

The Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary following the 10:30 AM worship service (approximately 11:45 AM) on Sunday, February 5. A printed copy of the Annual Report is now available in the alcove. If requested, we can send you a copy of the report electronically.

I am a huge baseball fan. I started following my team, the San Francisco Giants, after my Dad took me to the windy and cold Candlestick Park to see Willie Mays play Roberto Clemente's Pirates in 1965. After that, I listened to the Giants on the radio station KGO all the way up in Washington State. I waited 24 years for them to play in a World Series and another 21 for them to win one. I have two seats from the old stadium when it was torn down 3 years ago.

Sensing that the cursed Chicago Cubs might end their 108-year title drought this year, I flew to Chicago to see my Giants play the Cubs on Labor Day weekend. My son, Oliver, and I took in the Wrigley experience and had a great time. The Cubs won two squeakers and we stayed around to sing, "Go, Cubs, Go." I doubt if there is a better fan experience than Wrigley.

On Martin Luther King Day, the championship Cubs went to the White House to be honored by Chicagoan Barack Obama. Obama is a rabid sports fan and has taken the custom of hosting Championship teams at the White house and made them memorable experiences. The President loves sports; but not just for the usual reasons of competition and teamwork and pushing yourself to succeed, he appreciates the bonding experience of the fans.

President Obama shared the fond memories that his wife, Michelle, had been a Cubs fan as a child. Michelle's father worked very hard and was usually exhausted when they sat down together to listen to the games. At the time, the Cubs were a hapless group. Cub Hall of Famer Ernie Banks used to say, "Just wait till next year," when the team was eliminated early from the Pennant. Through it all, the experience of bonding with family members while following your favorite team is what makes sports meaningful.

Baseball is particularly great for listening together. When I lived near Pittsburgh, few people actually went to a Pirates game but they all listened to the Buc's on the radio. On Sunday afternoons, people would walk the neighborhood and talk with their neighbors. The ballgame was usually heard through the window screens.

Football has replaced baseball as the national game. Sunday has become a time for family members to get together and watch their teams play. My brother, Daniel, was perhaps the only Redskins fan in Vancouver, Washington where I grew up. He watches every Redskins game with his three kids. They have caught the intense loyalty to the burgundy and gold.

Post Sportswriter Thomas Boswell penned a recent column where he stated what our society could learn from sports. I thought I would share a few of the lessons:

One, when the game is over, the game is over. After a football game, the players on opposing teams meet in the middle to congratulate each other and share their appreciation of a hard fought battle. At the end of a playoff series in hockey, a sport where it usually gets very chippy, the players line up and shake hands with everyone on the opposing team. You go as hard as you can and then when the series ends, the winners advance and the losers wait until next year. No one contests the results.

Secondly, facts matter. Sports are becoming increasingly dominated by data analysis. Sabermetric is the buzzword. Although the statistics do not tell the whole story, they explain a great deal about who wins and who losses. This is especially true over a long season. Sports teams that deny reality keep losing. Every team employs very smart people to sort through the data and develop new strategies to win. Increasingly in politics, the denial of facts is rampant. When you deny inconvenient truths, you cannot make necessary changes. Everyone suffers.

Legendary Dodger broadcaster Vin Sculley, retired at the end of last season. I listened to him call his last few games. Hearing Vin's grace and eloquence reminded me of other things our political life is missing. When you listen to baseball, there is plenty of dead time between pitches. Since teams come in for three or four games in a row, the broadcaster must spend at least 15 minutes talking about one hitter over the course of the series. Sculley uses the time to fill in the detail of each opposing player's life. You get to know the player's parents. You discover he came from communities and families, not unlike your own. Even the hated Giants are given their due. Respect for the opponents is central to good broadcasting. Broadcasters usually stick around for 20 years or longer. Players and coaches come and go but the same consistent and steady narrative plays out every year. You respect the game or you do not last.

Once the baseball season ends in October, I go into withdrawal. During the strike years, it was as if they took the rhythms of my life away. This year the new season cannot come soon enough. Thankfully, pitchers and catchers report for spring training in two weeks. The Lord is good.

Grace and peace, James Brassard

## *Worship Notes*

**February 5th:** In *Luke 7:1-17*, a traveling Jesus runs into two processions. One is the large crowd that is celebrating another miracle; the other is a family that has just lost a child. What can we learn from “The Intersection of Life and Death?” The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated. Souper Bowl of Caring Offering.

**February 12th:** In *Luke 7:18-35*, Jesus and his disciples received word that John the Baptist, in prison awaiting execution, wants to know if Jesus is indeed the real deal. What has changed from the day John enthusiastically baptized Jesus in the Jordan? Sermon is titled “When Disappointment Clouds Your Vision.”

