



**T**he first word that enters my mind when I think about CCPC is **VIBRANT**. Vibrations are experienced while standing on the platform of an incoming subway train, sitting alongside a car with its stereo turned to full base, feeling the rumbling of a roller coaster. Vibrations that beat and pulsate signify Life.

What makes a vibrant church? A church that is alive with a pulse that is felt and seen from within by its members and friends and externally by those who know it by its works. CCPC is vibrant because of its:

- ◆ Hospitable and welcoming atmosphere.
- ◆ Liturgy offering closeness with God.
- ◆ Congregation that shares a common mission, but celebrates individual differences.
- ◆ Leadership that is shared by staff and volunteers.
- ◆ Members and friends who contribute their many gifts.
- ◆ Faith that is nurtured through a variety of opportunities.
- ◆ Outreach that is practiced in a multitude of activities.
- ◆ Small groups that are found in abundance.

Our 2014 Stewardship Celebration began on September 29<sup>th</sup> with Kristen Zacheis sharing how CCPC is her home away from home. Next Bill Radden-Lesage shared a message on October 6<sup>th</sup> about how big changes can be realized from small actions with God. We look forward to hearing from Lynn deSeve who brings us a message on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, we celebrate our Stewardship when we bring forth our Faith Expressions and share a **Pot Luck Luncheon on October 20<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 service**. The Stewardship Committee will be providing ham and turkey. Coffee, tea, lemonade, and cider will be served. You are encouraged to bring a side dish such as a vegetable or salad, appetizer, or dessert to share. Families with children are encouraged to bring a “kid-friendly” dish. Barbara Stone is serving as hostess; please let her know if we can be of assistance so all can enjoy this time to celebrate the many blessings of life at CCPC. Her number is 301-262-6619. We always have plenty of food and all are welcome. Please don't be concerned if you don't have a dish — your fellowship is the most important thing to share. We expect to be finished around noon.

When you are celebrating CCPC's Stewardship over the next few weeks, consider the **VIBRANT** life at our wonderful church. Each of us is important in continuing the vibrancy of CCPC — your giving is vital to the Life of our good works.

Cyd Radden-LeSage  
Stewardship Chairperson

## *Worship Notes*

**October 13th:** In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus heals 10 lepers, but only one returns to give thanks. It is hard to imagine getting your life back after years of living in isolation and shame and not returning to thank the one who healed you. What is the heart of true gratitude? How do you return thanks to those who have helped us in our journey in life? Who are the people to whom you owe the most thanks?

**October 20th:** In Luke 18:1-8, we find the story of the widow who refuses to give up until she gets justice out of a corrupt judge. This is a story of persistence and courage in the face of oppressive indifference. What does this unnamed widow tell us about hope? How do we internalize the spirit that “Refuses to Give UP” until we are satisfied? At the end of the service we will dedicate our “Estimate of Giving” card and then celebrate our life together at the Stewardship luncheon.



## *Friendly Reminders*

Christmas Families School Supplies Still Needed:  
**105 boxes of 12 count Color Pencils** and  
**20 boxes of 24 count Crayons**

October 20—7 PM One Voice Concert in Sanctuary  
October 27—2:30 PM Trunk or Treat in Dodds Hall  
October 27—11:15 AM Adult Ed: Lyme Disease



## *In Memoriam*

Lorraine Donoian's nephew  
**Paul Werner**  
passed away on September 8th.  
Paul was 53 years old and lived in Venice, Florida.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with the  
Donoian and Werner families.



# DEACON'S CORNER

This is the 33rd in a series of articles about living well by considering the host of things we can change in our lives, our homes and our surroundings that can make our lives healthier, happier, and safer. Special thanks to Joy Bible, former Moderator of the Board of Deacons, for sharing her wisdom and expertise through the Deacon's Corner. We will be preparing a complete set of Deacon's Corner articles to share with CCPC.

"If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called 'research,' would it?" (Albert Einstein)  
That is exactly what we need to do — our research — when it comes to any decision we make, but especially when faced with a problem today with any home repair. Your washing machine is broken and it is disrupting your life, or your refrigerator is warming up and you can't afford to lose the food? What do you do? Don't be in such a hurry to hire a repairman without some research. If you do, it may cost you more than necessary or just be a bad decision on your part. Who to call? Who to trust? How do you avoid being scammed? Every day people are being scammed on what might be considered a minor repair of an appliance, some plumbing or electrical work.

