as many questions as answers. Then, after meeting with our consultant, we agreed to utilize our summer cluster gatherings to acquire more information and figure out phase two of the plan. These gatherings were well attended and well participated in. There were a wide variety of opinions about many things, but some consistent themes arose as well as a few ideas that really struck me as exciting and feasible. *Wednesday Night Live* is a combination of those ideas and goals.

As you know, we will be kicking off *Wednesday Night Live* on January 11th. I am very excited about this program. It is not the only Cat Scan addition we have made nor will it be the last, but it is one that I think can really benefit us as a congregation. We are going to have dinner together every time. From there we are going to change it up; there will be group activities, games, mission projects, testimonies, music, messages, prayer, and more. Our goal is to engage the Holy Spirit in a variety of ways, so if you have an idea you think will work let me know. We know your time is valuable and bedtime on school nights will be looming as well as choir practice immediately following. It is going to be a fast-paced hour together.

There are three things that you can do to really help these events be a huge success:

1. COME. There is no substitute for you and your family's presence. The more of us that gather together on these nights the better they will be!
2. Invite your friends; whether they are members, neighbors, or just people you know who like church.
3. Volunteer to help for one of the nine events we have scheduled. Some of you will be contacted about doing various things for the Wednesday nights. But, many of you have gifts I do not know about; consider this a request to educate me on your gifts!

Please join us at 6 PM in Dodds Hall on January 11th for the first of these events. Bill and Cyd Radden-Lesage will be providing dinner. There will be a large group activity and a 10-minute message. Bring your kids, a friend, a neighbor and let's enjoy fellowship together!

In Christ,

Justin

P. S. Some have asked if these gatherings will replace our popular Lenten Luncheons during Lent. The answer is no. We will still have three after worship luncheons and the Sue Cobb Scholarship Dinner and Ash Wednesday Services. We are not replacing any popular program. We are trying to provide intentional opportunities for you to grow in faith, to form deeper friendships, and for newcomers to become fully included in our life and ministry. See you there!

James Brassard

Worship Notes

Jan 15th: The Sunday before MLK day. In *Luke 4:14-22*, Jesus returns to preach his first sermon in his hometown. He gets up to preach, is handed a scroll, and reads this quote from the prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recover the sight of the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Everything is great until he includes some people the congregation in Nazareth don't feel should be included in the good news.

Jan 16th: CCPC will host a community **Dr. Martin**

Luther King Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service. The service will be Monday, **January 16th at 10AM**... note the time — 10AM to accommodate the work day at Champ House and the cleanup of our drainage ditch. This year's theme is "Where do we go from here," based on a speech he gave in 1967 where he deals with hopelessness and despair in America. In response to the over 55,000 Americans who died of drug overdoses, we will hear from two local organizations that help people find hope and healing.

Jan 22nd: In *Luke 5:1-11*, Jesus shows up lakeside looking to recruit disciples. He takes a fishing trip where he produces a magnificent catch. He challenges these young men to move from making a living to making a life.

Jan 29th: *Luke 6:1-6*. Jesus gets into a conflict with the Pharisees about healing on the Sabbath. We immediately think, "no good deed goes unpunished." But, like any conflict, there is misunderstanding on both sides. Keeping the Sabbath was a practice that made living in a hostile and hectic world tolerable. How can we redeem some holy space today?

What Is Per Capita

Per capita are funds gathered from all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It allows us to connect and participate in the work of the wider church and makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to sustain our governance system. Each member is asked to pay \$38.75 from National Capital Presbytery for 2017. We appreciate your contribution toward Per Capita this year; please indicate it on your offering.



Graduation!

Congratulations to Ivy Todd!

Ivy graduated from St. Mary's in December 2016
with a BS in biochemistry.

Wishing you good luck and a bright future, Ivy!

Thank You!

On Sunday, January 1st, the Finance Committee honored Marge Clark, our long-time bookkeeper. Marge had been telling us for about a year that she wanted to retire from this “volunteer” position. Sometimes our volunteer positions work like the Supreme Court and it becomes a lifetime job. Marge wasn’t sure when she first began volunteering as the bookkeeper, but it was when the office was in what is now Dodds Hall, more than 20 years ago. She also doesn’t remember volunteering for the position, more like ordered by our own Sergeant Reba McIntyre, who had a way of knowing who could get things done.

As Don Genson put it to the congregation on Sunday morning, he is currently the Finance Chairperson, but gets to leave after three years, although, Marge just continued to serve each Chairperson as they came and went. There were many people who thanked Marge on Sunday because she would always come to their rescue if they needed a check right away. Marge tried to schedule checks once a week but would often make a special trip from Crofton to make sure someone got paid, sometimes making more than one extra trip a week. She was reluctant to take a vacation if she would miss doing the checks because she didn’t want to burden someone else with the duties.

