



The Caller

September 1, 2013

Parting is hard. Dropping your 5-year old off on the first day of kindergarten and walking back home always draws out some tears. Someone else is directing his/her every move. You will not be there to comfort when a classmate hurts his/her feelings. The initial emotions don't last too long. A few hours later your daughter returns home excited about her teacher and bragging about a new friend he/she met. You breathe a sigh of relief. This won't be so hard. Your child is happy and engaged. You realize you still have them under your care for 17 hours a day.

Partings are hard because they remind us of how much we invest in our children. The early years are physically taxing. You give up sleep and peace and quiet. You also jettison your hobbies because you don't have the discretionary time. There are other partings along the way: Sleep away camps, school trips, and athletic and dance competitions. The years go fast.

Another parting that is particularly gut wrenching is the moment when you drop your son or daughter off at college. After helping him/her move in and meet his/her roommate and perhaps the roommate's parents, you offer a hug and back away. The drive home is hard because you realize he/she won't be coming home that night or even that month. Any semblance of control is lost. You wonder how they will perform without you nagging them to get to bed on time and to eat properly. With today's privacy rules, the schools don't even send you grades and progress reports. You have to trust without being able to verify.

Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson wrote a column last week titled, "The Hardest Goodbye." It was about his feelings after dropping his eldest son off for his freshmen year in college. He said he tried to put on his best face. However, the previous partings conspired to overwhelm him. Gerson said his son is on the quiet side — but he is learning how empty quiet can be.

The last parental drop off I experienced was three years ago when I helped Jonah move into a group apartment to start law school. Since he had been living on his own for five years, the trip to Queens was more out of curiosity than necessity. I now think I know why people my age get so excited about grandchildren. Is it not the chance to reconnect in a special way with your children? The demands and joys of seeing your children parenting their children creates a new bond. But, it is more than that. When you see your grandchildren, you relive those precious early years when your kids were young. If your grandchildren have a striking resemblance to your children, you feel younger. It also explains why grandparents inadvertently call their grandchildren by their parents' names: their presence transports you to an earlier time.

Researchers like to remind us that once we get used to the empty nest we become happier. This happiness continues as long as our health holds up. There are many benefits. You have more time, more discretionary money (you know what college costs), and far fewer day-to-day worries. Did I mention no more clutter! You do eventually discover that life can still be good even when you are living in a half empty and very quiet house. The reduced connections are usually offset by the satisfaction of seeing your offspring succeed as adults. But honestly, even after nine years of an empty nest, I still feel a hole in my heart when I walk by the empty bedrooms. I also worry when I don't hear their voices on the phone each week.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard



September Sunday Calendar



Worship Notes

September 1: Rev. Karen Doty will be preaching and presiding at Communion. Join us after worship for an Ice Cream Social (ice cream and all toppings provided by the Hospitality Committee) and bring some picnic food to share.

September 8: As we begin our fall schedule, I want to explore our "Life Together." In *Genesis 2:18-25*, God decides to provide Adam with a partner because "it is not good that the human being is alone." We live in a society that celebrates the individual and attends more to individual rights and freedom instead of the common good. What kind of obstacles stand in the way of genuine community?

Chapel Service at 8:30AM—Worship at 10AM with Sunday School for Cradle Roll through 5th grade and the Youth Connect for Junior and Senior High following the Children's Message. Adult Education with Rev. Dick Neff at 11:15 AM in the Adult Ed Conference Room.



Sunday, September 1, 2013

10:00 AM Worship with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School: Ages 4 through 5th Grade
11:00 AM Ice Cream Social Luncheon -- Dodds Hall
6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room

Sunday, September 8, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High School
11:15 AM Adult Ed: Forming the Old Testament Scriptures -- Adult Ed Conf Room
1:00 PM Youth and Children's Ministry Beach Party -- The Wim-bish's Beach House
6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor
6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr High Room

Sunday, September 15, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
11:15 AM Adult Ed: Forming the New Testament Scriptures -- Adult Ed Conf Room
11:15 AM New Member Class -- James' Office
6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room
7:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale Board Meeting -- Adult Ed Conference Room
7:00 PM Prayer Study -- Member's Home

