

When David was nearing the end of his illustrious reign as King of a unified Israel, he called the people of Jerusalem together. He told them that he wanted to honor the God who had so generously blessed him and the people of the Kingdom. David, acting on behalf of his young son Solomon, who had been chosen to succeed him, offered up most of his accumulated wealth to build the Temple. The size of his offering was staggering. He then challenged the people, saying, "Who then will offer willingly, consecrating themselves today to the Lord?" The response of the people was overwhelming. Work on the long-anticipated Temple soon began, but it would be dedicated after David's death.

David was not a perfect man. He committed adultery and covered it up. He had blood on his hands. Yet, he is remembered as a man after God's own heart. David had a single mind about God. He always acknowledged that everything he had was due to God's provision. He was convinced it was to be used to serve God's purposes. David was always clear that if he and his people put God first, God would give them the strength and power to succeed.

When my kids were little I doubt if they knew where the money came from to feed and clothe them, to transport them to school, and heat the house in the winter. They probably figured it had something to do with Dad's job at the church. They soon learned that this was made possible in part by the money they inserted each Sunday morning in the children's offering envelopes they then placed in the basket during opening worship in Sunday School. They heard many times the words we say before the plates are passed: "We return to God a portion of what God has so generously given us."

Since I became a pastor 33 years ago, I have always tithed (contributed 1/10th of my income). When the kids were young, this was difficult. I am astonished at how frugal I was back then. The practice taught me to not want fancy things or to spend every dollar that was left over at the end of the month. With the help of my parents, I faithfully saved for my kid's college educations. It all worked out. I am very thankful. God has been good.

Over the years, some things have changed in how we fund the work of the church. Today, most people pay their bills electronically. Several people tell me the only check they write is to CCPC. A few years ago we encouraged people to utilize the: "bill pay" option at their bank to set up systematic and regular payment of their pledge. About 15 people currently submit their offering using this method. More recently, many members have requested we establish an online giving option so they can set up regular contributions that systematically come out of their debit or credit card accounts. We are in the process of setting this up. It will be in effect by the end of the year. We are committed to making it easier for you to give consistently and efficiently.

The other thing that has changed at CCPC is that about 10% of our total income of \$600,000 (this includes the many special mission and disaster relief offerings that are included in over \$150,000 of church-supported mission work in 2017) comes from income derived from the assets in our Endowment Fund. These funds have grown thanks to the legacies given through the estates of our members. Like King David, they contributed out of the wealth they had accumulated during their working years. The gifts from their estates enable them to continue to fund the many ministries of the church long after they have entered the heavenly kingdom. Going forward, churches without endowments are not going to be able to run full programs and generously support mission efforts. Please consider including CCPC in your estate plan.

In anticipation of the Dedication of our Estimate of Giving cards on **November 19**, I ask you to reflect on how God has richly blessed you this year. Then enable God to bless you by taking a step in faith by giving sacrificially to the work of CCPC. Together, God will continue to transform lives with the good news.

In service together,
Rev. James Brassard

Remember: The Stewardship Brunch is between services (10-11AM) on November 19. All the fabulous food and drink is provided for you in celebration of your generosity and service. Everyone is welcome.

Worship Notes

November 5: In *I Samuel 18*, King Saul is overtaken by “an evil spirit”. The evil spirit transforms this confidence leader into someone who is so fearful of losing power that he attacks his most loyal follower, David. What does the fear of losing power and position cause us to do? How can we prevent this from happening? Communion will be observed at both services. Come support Mission at the **Alternative Christmas Market from 10-2PM**

November 12: In *I Chronicles 29:1-15*, we find King David at his proudest moment: The Generous Offering of his wealth for the building of the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem. David acknowledges that all blessings come from God and warns that these blessings can quickly be taken away. How does a commitment to giving of glory to God keep us in God’s saving grace?

November 19 - Consecration Sunday: We will dedicate our 2018 Estimate of Giving Cards at both services. At **10AM, we will enjoy a Stewardship Brunch** with an extensive menu that includes some international dishes. We begin a series on the Prophets. Amos is a shepherd from a small town located far from the city of Jerusalem. As an outsider, he challenges the injustices that the city elites have long ignored and long profited. It has been said, “If you like Amos — you don’t understand him.” He famously calls for “*justice to roll down like waters, and righteousness as an ever flowing stream.*” Text is Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24.

SCRIP Cards

Our SCRIP fundraiser begins on November 5 and ends on November 19

SCRIP fundraising gift cards are the same gift cards you would normally purchase from a retailer in your local retail stores, and they work the same way. CCPC Youth Ministry can earn up to a 15% rebate on each purchased gift card and 100% of the proceeds go to our Youth retreats (such as Winter retreat and Montreat).

