

In his acceptance speech at the 1964 GOP Convention, Senator Barry Goldwater said, “Extremism in defense of liberty is no vice ... and moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue.” I doubt if the Senator could have imagined how extreme notions of liberty have been applied to gun ownership. Goldwater lived in a day when the NRA supported restrictions on gun ownership and many types of rifles could not be sold legally.

After each mass shooting event in America we go through an all too familiar pattern. The first reports of a shooting, the growing sense of its seriousness, the onslaught of information, misinformation, and rumors. Politicians send out “thoughts and prayers” to the victims’ families. Then comes the calls to revive sensible gun safety legislation that is supported by wide majorities of Americans in both parties. After a few days the NRA and their supporters start to shut down any legislation. Nothing happens. The public moves on. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, existing restrictions on gun ownership are further loosened.

On rare occasions, like the shooting in Parkland, Florida, it appears the American people have had enough. The students who survived the tragedy used their powerful voices to say enough is enough. After a strategic period of media silence, NRA President Wayne LaPierre went on the offensive against action on gun legislation. “They don’t care about our school-children, they want to make us less free.” Extremism and liberty trump public safety.

The killing of 17 students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has renewed efforts to pass federal laws on mandatory background checks for all gun purchases — including gun shows and on-line sales. It has revived the call for incentives and penalties to report data about gun buyers to a national background check system that came out of the Sutherland Texas church shooting that claimed 26 lives. Parkland shooter Nikolas Cruz was known as a high risk for violent action. He owned at least 10 rifles, including a variant of the AK-47. All these guns were purchased legally with background checks.

Yet even a wide consensus, including the support of the President, is running into road-blocks. Once again, it has to do with staunch libertarians. Senators Mike Lee and Rand Paul object because it might lead to “a denial of the constitutional right of due process.” The Senate will consider legislation only if it is paired with expanding conceal and carry permits to all states. A Florida state representative commended the students activism, lamenting they have “inherited this world of binary choices where we either have to repeal the 2nd amendment or have no gun safety legislation whatsoever.”

Young people are our most precious resource. It is heartening to see them getting engaged politically. I worry about what will happen if no significant changes are made. They will lose something essential to healthy society: hope. Hope is a commodity. It can be given and it can be taken away. It is a necessity like water, food, and medical care. It is precious. It is one commodity the church has a unique mandate to express.

It pains me that so few church leaders are willing to speak up.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard



Worship Notes

March 4: As we continue through the Gospel of John, we will focus in on part of a larger conversation Jesus is having with the Crowd. What does it mean to be slaves to sin vs. free from it? Who is responsible for identifying the sin in our lives? Are we living a life of freedom or captivity?

March 11: The most distinctive thing about John's passion narrative is the dramatic encounter between Jesus and Pilate. Pilate asks Jesus two important questions. Are you a King? What is truth? Text : John 18:28-46

March 18: After Pilate finds Jesus not guilty., he gives the rambunctious Passover crowd the choice of who to save from crucifixion: Barabbas or Jesus? The crowd shouts out their verdict: "crucify him, crucify him." Text: John 19:1-6



In Memory of *Gloria Catherine Fusco* **July 30, 1929 - February 25, 2018**

Gloria Catherine Fusco peacefully passed in her sleep on Sunday, February 25, 2018 in the loving community at Collington Life Care in Mitchellville, MD. She was born in Detroit, MI to Russel and Ada (Ball) Brown and was an only child.

Glo graduated from Montgomery Blair High School and eventually became an R.N. where she loved the excitement of working in the O.R. In her spare time, she loved dancing and playing bridge. She was an avid Days of Our Lives fan.

She is preceded in death by her late husband Gene Fusco. She is survived by son Jeffrey Becker (Stephanie), daughter Melodie Dziduch (Charlie), ten grandchildren Nicole Dziduch, Amber Kwong (Henry), Kimberly Gedrich (Kevin), Joseph Becker, Jonathan Becker, Catherine Vandervelde (Jayce), Jordan Becker, Christian Becker, Corey Becker, Caroline Becker and six great grandchildren.

Family will receive friends on Monday, March 5, 2018 from 10 to 11am at Beall Funeral Home followed by a funeral service at 11am. Reception to follow at CCPC.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the
Melodie and her family.