Sunday, September 22, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
11:15 AM Adult Ed: The Development of Orthodox Beliefs -- Adult Ed Conf Room
11:15 AM New Member Class -- James' Office
3:00 PM MLK Commemoration -- Sanctuary and Dodds Hall
6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr High Room

Sunday, September 29, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
11:15 AM Adult Ed: Persecution of Christians in the First Three Centuries -- Adult Ed Conf Room
11:15 AM New Member Class -- James' Office
6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr High Room

Celebration and Clinquant Choirs Rehearsals

Our Celebration and Clinquant (Handbell) Choirs return to the regular schedule of rehearsals beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7 PM (for Celebration) and Thursday, Sept. 5 at 7 PM (Clinquant). We are always open to new members, and if you'd like information, please contact music director Susan Ricci Rogel at 301-262-6775 or ricci-rogel@msn.com.

UPCOMING SPECIAL GUEST MUSICIANS:

The FREDERICK TROMBONE CHOIR will be joining us for 10 AM worship and a joint anthem on Sunday, Sept. 29th.

SUMMER CHOIR is still being held from now until Sept. 1. If you're interested, please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the choir room. Come give us a try and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Chesapeake Chorale Auditions

The Chesapeake Chorale, an auditioned community chorus is beginning its 33rd season with an open rehearsal for prospective new members.

If you like to sing challenging music under the direction of a professional staff, come join us at 7:30 PM in Dodds Hall.

For more information, visit www.chesapeakechorale.org, or call 410 721-5422.

Mini Retreat

Retreats are such fun that we've added a second retreat. All women of the church are invited to this retreat (even if you usually attend the one in March!) It's a wonderful opportunity for all women to join us for a mini-retreat in Dodds Hall. If you have never been to a women's retreat, try the mini. If you cannot take a whole weekend away for our annual retreat, join us for a day at our mini-retreat. Treat yourself to some love and laughter, and lunch. Come join us for "Isn't it time for tea?" Retreat starts at 9 AM and goes to 3 PM. Registration fee is \$8.00. Mini breakfast and lunch provided. You can call Joy Bible at 301-262-9204 or joyous12115@netzero.com or Peggy Oates at 301-262-6959 or peggyoates@hotmail.com.

And, don't forget the

Ladies Retreat

October 4th through 6th is Ladies Getaway! CCPC Ladies Getaway is another opportunity to treat yourself and enjoy time with friends and family at our annual CCPC Ladies Getaway in Ocean City, MD. Relax by the Sea at the Dunes Manor Hotel and just have fun.

If interested, you must call the hotel (800-523-2888) for reservations by September 4th.

Cost per night, which includes tax: Double = \$123.76, Triple = \$129.29, or a Quad = \$133.71. Two double beds per room with a small refrigerator and microwave. All rooms are ocean front with a balcony. Heated indoor pool! Cancellations accepted for a full refund by August 31st. Any questions, call Peggy Oates.



One Voice

Raising a Voice
(with the help of some friends)
to benefit

The *One Voice* Foundation

At its core, One Voice facilitates musical sister-school relationships between schools in the U.S. and other parts of the world. The first such school program, featuring the Brain Tree School in Kyanja, Uganda and The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA was broadcast on Kids Place Live, the children's programming channel on Sirius XM Satellite Radio. We educate and empower the students involved as well as the greater audience. We help endow schools with the tools they will need for their musical future, whether that be instruments, computers, or musical instruction. Our vision is that, eventually, there will be a global network of schools — talking to and creating with each other.

We hope you will join us in this musical quest.

When: Sunday, October 20, 2013 at 7 PM

Where: Christian Community Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Featuring Stephanie Reuer, soprano with Susan Ricci Rogel on piano

All Donations will go to benefit the One Voice Foundation.



**We Need Your Help to Show
that Prince George's County Cares to
End Homelessness!**



Every day, over 12,000 men, women and children are homeless in our Metro DC communities. Last winter, your congregation helped Warm Nights provide almost 5,800 bed-nights of shelter from November to April. More than 2,700 of our Prince George's County Public School children experienced homelessness each year. Over 136,000 veterans experienced homelessness in 2009 – 11,300 of who were 18 to 30 and served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There is a good chance that someone you work with, worship with, or go to school with, is homeless or in imminent danger of homelessness.

