

I do not know much about dreams. I have heard they are helpful in processing some of the things about which you are anxious. I do know that when I am not sleeping well I am not only tired and restless but I worry more. Several years ago, a therapist friend suggested I keep a paper and pen beside my bed so I could write down the content of my dreams so I could perform some self-analysis. Not surprisingly, I discovered that I have frequent church dreams. Some of those dreams are pleasant, others not so much.

In the pleasant dreams, I am not leading worship but sitting in the pews. In these dreams, the Sanctuary is full, the choir is hitting all the right notes, and the sermon addresses all my deepest spiritual longings. Best yet, all the Christian friends I really enjoy are seating next to me. A friend of mine says these dreams are “sleep-peeks” into heaven.

The more common and worrisome dreams are all variations on the same theme. They are not nightmares but they are full of pastoral anxieties. Dream expert’s call them can’t get ready in time dreams. In all these dreams, the service is about to start, the Sanctuary is packed, and I cannot seem to find my sermon notes. Usually, I am frantically searching my office. Sometimes my computer fails to turn on or the printer doesn’t work. In others, I am well prepared but for some reason, I am dressed in my workout clothes. As unsettling as these classic dreams are, they are better than the ones I had when I first started in ministry. One of those was the service was starting and I was locked in the bathroom naked. A plumber friend of mine who works with housing contractors has a similar dream. The new owners are bringing in their furniture and the pipes break ruining an expensive custom kitchen. An attorney friend said he has similar dreams and they really used to bother him. He accepts them now because he thinks he has these dreams because he cares so much about doing his job well. “If you don’t care about doing good work for those you serve, you probably wouldn’t worry too much about deadlines,” says Jeff.

I like that. You are anxious because you care so much. Somehow, that almost balances out Jesus words in the Sermon on the Mount about not being anxious. Michael Lindvall, pastor at Brick Presbyterian in New York City writes that he feels liberated from putting too much emphasis on being hyper-prepared by reciting a little prayer by writer T. S. Elliot that goes, “Teach us to care and not to care.” On the one hand, it encourages him to be fittingly anxious about the work he is called to do — work he is convinced is making a difference. On the other hand, it frees him from the vain and crushing burden of imagining everything depending on him and what he does.

Whenever I feel like I have too much riding on my performance I remember the old story about the women with three children and served as the principal of a small town elementary school. She worked from before dawn until past dark. When she got home, more duties awaited her. The one break in her day was to go to the train station and watch the only train come into town, drop off passengers, and then depart. Noticing this odd practice, a parent of one of her students asked her why she came to the station every day. The women answered, “It’s the only thing that comes and goes in this town without me making it happen.”

The great 20<sup>th</sup>-century theologian Karl Barth once imagined himself dying and entering heaven. He brought along a wheelbarrow in which he piled all his masterful papers and books and sermons. As he pushes the wheelbarrow through the gates the angels’ started laughing at him. Karl, they said, “We admire your passion and your tireless good work, but up here, nothing matches up to the eternal truth and unspeakable love of God. We know you love Jesus and have faithfully shared his message, but you take yourself far too seriously. Relax, welcome home.”

My unpleasant church dreams come far less frequently. They’ve been replaced by golf dreams where I cannot take a full swing because I am trying to hit the ball through a hallway in the church. I take both these dreams to indicate I still care and want to make a difference, but also as a reminder to not take myself too seriously.

Sweet Dreams,  
James Brassard



# Worship Notes

**April 30th:** In the *Book of Acts*, the Holy Spirit takes over for Jesus in leading the early church. That Spirit produces a community that cares deeply and serves unselfishly. This growing community is not however free from conflict. The first Deacon, Stephen, becomes the first one martyred for his powerful witness. Text is *Acts 6:1-7:2 and 7:54-8:3*

**May 7th:** Our Second Annual Children's Sunday. Justin Devine's text is the *Parable of the Good Shepherd* found in *John 10:10*. The congregation will get the Children's Church version of this ageless lesson.

**May 14th:** Happy Mother's Day! We will begin a three-week series on Paul's letter to the church in Galatia. *Galatians 1:13-17; 2:1-21* talks about being saved by faith. What does this mean? What sort of benefits should this produce in our daily living?



## Memorial Day Parade

The City of Bowie will be holding their annual Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 27, 2017.

The parade will begin at 11 pm and end approximately 1 pm. The route will be the same as last year's, which starts at Bowie High School Annex on Belair Drive, turning right and continuing down toward Sussex Lane, directly pass CCPC.

**The road in front of the church will be closed during this time; you will not be able to drive on Belair Drive or into the church parking lot.**



## Children's Sunday



May 7, 2017  
10:30 am  
Service

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

## Warm Nights

**No, this is not a typo!** 😊

CCPC will be hosting Warm Nights from May 14 to 21. CCSi, the organization that manages Warm Nights, is trying to run the shelter year round. This year it will run through June. When it starts up again in September, they hope to keep it open permanently. There are many opportunities for CCPC volunteers to provide support. You can prepare breakfast or dinner, make bagged lunches with supplies provided by Mission Council, serve as an overnight host or help set up the cots and equipment in Dodds Hall on Sunday, May 14th. We know that May is a very busy month for many families, but we hope you can fit in a little time to support this important mission program.