There are some tips that you can use before you hire someone. **ASK friends and neighbors if they know of someone reliable.** An older friend of ours needed some roofing done. He called a "reliable" roofer in the area for an estimate. "Sure, we can do it for \$10,000." Well, the friend is 87 years old and limited in funds, so he asked us who we have used. He then called our contractor and got an estimate of \$5,000. The roof did NOT need everything the first guy said. **ALWAYS get a couple of estimates** for any major job being done on the home. Never reveal any information about your status, such as I'm single; I'm widowed; I'm on a limited budget, etc. There are still some "reliable" contractors today who use some unethical practices and they call them "standard practices."

**Use a company that charges a trip charge.** Here is why. If the company offers free estimates and the repairman does not charge a trip charge, he will be under pressure to sell you some service to make up for his trip to your home. If that fee is covered in the trip charge he is not likely to push a service. **Do not believe someone when they say "same day service."** Many times there are hidden costs in that promise. Always ask what the "total charge" is, even if it is a minimum labor job. **NEVER pay for services up front before the contractor starts the job.** We know of people who hired a painter to paint the house, gave him money to "supposedly" buy the paint, and never saw the painter again.

**Should you repair or replace an appliance?** Another question is about the warranty on parts and/or labor? There is no reason repairmen can't guarantee their work for the length of the warranty on the part replaced. After you get an estimate to repair, do some quick thinking on whether to repair or replace. If it gets fixed, can you get at least four more years out of the appliance? If the cost of the repair is more than half the cost of a new appliance, you should expect at least six to eight years more if repaired. Most good technicians will not advise repair of an appliance if it is older than three years and the repair is over half of the cost of a new one. According to the national average, a repair bill for an appliance runs between \$180 and \$250. Don't let a technician or contractor scare you into a repair or charge more than you originally had in mind. Remember their goal is to make money and yours is to get satisfaction without costing you lots of money.

If you need further information on a company, you can check with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) in your area for information. Remember the old adage: **If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!** Be wise, be safe, and do your research.



# The *Christmas Gift* Market

Join us on Sunday, November 3 from 9 AM to Noon in Dodds Hall.

At CCPC's Alternative Gift Market, you can choose really meaningful gifts in honor of friends, relatives, teachers, and neighbors.

Visit all the booths and tables to select gifts. You will receive a card that explains how your gift will help someone in need here in Bowie or around the world. Your family and friends will receive a card to open on Christmas telling of your gift in their honor.

**There are so many unique gifts to choose from!**

Best of all — your gift will enable you to participate in mission and share Christ's love with a world in need.

Stay for a lunch of homemade soup! Soup will be served starting at 11 AM.

## **Giving that Makes a Difference**

You are cordially invited to our Stewardship Luncheon in Dodds Hall on Sunday, October 20 after the 10:00 am worship service, lasting until around noon.

The Stewardship Committee is providing ham and turkey. You are encouraged to bring a side dish such as an appetizer, salad, or dessert. Families with children are encouraged to bring "kid-friendly" food.

Barbara Stone is serving as hostess so please let her know if we can be of assistance so all can enjoy this time to celebrate the many blessings of life at CCPC. Her number is 301-262-6619.

(Please don't be concerned if you don't have a dish — your fellowship is the most important thing to share.)



## **Movie Screening — *Finding Joe***

Thursday, October 24 at 6:30 at Imagine Yoga & Wellness Center. In the early 20th century, while studying world mythology, Joseph Campbell discovered a pattern hidden in every story ever told and he called it "the hero's journey." A truly inspirational documentary, "Finding Joe" takes us on the ultimate hero's journey: the journey of self discovery. For more information, visit [www.ImagineThePlace.com](http://www.ImagineThePlace.com), or call Ann at 301-233-1694

# A Letter from Tim and Gloria Wheeler in Honduras



My work with values-based development systems this year has taken me to Guatemala, Nicaragua and, most recently, to Haiti, where I was invited to facilitate a three-day workshop with the Heifer staff there. This was my first visit to Haiti since the earthquake. I remember Honduras after hurricane Mitch devastated the country in 1999. Honduras and Haiti have much in common, both being among the poorest countries in the hemisphere and facing huge problems that they struggle to meet.