## *CCPC Session Highlights*

**December 2016 and January 2017**

### **Library Repurposing Task Force (Emelie Rubin) Update:**

The new room name will incorporate the names of memorial funds used.

The Task Force narrowed the decorating down to 3 themes and will present a Power-Point to the church

on January 22. Voting on the theme choice will take place on January 29 and February 5 (dates of the book sale).

The budget of \$300 for ongoing expenses has been added to the Adult Ed budget.

The Grand Opening will be on May 21 (last day of Sunday School and Music Sunday)

### **Finance Council Report (Don Genson):**

**Motion** to approve the 2017 Budget. *Motion carried.*

Stewardship – The number of pledges for 2017 is down compared with the previous year, but the amount per pledge is up.

Attendance for 2016 was up (average Sunday attendance in 2015: 170; 2016 – 177)

Investment portfolio 2016: 8.5 % increase from 2015.

**Motion** to reapprove the CCPC Investment Portfolio Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Allocation strategy and Rebalance Amounts (option 8). This option forecasts out for 35+ years. *Motion carried.*

### **Projectors and Screens:**

The Session discussed the replacement of the projection screens in the front and back of the church.

New screens will allow for better viewing from all sections of the church.

**Motion** to replace the projector in the church and both the front and rear screens. Also, to move the old screen to Dodd’s Hall. Cost is approximately \$11-12,000 total including installation (Bob Brutout and Dennis Evans to install). *Motion carried.*

A gift was received from the Estate of Bud and Dessamore Hillman.

Bud and Dess were beloved members of CCPC.

The children, of Eugene and Helen Bujac, Greg, Mark, Julie, and their spouses, gave a memorial gift in honor of their parents. Eugene and Helen were founding members of the church. The family expressed their many warm and happy memories of their life at CCPC.

# What Is Per Capita

Per capita are funds gathered from all of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It allows us to connect and participate in the work of the wider church. Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ. The PC (USA), as with other faith traditions and denominations, is but a small part of the one church of Jesus Christ. We affirm that God's call is for the church to be one.

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.

## *Adult Education*

Beginning on February 5 and running into March, Adult Education will focus on "Great Christian Hymns." Join us each Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Adult Education Conference room.

## *Health & Healing*

The Health and Healing Group is again meeting on a regular basis. We are beginning a new study guide and would welcome new members to the group. The book is titled, "*Fear No Evil*." It is written by Dr. Robert Leichtman. The blurb on the cover says, "We have had for thousands of years the perfect tool for dealing with and defeating fear and anxiety. It is the 23rd Psalm." At this time when fear and anxiety are rampant, come and let us learn together how to use scripture more effectively.

We meet Wednesday mornings at 10 AM at Doris Kobe's home, which is now Apt 112 at 14997 Health Center Drive, Bowie. Call her at 240-636-2210 if you have questions.

## *LWW Team Honduras*

Late Saturday night, 21 January, the CCPC LWW team returned from another successful trip to Honduras, after helping the people of San Jeronimo install a new water purification system. While we were there, we also visited the sites we helped install in 2015 and 2016, and surveyed two new sites for future installations. We also delivered the toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by the congregation to Barnabas House Clinic, and we bought coffee to bring back to sell at \$12.00 per pound; we have both ground and whole bean, which will be sold in the Atrium on Sundays. Again, we want to thank the congregation for all your support for these mission trips, and we look forward to providing a deeper and broader report to you in the near future. We have some great pictures to share, and some engaging stories to tell.

Charles Tanner

# *CCPC Women's Retreat*

## ***Women at the Well Filling your Cup at the Spiritual Spa***

**Focus on self-care for care givers and what it means  
to allow God to provide for us**

**Leader:** Holly Ulmer – originally from Long Island, New York, Holly is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church. This year she celebrates her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving as chaplain for the United Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland. Holly finds joy in working with young adults. She has served as an on-call chaplain at Holy Cross Hospital for 16 years.

**Retreat Coordinators:** Cyd and Cheyenne Radden-Lesage

**Friday, March 31 (after 3 PM)  
through  
Sunday, April 2 (11 AM)**

**The Claggett Center  
3055 Buckeystown Road  
Adamstown, MD 21720**

**Accepting registrations now through February 26th!**

Please pay a deposit of one-half of the fee by February 26

The rest of the fee is due no later than March 12

If you pay in full by February 26, you get a \$10 discount!

Accommodations are two-person rooms

5 meals – Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast

4 meals – Saturday breakfast through Sunday breakfast

Double room with 5 meals/4 meals = \$205/\$190

It is possible for three or four to share a room (and beds).

There are no extra beds.

Triple room with 5 meals/4 meals = \$195/\$180

Quad room with 5 meals/4 meals = \$190/\$170

Scholarship money is available!