On Saturday, September 28 from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM at Allen Pond Park

Join your Warm Nights Partner for a walk to raise awareness and essential funds to help so many in need of shelter, sustenance and support here in Prince George's County. You can register to walk for one or more or all of our agencies. CCSI would love to organize a Warm Nights walk team from your congregation, so please reach out to Donny Phillips at 301.922.7054 or Laila Riazi at lailar@ccsimd.org or 202.258.6167 to let us know you are walking or to find out more.

You can register to walk for CCSI at www.hthwalks.org/goto/CCSI-PGCCares.

You can find out more by visiting our Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/CCSITalks and

www.facebook.com/HTHPGCCares or www.hthwalks.org and search for walk name PGCCares.

A Letter from Jack and Mary Francis

Dear James and CCPC Friends,

Many thanks for a warm send-off that included flowers, refreshments, kind and generous words from James and Doris, and hugs and even kisses from other friends — some of whom had come from some distance to be there. We were cheered and touched to see and greet old friends and some of shorter acquaintance. We are thankful for and appreciative of your abiding love and comradeship. In old Russia (before the revolution), a common response to a greeting was a phrase which means, "I am well, thanks to your prayers." And, so are we.

We miss you and think of you often with love,

Jack and Mary Frances Jones
52 Stonebridge Drive, Asheville, North Carolina 28805
(828) 505-7129

Thank you!

A belated thank you to all who prayed for us and those who expressed their sympathy by word of mouth, Facebook, cards, and notes upon the death of Jack's sister. We felt encircled in your and God's love.

Thanks so much,
Doris and Jack Kobe.

Hope Circle

Hope Circle will meet Monday, September 16, at 10am at the home of Elsie Bell, 4803 Riverton Lane (301-464-0517). Our study guide this year is *An Abiding Hope; the Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy*. We welcome visitors and new members.



Adult Education Classes

Adult education classes begin on Sunday, September 8th at 11:15 AM with Dick Neff leading four sessions under the topic, "Formation of Scripture and Christian Beliefs." So, after church service, grab a cup of coffee and join him in the Adult Education Conference room.

The topics for discussion are:

- September 8 - Forming the Old Testament Scriptures
- September 15 - Forming the New Testament Scriptures
- September 22 - The Development of Orthodox Beliefs
- September 29 - Persecution of Christians in the First Three Centuries

CCPC Contact Information

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 AM to 3 PM
(301) 262-6008 / ccpcbowie@verizon.net
<http://ccpc.bowiemd.org>

Pastor James Brassard
ccpcpastor@verizon.net

Pastoral Assistant, Margaret Hallau
cccpa@verizon.net

Youth Coordinator, Rhia Miller
ccpcyouth@verizon.net

Children's Ministry, Rebecca Coleman
ccpckids@gmail.com

Director of Music, Susan Ricci Rogel
Ricci-rogel@msn.com

Assistant Director of Music, Kevin Clemence
klclemence@earthlink.net

Administrative Assistant, Robin Seekford
ccpcbowie@veirzon.net



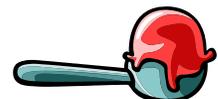
**Don't Forget
about the**

Ice Cream Social

**This Sunday
Sept. 1**

After Church Service

You are invited to Dodds Hall after the worship service to celebrate summer and welcome fall. Please bring your favorite picnic food to share. Ice cream, toppings, and drinks will be provided.



The next Caller will be sent out around September 15th. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, September 10. Any questions, please call the office.

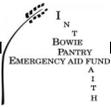
Christian Community Presbyterian Church



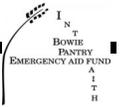
3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
Web: ccpc.bowiemd.org
E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net

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.*



Bowie Interfaith Pantry



Open for distribution and service 9 AM-11 AM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

We are closed on holidays.

Located at: Christian Community Presbyterian Church
(in the Education Building at the rear of the parking lot)

3120 Belair Drive — Bowie MD 20715

Visit our website: www.bowiefoodpantry.org

E-mail us: BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com **Phone:** 301-262-6765

Thank you for your continued support!

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

Ann@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

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