Using SCRIP couldn’t be easier. You can purchase gift cards for places where you plan to shop, and use those cards instead of cash or credit. This fundraiser is done by CCPC Youth twice a year, once in Spring; once in Fall.

The cards will come in after Thanksgiving. During the fundraiser, the Youth will be in the CCPC Atrium after church at a table distributing the SCRIP order form and list of retailers, and collecting the completed order form and accompanying check.

All order forms are due by Noon on November 19th

Two or three weeks later, the Youth will hand out the gift cards to those who ordered them. Since the holidays are just around the corner, keep family, friends, and others in mind when you fill out your order forms. You can also take forms for non-CCPC congregation members to use, just as long as they return them by the due date.

If you have any questions, please contact Justin Devine or Joi Kesner at ccpcyouth15@gmail.com or 707-344-3325

Friendly Reminder for the
Christmas Market

Sunday, November 5th from 10 AM to 2 PM

NOTE: Time change due to the new service schedule

Give a Gift That Cares — your gift donation to any of the organizations given in the name of someone in your family, a friend, or a coworker will help improve the quality of life for people here and around the world. There will be tables representing organizations that work in Bowie, in the United States, and in countries from Honduras to South Sudan. The gifts will provide disaster assistance, clean water, literacy instruction, animals, needed supplies for our fire department, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

Children will be encouraged to participate with gifts in their price range and a passport to travel to the various locations that they can help. There will be a Soup Kitchen to get a delicious, warm lunch. If anyone would like to help out in the soup kitchen, please contact Debbie Sell at 301-928-9267. This year we plan to have kid-friendly food along with the soup. You can purchase your gifts and finish the shopping with a lunch and fellowship. If you have any questions you can call Sharon McNamara at 301-262-7060 or Kris Ross at 240-206-8787.

It's a Party in **Pink!**

No Warrior goes to battle alone!



Join us as we love



Peggy Oates & Debbie Armstrong

Through their current battles

Please join us

Sunday, November 12, 2017

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm (after 2nd Service) in Dodd's Hall

**Wear PINK if you have it, enjoy a "photo booth", eat light lunch
and love on our friends!**

Adult Education!

No Adult Education will take place on Sunday, November 5th, please visit the Christmas Gift Market in Dodd's Hall!!!

Adult Education in November/December 2017

Psychology and Faith

5-week series

November 12 and 26, and December 3, 10, and 31

Psychology addresses fundamental questions such as: How do we understand ourselves? Why do we think, feel, and behave the way we do?

In the series, Psychology and Faith, we will discuss how psychological insights may complement a faith-centered life. Please join us for a lively discussion. No background in Psychology is needed to participate!

Psychological Perspectives and Faith Perspectives

November 12

Our Bodies, Our Brains, Our Faith

November 26

Sensation, Perception, & Faith: How do we know what is Real?

December 3

Personality: Freud, Original Sin, and much more...

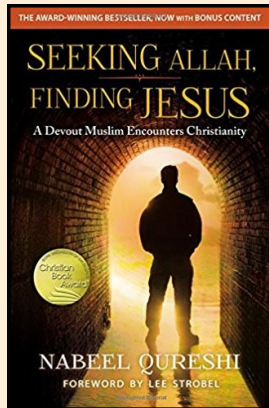
December 10

Social Psychology and the Practice of Faith

December 31

- On the same dates in November and December, Living Christian in a Secular World continues in the Belair Room!
 - No Adult Education on Sunday, November 19 — please enjoy the Stewardship Brunch.
 - No Adult Education on Sunday, December 17 — please enjoy the Christmas Program in Dodd's Hall.
- No Adult Education on Sunday, December 24 — only one service at 11am. Special music will begin at 10:30am.

Any questions, contact Jennifer Woods.



Men's Book Group

Book Summary

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus by Nabeel Qureshi

The author, Nabeel Qureshi, chronicles his dramatic personal journey from being raised in Islam to his conversion to Christianity. The story is a first person account of the family, friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams the author encounter in his journey to Christianity. The story is an enlightening window of the Muslim faith, Muslim culture, and a peek into the day-to-day Muslim world in a very personal and moving way. While the story is about Nabeel's journey, it also offers insight into the difficulties emigrant families experience in attempting to preserve their native culture for their children once settled in the United States.

Nabeel was raised in a loving Muslim family that had immigrated to the United States. Nabeel's father served in the United States Navy. As a child, he was never invited into a Christian home of a classmate. All family and social life was within the Muslim culture and community. Other than being enrolled in public schools, his youth was sheltered in the Muslim community of his emigrant parents.

