

After we arrived in Denver early last Tuesday, Andrea and I drove down to Colorado Springs. We had lunch and then attempted to drive up the 19-mile highway to the clouds to the top of Pikes Peak. We were stopped a half mile short of the top when a snowstorm shut down the road. I was disappointed. We turned back and endured a heavy hailstorm on the way to the hotel downtown. Crazy weather!

We had a lovely dinner that night with former CCPC friends: Pete, Marie, Erin, and Ben Farney.

If you love mountains, you would love Colorado. The state boasts of 54 peaks that exceed 14,000 feet. From almost anywhere in the state you can see the snowcapped Rockies, even in June. Hiking and mountain biking are sports Colorado natives embrace once the ski season ends.

Climbing prominent mountains has made its way onto the bucket lists of type A personalities. In recent years, Nepal has had to limit the number of climbers attempting to reach the summit of Mount Everest. The numerous fatalities, some graphically portrayed in movies, have not deterred the ambitious and/or, foolhardy.

On June 7, the *New York Times* had an article about the record-breaking ascent of California's Yosemite Valley's spectacular El Capitan. This 3000-foot sheer vertical granite wall attracts sports climbers from around the world. You have certainly seen pictures of climbers suspended from the face in their overnight sleeping bags. In 2011 "60 Minutes" ran a segment on climbers who successfully scale the mountain without ropes or other paraphernalia clipped to pre-drilled bolts or wedged into the cracks. These daredevils are called free solos. On June 3, Alex Honnold, 31, made what is being called the greatest climbing feat yet, a free solo up the wall in only four hours.

Immediately after the ascent, *Times* reporter Mike McPhae asked Honnold several questions. *What goes into preparing for a climb like this?* Honnold said it is half-mental and half-physical. The physical side of it is quite a bit of work. Going on the training wall every day to figure out the different holds that feel the most secure. The mental side is the bigger unknown. That's the part where you just imagine the whole experience and process it for a long time then wait until you are ready.

Were there any doubts going into the climb? Not so much, Honnold replied. "A couple of years ago when I looked at the wall it was all fear. But now, because of the preparation, and all the time I've spent visualizing and imagining when I got to the peak this morning, all I could think was, this is going to be awesome."

We live in an age where things that were only recently imagined are coming true. Space X goes up and launches its satellites into space and then backs down to a pinpoint landing on a barge with greater ease than I can parallel park my Prius. We have driverless cars. Siri and Alexa instantly provide for all our needs with just a voice command.

In his book, "Drawdown," Editor Paul Hawkins details the 100 most substantial solutions to reverse global warming. In the face of widespread fear and apathy, an international coalition of researchers, professionals, and scientists has come together to offer a set of realistic and bold solutions to climate change. These solutions currently exist, are economically viable, and communities around the world are currently enacting them with skill and determination. The editor believes that if deployed collectively on a global scale over the next 30 years, they offer a credible path to not only slowing carbon emissions but also drawing down the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The plans also save trillions of dollars and produce millions of jobs.

Like the climb up El Capitan, it all started with Alex Honnold's imagination. Then, over a period of three years, he devised a simple but competent action plan. The impossible is made to look almost easy. There are few things the human mind cannot accomplish. Never underestimate the good that is possible when people use their God-given gifts to work for the improvement of human society.

If you have sporty children, maybe they should consider climbing. Climbing on artificial walls will be an Olympic event at the 2020 Tokyo games. Get outside and enjoy God's beautiful creation.

Grace and peace,
James Brassard

Worship Notes

June 25th: Service of Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons. Rev. Brassard will preach on the vow to serve the Church with “intelligence, imagination and love.” The text is Romans 12:1-2

July 2nd: Communion Service: Rev. Brassard will begin a five-week series on Paul’s letter to the Church in Philippi. The Apostle is known for his acerbic tongue. His letters often have a pleading edge asking, why can’t we all get along? However, in Philippi, we get an encouraging love letter to a congregation he started and whose witness to Jesus warms his heart. During July, we will celebrate the qualities and practices that bring us joy. Text is Philippians 1:1-18a.



AN OPEN INVITATION

**Adult Ed Conference room
at 7:30 pm on July 12, 2017**

Join us for the Worship Council planning meeting on fall worship services. With the upcoming schedule change, including the reintroduction of a contemporary service at 9am, there are many issues to be worked out.

A few folks have asked questions about what and why this is happening. In an effort to provide greater clarity and transparency, the music and program staff, and Session leadership, decided to offer members with questions and concerns an opportunity to discuss them.

All are welcome!

CCPC Newsletter

The Caller

There will be one newsletter only going out in July. It will be going out on July 21st.
The deadline for articles is by **9am Wednesday, July 19th.**

CCPC Folk Group

Reunion

Saturday, June 17, 2017 at CCPC

Meet & Greet — enjoy tacos and a sing-a-long

Sunday, June 18, 2017 in the Sanctuary

Folk Group Worship Service

Harold Pease will be preaching / Dorothy Parris will be leading the folk group

For more information, please contact:

Sheree Ruhl 301-346-2368 or Carl Neumann neu3206mann@gmail.com or 301 464 8879

Church Directory Updates

Please update your church directory with the following information:

Margaret Hallau

hallaumargaret@gmail.com

Nancy Honeyford

nancyhoneyford@gmail.com

Astrid Jonas

ajonas0604@gmail.com

Anita and Mark Pesses

9198 Silverline Drive
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Cluster Gatherings

The following Clusters will gather in Dodds Hall after the 10:30 am worship service:

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Cluster 2 = Deb Cooper
Cluster 9 = Debbie Sell
Cluster 13 = Sherry Saylor

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Cluster 3 = Pat Ashby
Cluster 12 = Sharon Youngdahl
Cluster 15 = Betsy McArdle

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Cluster 7 = Tracy Backus
Cluster 11 = Debbie Armstrong
Cluster 14 = Karin Rice

Memorial Brick Ceremony

Brick Order Deadline

The Annual Memorial Brick Ceremony will be held at 12 Noon on
Sunday, September 24, 2017

The deadline for brick orders is by 9 AM, Friday, June 30th

Please: this is a strict deadline as time is needed for the orders to be processed, bricks to be made, delivered to the shop, picked up from the shop, and laid in the pathway.

Bricks are \$50.00 each.

The order forms are in the church office or you can contact Robin in the church office (301-262-6008 or ccpcbowie@verizon.net) and she can assist you with the form over the phone.

Ordination & Installation

On Sunday, June 25, 2017, CCPC will be ordaining and/or installing new officers to the Session during the 10:30 am worship service. New Officers are Mercy Arrey; Pat Ashby; Tracy Backus; Judy Frank; Jane Mellow; Rachel Oben; Bridget Peters; Karin Rice; Ellen Wimbish; and Jen Woods.

Vacation Bible School

June 19 through June 22 from 6 to 8:30 pm.

Children age 3 (potty trained) through
Grade 6 (Fall 2017)

\$10.00 for 1 child or \$15.00 for 2+ children

Contact Justin Devine: ccpcdirced@verizon.net or 707-344-332



Our Father
who art in
heaven . . .



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.