Contact Marjorie Tanner (301-464-2667) or

Jackie Lindbeck (301-262-0628)

## *Children's Ministry Book Sale*

Children's Ministry is having a book sale starting now 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 at [tavkm@comcast.net](mailto:tavkm@comcast.net) or 240-508-4395.

## *Sue Cobb Memorial Scholarship Pancake Dinner*

Shrove Tuesday, February 28, is the date for the Sue Cobb pancake supper in Dodds Hall at 6 p.m. The purpose of the pancake supper is to raise money for the Sue Cobb Scholarship Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a high school graduate of CCPC.

Sue Cobb was an active member of CCPC. She served on the session and was very involved in mission. Sue loved, and lived for, serving others. She fought a courageous seven-year battle against ovarian cancer.

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to come have pancakes to support the Sue Cobb Scholarship Fund!

## *Wednesday Night Live Volunteers Needed!*

Looking for people to make dinner for Wednesday night live. You will be reimbursed for the cost. If interested, there is a signup sheet in the Atrium. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Tavel at [tavkm@comcast.net](mailto:tavkm@comcast.net) or 240-508-4395.

Haven't heard of Wednesday Night Live before? Well, come on out and give it a try. Enjoy an hour of food, fun, and fellowship. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM in Dodds Hall. For February, they will be on the 1st and the 15th. For March, the 1st and the 15th. For April, the 5th and 19th; and for May, the 17th. Hope to see you all there.



# Courageous Conversations in Guatemala!

Can you imagine preaching and telling your very personal story of abuse from the pulpit?



Margot, a student from the “escuela socio teologica” a presbytery seminary that teaches students to be pastors and community organizers, felt the call to share her story. It was the day after 45 women and men from her presbytery, seminary and partner church from Madison, WI came together to learn about domestic violence and made plans for their churches to be more

involved. Margot had experienced all forms of abuse by her husband and the father of her three boys. It was when her six-year old son tried to protect her and then he was beaten, that she knew it was time to leave.

The safety and support of her family and church gave her the courage and ability to leave. Today she is the mother of teenage boys and a strong, independent woman with a goal to pastor a church and work for change in her community. Guatemala is extremely patriarchal and each day women are killed because of their gender.

There are only eight women pastors in the 400+ Presbyterian churches and few women elders. For the Sinodica (Presbyterian Women of Guatemala) to courageously step out with hopes of change, is huge! In our work as Mission Co-workers, Brian and I support leadership development with the Presbyterian women. For over 30 years, I have worked in the domestic violence and sexual assault field and know too well that violence against women is a global issue. I am thrilled to see the strength of their commitment to not be silent. Leaders have decided it's time to devote the year to having “courageous conversations” in the church. The Sinodica has strategically prioritized ways to address what has impacted too many women and families.

First, a team of leaders will be trained working with CEDEPCA (another PCUSA partner) to go out into the 25 presbyteries educating con-

gregations about domestic violence and ways they can support victims.

Second, there will be a training for the men. “*Men in the Mirror*” is a curriculum written by Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick from Western N.C. presbytery. Kevin will be in Guatemala in February, 2017 providing a two-day retreat for over 40 men. The curriculum has been translated into Spanish. Men will learn to be more reflective, thus better husbands and fathers. They will go and teach in their churches.

And last, several micro-loan workshops will be offered to women. Micro-loans are a way for women to have a small business and earn money which increases their ability to be independent. Each of these efforts are ways to change the norm of their churches and communities with the hopes of less violence and healthier communities.

Margot's story is only one that we've heard from our Presbyterian sisters in Guatemala where she was preaching. Abuse happens with wives of pastors.

Child sexual abuse is a problem and we've heard of a teacher molesting girls in a rural school. We are honored to be walking with the Sinodica as they courageously work towards change. Please pray for us and consider supporting our work. Consider inviting us to your Spring or Fall gatherings in 2017. [sandi.thompson-royer@pcusa.org](mailto:sandi.thompson-royer@pcusa.org)

This photo is from a recent sexual abuse training for young women of the Mam Presbytery in September.





# Pin Oak Village

*A Senior Rental Community*

## OPEN HOUSE

*Refreshments & Raffles!  
Apartment & Community Tours !*



**WEDNESDAYS**  
**February 1st, 8th, & 15th**  
**5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**SATURDAYS**  
**February 4th, 11th, & 25th**  
**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**



1 & 2 Bedrooms Available for Seniors 55+ Years  
1 BD: \$1168 \*      2 BD: \$1384  
*ADA-Accessible Apartments*

APPLICATION FEE: \$22 Per Person  
(Check/Money Order Only)  
Please Bring Photo ID & SS Card

# 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.