Marge is going to leave a big hole in the Finance Committee and we haven’t totally figured out how to handle her duties in her absence. Thankfully, Marge will still be around the church wearing her other volunteer hats, although she has been in charge of the gadabouts for almost as long as bookkeeping, and thinks someone else might want a chance at the job. If you didn’t have an opportunity to thank Marge on Sunday, please know that she was one of the most integral parts of the church, and it’s never too late to tell someone of their importance. Thank you, Marge!

Dear CCPC,

I have a new address - and the same name. Surrounded by family last July 9, Hal Pease and I were married at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, where we worship when not at CCPC. We were delighted that Rev. James Brassard and Rev. Beverly Weatherly (pastor at St. Andrews) co-officiated.

We considered moving to the Annapolis area if we could find a comparable home. We decided it makes more sense to stay in southern Maryland and commute to Bowie for family, church, and friends. So, please update my address to 23136 Silverberry Way, California, MD 20619. Our home phone is 301-690-2666.

Margaret Hallau

Christmas Families

As we celebrated our family Christmas traditions, I watched my daughter enjoy everything about being together as a family for Christmas, from helping dad in the kitchen to eating delicious food and treats to opening her gifts from so many who love her. It was exactly what I envisioned for my family during the holidays and seeing the excitement she had on her face and I was again reminded of why Christmas Families holds a special place in my heart. I want every child to be able to have that same joy and excitement on Christmas! And, because of CCPC so many did. My heart is full of gratitude for everyone who helped bring the joy of Christmas to so many children this year. The support and spirit of giving shown by CCPC this year was magnificent. We brought joy to 161 children and 61 total families this year. Thank you so much to everyone who was a sponsor, to everyone who donated something, and to everyone who helped get things done so everything could run smoothly. A special thank you to Susan Brutout and Carrie Casto. These two ladies are amazing and were the hands and feet of Christmas Families this year! And, thank you also to Roxanne Johnson, who spent time passing everything on and answered many questions throughout the process.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make Christmas Families 2016 a HUGE success!

Mikaela Devine

Warm Nights

CCPC will be participating in the Warm Nights Shelter Program from January 15th to January 22nd. The program is a collaborative effort of numerous committed church congregations throughout Prince George's County that provide a rotating emergency homeless shelter. It has been in operation since the early 1990s and CCPC was the first church in Bowie to participate in the program.

Each week two churches provide shelter for 25 to 30 homeless clients. The program is managed by Community Crisis Services Incorporated (CCSI), a nonprofit organization. Previously, the program ran from mid-November through the end of March each year; however, beginning this year it will be operated year round. CCPC, like many of the other participating churches, has agreed to host the shelter for a second week. We will host our second week from May 14th through May 21st. More details will be provided in the spring.

During our week, we will provide the shelter clients with a warm place to stay from 7:00 PM until about 6:00 AM. We also will provide them with three meals a day. When they arrive they are greeted with a hot hearty dinner. In the morning, they get breakfast, and we hand them a bagged lunch as they walk out the door.

Successful participation in this program requires CCPC volunteers to perform a variety of duties. There are still many ways you can get involved. You can sign up to prepare a meal, serve as an overnight host, or help setup Dodds Hall on January 15th before the shelter clients arrive. The Mission Committee will purchase the food for the lunches, as we did last year.

We ask that volunteers sign up to prepare the lunches. Sign-up sheets and instructions are now available in the Atrium. Even if you cannot participate in any of the Warm Nights duties, I encourage you to stop by the church during our Warm Nights week. You will have an opportunity to meet the shelter clients, hear their stories, and see how our giving and caring are impacting their lives.

Paul Sell, Warm Nights Coordinator

Adult Education!

The Bible and People Who are Poor

Ever wondered what the Bible has to say about the poor? Could it speak to today's cultural and political realities? By exploring the Biblical references to the poor, you may be surprised at what the Bible has to say. Hal Pease will lead the following three-week exploration from January 15 through January 29 at 9:30 AM in the Adult Ed Conference room.

Children's Ministry Book Sale

Children's Ministry will be holding a book sale starting Sunday, January 29th through Sunday, February 5th. Books will be set up in Dodd's Hall and throughout the church. See something you like? Leave a donation in one of the boxes. If you have books you'd like to donate, please bring them to the library by January 25th. Any questions, contact Kim Tavel

80's Bash!

The January luncheon is changed to the 4th Wednesday. During the third week of January, I will be in Cancun for the wedding of my youngest son. I hope to see you on January 25th! Please note: this is only for January. We will continue with our regular schedule, which is the third Wednesday of each month, in February. If you have any questions or would like more information about the 80's Bash, please contact me at 301-262-0628.

Thank you,
Jackie Lindbeck

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

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.

