

**T**he surf was rough this morning at the National Capital Presbytery's "Calming the Waves" retreat for clergy and spouses in Ocean City. The pounding 41-degree water didn't, however, deter a lone surfer in a wetsuit trying to take advantage of the big waves.

Thanks to a generous gift of a Presbyterian elder 65 of us gathered at the Dunes Manor Resort for 2 days of worship, bible study, and fellowship over meals. We all enjoyed the break. It seems like this was an especially long and tough January. The January 29 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine cover shows a shivering woman waiting for a bus with a calendar with brief descriptions of the day's theme. January 1: Hangover, January 2: Lost keys in the snow, January 5: Slipped on ice. A three-day stretch: cold, grey, ugly. For three days in the middle of the month, it just says "flu." January 23: "Still January." My father's advice would be, this too shall pass.

Ground Hog's Day is February 2nd. Whether Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not, we will be through the worst of winter and we can sense the coming of the glorious Maryland springtime. Okay, not glorious if you suffer from Maryland seasonal allergies. January's cold and wet weather provides plenty of time for reflection about the past year. You can read that in our annual report. It is also a good time to make plans and set goals for the year.

The recent issue of the *Presbyterian Outlook* is on church leadership. It might be called church leadership in stormy times. As attendance in worship has declined across the country, leadership has often blamed the culture. Millennials are spiritual, but not religious. Many are simply neither. Like the lone surfer in the bitterly cold waves — onlookers ask — can't he find something better to do? Can't he at least wait until June?

I had a conversation with a church planter. He told me that the unchurched people he meets are not antagonistic towards the church — they simply do not notice the

church. For many folks, the church seems to value stability over anything else. Walking into many churches is to take a step back in time. While the world adapts, the church seems stuck in time, content to serve only the members who are already present while ignoring the many who exist right outside their doors.

Tom Ehrich is a church consultant whose column in *The Outlook* I read faithfully. In his column titled, "Good Christian Leaders," he writes "The Effective leader doesn't value stability, but keeps moving. The effective church leader places no value on things being easy or predictable, but seeks challenge and change." Ehrich believes the church in the past 50 years has made the culture the excuse for its decline.

The problem is "they were looking inward and tried to preserve what they had, rather than looking outward and letting go. They weren't analyzing the present, but merely assumed if they kept doing what they already knew what to do eventually, it would start working again. Their best goal for the future was survival, not success."

Okay — enough reflection. Time to face the windy boardwalk. Its 6 weeks more winter — give or take.

Grace and peace from Ocean City,

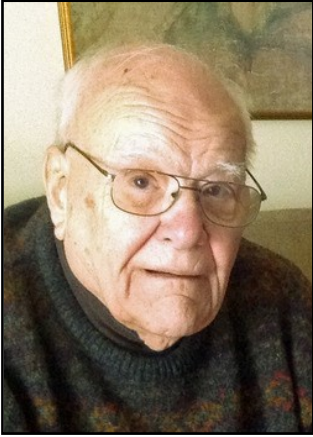
James Brassard



In Memory of

## *Jack Thomas Merkle*

July 26, 1928 to January 26, 2018



Jack Merkle, 89, of Crofton, Maryland died January 26, 2018 at home, of congestive heart failure after a brief time under Hospice care for Alzheimer's. He leaves his beloved wife, Stella (Gerus), daughter Melanie and brother Bob, of Columbus, Ohio. Jack served 20 years in the US Navy, and went around the world on various ships many, many times. Once he circumnavigated the globe three times in a row. After leaving the service, he went to work for the US Department of the Navy. Upon retirement from the government, he volunteered at the Patuxent Wildlife Center, where he enjoyed teaching young people about nature. He was an avid gardener who loved to help his wife in their garden. They traveled extensively throughout Europe, meeting many locals and getting to know the customs and cultures through them. He also enjoyed going to Hawaii. A 60 year member of the Masons, he was a Past Master of Collington Lodge, a 32nd degree Mason, member of the Scottish Rite, and a Past Worthy Patron in the Eastern Star. A memorial services will be held at Prince of Peace Church, 1657 Crofton Parkway Crofton, MD on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Hospice of the Chesapeake, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD, 21122.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Stella and her family.

## *Annual Congregational Meeting*

**Please note the time!**

CCPC will have our Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 4th at **10:05 AM** in the Sanctuary. No Adult Ed or Sunday school. Childcare is available during the meeting. Copies of the 2017 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 28 in the alcove of the Narthex. Electronic copies are available upon request; please contact Robin in the church office at [ccpcbowie@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcbowie@verizon.net) or 301-262-6008.

### **Music Program Staffing Plans Meeting**

The pastor and key Session members will meet with members interested in interim staffing plans for our music program. The open forum will be held on Sunday, February 4 in the Adult Ed Conference room following the 11am worship service

## *Worship Notes*

**February 4:** Communion Sunday (Annual meeting between services: 10:05 - 10:50AM) Souper Bowl of Caring Hunger offering. *John 4:3-42*, records the longest conversation Jesus has in the gospels. Jesus encounters an unnamed woman from Samaria at Jacob's well at high noon. In contrast to his meeting under the cover at night with Nicodemus, this woman leaves her water jug and excitedly tells everyone in her community about Jesus. They invite him to come and teach them. After hearing Jesus in person, they believe. Sermon: "Inclusive Discipleship."