I was picked up at the airport and taken across the country the same afternoon to the northern city of Cap-Haitien by Heifer Haitian staff. Because of my limited language skills in Creole, I wasn't sure if my request to visit a PC (USA) project on the way would be a possibility. The picture above is a new house in the PCUSA supported Eco-#1 area. You can see the intensive gardening in the tires. We picked up more Heifer staff as we left Port-au-Prince and headed for the central highlands. I could see different tent cities around the city and as we left I could see new housing that had been built. People are everywhere along the streets carrying out all types of daily livelihood activities.

After a few hours, the good road turned into a construction site and then a winding dirt road. The driver named Prince started to ask people along the road how to get to the Eco-Village #1 (Ekovilaj #1). Yes, this was the site that I wanted to visit. People had been relocated from the city to rural villages such as this one and given the possibility of starting a new rural life. Working with our local church partner, the PC (USA) helped build the new homes that I saw as we drove into the village. Each family had been given a small plot of land. Although I didn't receive all of the information about how the process took place and how Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and PC (USA) congregations had been involved in the post-earthquake rebuilding process, I knew I was seeing the wonderful results of the combined labor of Presbyterian programs, mission co-workers, our local church partners, and local churches from across the U.S. I was impressed by the solar lighting, intense agriculture and the seemingly peaceful village life that I took in as I looked around. I spoke with the village leader, Laurore Manel (pictured on right), and he told me that he and his family had come from Port-au-Prince and that they were much better off now. They grew some of their own food, and their children were now in school.



My journey during the week took me to more villages where Heifer is working, helping people build a life in rural Haiti with real possibilities of improvement. I think one of the themes that struck me overall was that the groups we visited are responding to an emergency situation of drastic proportions with a long-term development approach. I spent three days working with the Haitian Heifer staff going through the principles of values-based and appreciative approaches to development. I found out that Heifer is working in six strategic areas of the country. I saw goat breeding centers that will have impact in rural villages in many parts of the country. I saw the good quality of dairy goats being brought in from the Dominican Republic. Perhaps I was most impressed by the people that I met — they are committed to working to improve their country. One Heifer staff vet told me that he had trained 70 village vets to care for animals. Apparently, he gets calls from all over the country to consult with him on cases. All these colleagues inspired me with their energy and desire to do positive things in their country. As we discussed the core values that they had agreed should be present in their programs, they wanted to go a step further and draw up a declaration of values to use as staff. This exercise was very important to them perhaps because it gave them a greater

identity and connection with a positive vision for the future. The value that is the most important to them in their work and as staff is respect. They place a high degree of importance on the respect for others, but also on respect for each person individually.

At the end of the workshop I was inspired by one of the participants who said it was important to him to learn that we wouldn't talk about a tree of problems when we analyze the situation in a community when beginning a program. "Rather, we would talk about a tree of opportunities and then work on how to carry them out." His words were at the heart of the appreciative approach to development based on values. His statement made me very happy. It represents a move away from a suppressed, patriarchal tradition of development that causes low self-esteem toward an appreciative approach based on respect. The changes in attitudes and the way people think about such things has a direct relationship to helping make our dreams a reality and creating a better future such as in the eco-village. The picture to the right is a project recipient in Haiti with new hope and self-worth.



Thank you for being part of these exciting processes of appreciative development through your giving, your prayers, and your support of mission co-workers. Gloria and I are very grateful for the support that is provided so that we can continue in mission. Please hold up the people of Haiti and Honduras in your prayers, especially those who attempt to transform their lives and who, as part of the process, develop a sense of self-worth and identity.

Yours faithfully,

Tim and Gloria  
Apartado 15027, Colonia Kennedy  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

# 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](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

[Ann@ImagineThePlace.com](mailto:Ann@ImagineThePlace.com). Scholarships available.