Holy Week Schedule

March 25 — Palm Sunday

One service at 10AM. Pasta Luncheon following the service
Scripture references John 12 "The Triumphant Entry" And John 19:16b-28,
Sermon "A Peculiar Parade." Children's Choir and Celebration Choir will sing.
Special instrumental music.

Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 PM

Jesus spends a long evening with his disciples preparing them for the Passion.
Jesus refers to himself saying, "I AM the True Vine" John 15:1-8. Traditional
hymns. The choir will sing. Communion will be served.

Good Friday, March 30 at 7:30 PM

We will again offer a Tenebrae Service of the Passion readings and the
extinguishing of candles. The service will include a variety of music and
congregational singing.

April 1 — Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

7:00 AM Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden

Music led by Sam Guillermo. Gary Cox will preach and celebrate the
sacrament of the Lords Supper.

The Session will host a **hot Easter breakfast** of scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee from 7:30-9:00AM. A continental breakfast will be served from 10:00-11:00AM to accommodate families arriving for the Children's Easter program.

The Children's Easter Program, (including Easter Egg Hunt, Blossoming of the Cross, and the Easter lesson) is at 10:00AM. Families are encouraged to be early & share breakfast.

Our Services in **Celebration of the Resurrection** will be held at 9:00AM with a Contemporary Worship and an 11:00AM Blended Worship featuring classic Easter hymns, the choirs, and special instrumental music.



Directory Updates!

Chris and Hamer Campbell are moving to an assisted living facility on Monday, March 5th to be near their daughters. Their new contact information is:

Brighton Gardens of Columbia
7110 Minstrel Way, #322
Columbia. MD 21045

Hamer: (301) 741-7408, hamer47@outlook.com

Chris: (240) 432-1645, campbell.chris47@gmail.com

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.

Thank You!

Dear Friends,

An overdue formal thank you for all your prayers, kind words and cards that buoyed us and eased our worries before, during, and after my bladder surgery in December, and continue to bless us! Your positive energy and God's grace surrounded and infused us and brought my wonderful news that my bladder lesions were benign and there was NO (doctor's emphasis!) sign of cancer!

Praise God! Wishing you all good health, joy and Blessings Abounding!

Love, Sheree Ruhl



One Great Hour Of Sharing

Sharing Brings Joy

Sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. that cares for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

The PHP is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) working with congregations and partners around the globe to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. PHP is able to support projects in five program areas: Direct food relief; Development assistance; Influencing public policy; Lifestyle integrity; Education and interpretation.

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

SDOP participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice. In SDOP projects, low-income people determine the problem, organize themselves to do something about their condition, and are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Your gifts to OGHS mean that you too are present, bringing healing and hope to some of the world's most desperate situations. Never underestimate what a difference you can make. Let us thank God for giving us the opportunity to share our gifts so generously.

**CCPC will be joining the efforts of
OGHS during worship services on
March 25 and April 1.**

Thank you for your support.



Lenten Luncheons!

Potato Sunday, at 12

The Dea-
potatoes
vide anoth-
salads. A
See you in



Bash! March 4th Noon

cons will prepare baked
with some of your favorite toppings. Mac 'n Cheese will pro-
per option plus tossed, veggie and fruit
variety of desserts will satisfy your sweet tooth.
Dodds Hall!

Pasta Palooza!

Palm Sunday

March 25

at 11:15 am

(One service only at 10am)

Children and Youth

Ministries will host a pasta lunch with all the fixings!



Wednesday Night Live!

Don't miss our Wednesday Night Live (WNL) events

Join us in Dodds Hall at 5:55pm for dinner and a program

**MARCH 7th and 21th
APRIL 4th and 18th
MAY 16th**

Hope to see you there!



The
Chesapeake Chorale
PRESENTS

BROADWAY BOUND

SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH

7:30PM

Jesse Parker - Artistic Director
Susan Ricci Rogel - Accompanist

SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH

3:00PM

Join the Chesapeake Chorale as they take on Broadway with musical selections from *Hamilton*, *Oklahoma*, *West Side Story*, and many more!

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3120 Belair Drive • Bowie, MD 20715

\$15 / ADULTS • \$12 / SENIORS & MILITARY
CHILDREN & STUDENTS ARE FREE

(301) 440-6755
ChesapeakeChorale.org



Bring a canned food item to help support the Bowie Food Pantry!

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Web: <http://ccpc.bowiemd.org>
E-mail: 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

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.