**February 11:** *John 5:1-15*. Jesus goes to Jerusalem and encounters a man who has been disabled for 38 years. He heals him. You would think the community would celebrate the man's new life with shouts of hosanna and hallelujah. Since this happens on the Sabbath — the reaction is quite different. Sermon: "Choosing to See or Not to See."

# *Ash Wednesday Services*

Join us in the Sanctuary at 7am and 7pm for our 30 minute worship services, which include the Imposition of Ashes.

## *Lenten Readings*

Looking for a different Lenten discipline this year?

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and  
a light unto my path."*

Join us in the Sanctuary each morning (except Sundays) during Lent (February 14th through March 31st) at 7:15 AM for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer. We are usually finished by 7:30 AM.

## *New Member Gatherings!*

Join us on February 11 and 18 at 10:00am in the Parlor. We will discuss ways to increase your involvement in the life and ministry of CCPC. Newcomers will fill out the Time and Talent sheet and will meet with some of the CCPC staff and key volunteers. Those wishing to become members of the church will meet with the Session on Monday night, February 12 at 7:30 to 8:00 pm in the Adult Ed Conference room. If you have any questions, contact Reverend Brassard at [ccpcpastor@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcpastor@verizon.net) or 240-620-3943.

## *Parents Night Out*

All children are welcome to join us from 5:00pm to 8:00pm on Saturday, February 10 in Dodds Hall. We will have food, fun, and fellowship for all, and a night out for the parents.

## *Thank You!*

To the members of our CCPC family,

Thank you so much for the lovely reception that you gave for Kevin and me on Sunday. We were very touched by all of your heartfelt messages of love and support, as well as your warm hugs. The commemorative plaques will be a special reminder of the time we have served at CCPC and of the people with whom we worshipped each week. Special thanks go out to the Celebration Choir, Clinquant Handbell Choir and Ekklesia for many years of wonderful "joyful noise" praising the Lord together with us.

In His Name, Susan and Kevin

## *Wednesday Night Live!*

Don't miss our next WNL event.

Join us in Dodds Hall on February 21, 2018 at 5:55pm. We will have dinner and a program. Hope to see you there!



# *Adult Education!*

No Adult Education will take place on Sunday, February 4 due to the Annual Congregational Meeting in the 10am hour.

The next Adult Education offering is a series led by Dick Neff entitled, "Heaven and Hell: Themes in Literature and Scripture." The 4-week series will begin on Sunday, February 11 and continue through Sunday, March 4. The classes will be held in the Adult Ed Conference Room. The topics for each Sunday are as follows:

Sunday, February 11 - Pre-Christian Culture  
Sunday, February 18 - The New Testament  
Sunday, February 25 - Classic Literature and Art  
Sunday, March 4 - Contemporary Research

## *Sue Cobb Memorial Scholarship Pancake Dinner*

**Shrove Tuesday, February 13th at 6 pm in Dodds Hall**



The purpose of the Pancake Supper is to raise money for the Sue Cobb Scholarship Memorial Fund, 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!

# *Warm Nights*

Our Warm Nights week went very smoothly thanks to all your support. We had a great group of clients who were very appreciative of the meals and compassionate support you gave to them. Hosting Warm Nights would not be possible without the active involvement of many members of our congregation.

I would like to highlight a few people who have been exceptional:

Ryan and Irene Remley have been actively involved since they arrived at CCPC and they are now assisting as coordinators. It is relief to know that I do not have to worry if the Honduras trip overlaps with Warm Nights because Ryan and Irene will take over and everything will run like clockwork.

Ann and Bob Shelby and Carl Neumann have been instrumental in acquiring the supplies prior to the start of our week and checking to make sure we don't run low during the week.

I know I can always count on Dave Conrad, Chuck Tanner, Mark and Daniel Pfarrer and others to serve as overnight hosts — they do so year after year.

We could not provide the wonderful meals without the support of the Women's Circles, the Youth Group and the individual families who sign up every year.

Finally, I could not end without mentioning Rev. Brassard. James, who has been providing hands-on support to our mission programs since the day he arrived at CCPC, is always there to help. If he sees gaps on the signup sheets, he starts calling people to see if they are available. If he can't find anyone, he signs himself up. I know I will not fail as coordinator because James always has my back.

Through the week many of the clients let me know how much they appreciated all the support the church provided. I pass along their thanks as well as my own heartfelt thanks for your support to the Warm Nights Program.

Paul Sell





## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

### WOMEN'S CORNER

# United Campus Ministry!

United Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland thanks the members of CCPC for the opportunity to provide information about our program. You were very generous with your time during both services and especially the adult education class. We feel privileged to work with the students during this important time in their lives.

Our goal is to provide quality spiritual support and programs for young adults during critical years. Our on-campus Christian chaplaincy offers a safe environment where students from diverse backgrounds can come together to honestly question, grow and live out their faith. UCM extends a warm welcome to young people, and travels with them through all the twists, turns and detours of their spiritual journeys.

You can find more information on our website; [ucmcollegepark.org](http://ucmcollegepark.org). We also hope you will consider a personal financial gift to assist us with our program. It's through congregations like yours that we can continue our work. You can make checks payable to Christian Community Presbyterian Church and note UCM or Campus Ministry. You can also send us checks directly.

Thanks again for your time and support.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

*"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."*



On February 4, be part of this national movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. The children will compete against the youth to see who can raise more money for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry. Bring your cash and coins so you can give generously.

Every dollar donated goes to the Food Pantry, our Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.

Thank You!  
CCPC Children and Youth Ministry

# Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive  
Bowie, MD 20715  
Phone (301) 262-6008  
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.