As a young Muslim, Nabeel, took great pride in his Muslim education and his ability to take on most Christians he encountered on any biblical topic and eviscerate their arguments concerning either Christianity or Islam. However, upon entering college, he meets his equal — a fellow student and fellow debate team member, a Christian named David Wood. They soon became best friends. It is through a long series of encounters and discussions with, or facelifted by, David that Nabeel navigates his difficult journey and eventually accepts Christ.

This book is helpful and provides insight on so many levels. The Saturday Morning Panera Men's Book Group highly recommends this book to anyone and everyone.

Bill Radden Lesage



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

W O M E N' S C O R N E R

Kindness

Thanksgiving comes to mind when you think about celebrations in November. Veterans Day is also celebrated by many organizations and families. You can find like-minded individuals who pick a date on the calendar, to celebrate almost anything. Some are just fun and some are practical. Here are just a few I found in November:

- Nov. 3 – Sadie Hawkins Day (not very inspirational for Today's Women)
- Nov. 7 – Tongue Twister Day (Could be fun for a classroom or office)
- Nov. 15 – Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day (probably a good idea)
- Nov. 18 – Use Less Stuff Day (many good ideas could come from this celebration)
- Nov. 23 – Listening Day (you are encouraged to “thank” a teacher and listen to him/her)
- Nov. 29 – National Square Dance Day (good exercise as I remember from my younger days)

Let's focus on November 13, **WORLD KINDNESS DAY!**

Kindness Day is a celebration of **kindness**, which aims to increase the value of **kindness** in society as well as increase the amount of kind acts that take place, making **kindness** a greater part in our daily life. Kindness day was born when a collection of humanitarian groups came together in 1997 and made a “Declaration of Kindness”. Pledging to commit just one act of kindness: hold the door open for a stranger, compliment your neighbor's garden gnome, let your partner have control of the TV remote for the evening.

Kindness Day isn't just about grand actions like adopting all the children from your local orphanage – it's about the little gestures of kindness. Helping others can restore a sense of humanity, not to mention giving you that warm fuzzy glow inside.

So, imagine as you head out for the day and your neighbor's garbage can has tipped over. Instead of ignoring it and letting the wind make a mess, you pick it up and return it to the corner. Three other neighbors notice and give you a smile and a nod on their way to work.

One of those neighbors notices a stranded driver on the side of the road on his commute to work. He remembers your thoughtfulness and offers assistance to the stranded driver. Several passersby take notice.

At a business office, a woman struggles with a paper jam. She's had a horrible day. The customer has been waiting, but she remembers the stranded driver she passed earlier in the day. The customer lets the office worker know to take her time.

We each have the potential to improve each others' lives through understanding and kindness. Whether it's a friend, family member, coworker or stranger, our ability to show our humanity should have no limits.

On World Kindness Day, let your compassion shine brightly. Get caught showing as much kindness as possible. However you decide to celebrate remember that it doesn't cost a thing!

CCPC Work Day!

Join us on

**Saturday
November 18th
9 AM to Noon**

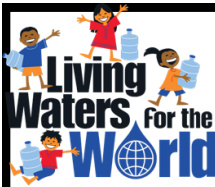


We need people to help with odd jobs around the church: raking leaves, replacing light bulbs; etc.

If you are available,
we sure could use your help!

Hope to see you there!

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and
not for men
~ Colossians 3:23 ~



From October 18-22, Judyann Glazener and I attended Clean Water University at the Hopewell Conference Center in Oxford, MS. Clean Water U. is the training school for Living Waters for the World (LWW).

We were part of Class 58 and met students who came from all over the United States as well as two wonderful young adults attending the training one from Peru and one from Guatemala.

Judyann and I were in the class called "Session 103" which provided training on how to install, maintain, and troubleshoot the LWW water purification system. Judyann had been trained previously in the education component (Session 102) and I had been trained previously in the overall project management course (Session 101).

We had a wonderful time during the five days that filled us with a renewed spirit and dedication to the mission of bringing clean water to all of God's children!

Did you know:

- 663 million people lack access to safe drinking water
- The effect of this alarming reality is that nearly 2 million children die each year from preventable water-related diseases. In fact, water-related illness is the leading cause of death among children across the globe.

Over 2,000 volunteers have been trained at Clean Water U, and they, in turn, have engaged five times as many volunteers as mission team members. Together, they have installed over 880 Living Waters for the World water purification systems in 25 countries.

Please come by the Christmas Market on November 5 in Dodd's Hall to talk to either Judyann or I about our experiences at Clean Water U or stop us anytime to discuss this important mission project. For more information visit the website: <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org>

The CCPC LWW team's next water system installation is in Honduras in January 2018!

Julia Leaman



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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.