## *Birth Announcement*

Welcome

*Darrow William Sumner*

Born on Sunday, April 17, 2017.

Proud parents are Christopher  
and Katherine Sumner.

And, proud great-grandmother is  
Jane Sumner.

Congratulations, Jane and the  
Sumner family!



## *Thank You!*

As a CCPC member, I will al-  
ways remember the great sup-  
port during my recent need.

Even though I'm not a bard, my  
heart felt great from the cards.  
The circle dinners were winners.

My heart grew warm when my  
needs were met. I am not a  
bard, but this is my written part  
to say thank you from my heart.

Jackie Lindbeck

## *CCPC Directory*

We will be printing a new contacts only  
section of the CCPC directory. If your  
information needs updating and you  
never passed on the information to  
Robin, please let her know by Thursday,  
June 1, 2017. You can send her an  
email at [ccpcbowie@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcbowie@verizon.net), give  
her a call at (301) 262-6008, or drop the  
information in her mailbox in the church  
office.

The updated directories will be on the  
shelf in the alcove in the Narthex  
around the end of summer. If you have  
any questions, please feel free to con-  
tact Robin.  
Thank you!



## *Directory Updates*

Please update your directory to:

Anita and Mark Pesses' new address:  
9198 Silverline Drive  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

# *Session Highlights*

**April 2017**

## **Report from the Director of Christian Education – Justin Devine**

- ♦ Sue Cobb Pancake Dinner had 102 people.
- ♦ Montreat will be held July 30th through August 5th.
- ♦ Wednesday Night Live continues to be well-attended.

## **CAT Scan Working Group**

- ♦ The working group had a follow-up meeting on March 23 to discuss next steps for the CAT Scan and the topic regards worship service style. A full report will be forthcoming.

## **CCPC Web Site**

- ♦ Anita Pesses asked that Session members look at their respective website pages. A volunteer is being solicited to take over the website.

## **Coffee Hour Sign Up**

- ♦ Joe Love is coordinating coffee sign up – volunteers are needed to sign up on a regular basis

## **CCPC New Playgroup**

- ♦ Emelie Rubin reported that a new playgroup will meet up at the playground on Saturday mornings during the spring and summer. All are welcome.

**The Bowie Senior Chorale celebrates**

# **100 years**

**Tickets are on Sale Now!**



### **Three Performances**

#### ***The Bowie Senior Center***

Wednesday, May 10 at 4:00 pm

Thursday, May 11 at 1:00 pm

and

#### ***The Bowie Center for Performing Arts***

Wednesday, May 17 at 7:30 pm

BCPA Tickets \$8.00, nonrefundable

### **The Bowie Senior Center**

14900 Health Center Drive

Bowie, Maryland 20716

(301) 809-2300

[lraymond@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lraymond@cityofbowie.org)

[kwhite@cityofbowie.org](mailto:kwhite@cityofbowie.org)



## *Ancestry for the Soul*

The Adult Education hour, on May 7th and May 14th at 9:30 am in the Adult Education Conference Room, will feature presentations on how to find your ancestral roots. The internet, in particular, is useful for uncovering your ancestors, but there are many other sources for information in putting together your family story.

The presentations will be led by Thad Uehling and Dick Neff, who have extensive background in conducting genealogical research.

Questions are encouraged.

Please join us. All are welcome!

## *Lady Tigers*

Lady Tigers Book Group are meeting twice a month at 10:30am in the CCPC Parlor. We are currently wrapping up our discussion of "Louisa -The Extraordinary life of Mrs. Adams" (wife of John Quincy).

Beginning May the 15, we will be discussing 'Hillbilly Elegy' by JD Vance, then the book by Jodi Picoult titled, "Small Great Things."

Stay tuned for our list of summer reads.

We welcome one and all.

For information call  
Bea Uehling at 410-741-1883 or  
Anne Shelby at 301-262-1412.

# *Ricci Rogel Music Studio Recital*

You are cordially invited to hear the students of Ricci Rogel Music Studios present their spring recital on Saturday, May 6 at 3 PM in the Sanctuary. There will be a reception following the performance in the atrium. Enjoy varied classical piano pieces and several vocal selections included in this recital. CCPC members Alaina Clemence and Anthony Neff are both performing on this recital.



## *Mia Elson Voice Recital*

**Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 PM**

Please join us in the Sanctuary to hear a delightful spring evening recital. Mia Elson, a resident of Bowie and graduate of both Towson University and the Manhattan School of Music, will present a program including works by Mozart, Strauss, Gounod, Rachmaninoff and Marx, as well as several musical theatre selections. Ms. Elson will be heading to Darmstadt, Germany this summer to sing in two different Mozart operas. She will be accompanied in this recital by pianist Susan Ricci Rogel.



# Wednesday Night Live

## **Last One for this Season!**

On May 17, come on out for our last Wednesday Night Live event for this season. Enjoy an hour of food, fun, and fellowship. We will start dinner at 6:00 PM in Dodds Hall, so bring a friend and your appetite and enjoy a family friendly activity along with a midweek message.

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# Playground Meet Up

## Calling all kids!



Join us on the CCPC playground every Saturday at 9:30am for playtime and socializing (weather permitting).

We've been meeting since the first Saturday after Easter, and plan to continue meeting weekly through the spring and summer.

# 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.

