February 15, 2014



In his book, "The Last Segregated Hour," Stephen Hayes writes about the efforts to integrate the last bastions of segregation — the churches. Dr. King famously lamented that the most segregated hour in American life was the worship hour. One strategy of the civil rights movement tried to address this was with the "kneel in." Teams of white and black college students would dress in their Sunday best and try to attend worship in all white churches. Sometimes they were met by the deacons standing arm and arm blocking their entrance. One of the places where they met the most persistent resistance was Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

Second Presbyterian was known as the bastion of Presbyterian Church conservatism. Due to the size and influence of that church, there were many ramifications felt in the rest of the denomination. The denomination (The Northern and Southern Presbyterian Church were still divided at the time) moved its General Assembly meeting from the church in 1965 to the Montreat Conference Center. Ironically the Moderator of the Assembly was a former pastor at Second.

Hayes book is fascinating, not just because the "kneel in" received only one paragraph in Taylor Branches' exhaustive study of the King years, but because Hayes follows the life of Second Presbyterian up to present day. In 1966, the denomination began to limit the terms of elders. At Second, this enabled new voices to be heard and the church opened the doors for worship to all. This produced a schism in the congregation where those who clung to the old segregationist policies broke off to join a denomination now known as the Presbyterian Church in America.

Hayes makes a general observation about the nature of church schisms. Although those opposing integration and those supporting segregation argued it was based on "biblical authority" or "the centrality of Jesus Christ," there

was virtually no biblical or theological justification that church leaders used to support their positions. Appeals were simply made to "keep the peace" or maintain the "historical independence of the church." Many stated that the issue wasn't race, but of course when they say "it's not about race" we can be pretty sure it's about race.

Today, Second Presbyterian should be commended for its recent attempts to become more involved in the racial and economic needs of Memphis (recently named the poorest city in the nation.) But, one cannot help but notice that the same theology and world view that led church leaders to bar African-Americans from worship exists today. Second does not have women in positions of leadership either as elders or pastors. One cannot be a gay person in a relationship and be a member of the church. The issues are different, but on a deeper level, they are the same.

Chiseled into the large block of granite at the Martin

Luther King Jr. memorial is one of his better known saying: "The arc of history is long but it bends towards justice." I believe this to be true. But, I also accept that not all places and all hearts will come to accept justice at the same time. In a free society where many people receive most of their information from sources that feed their existing biases, some forces of bigotry will linger a long time.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard



#### Worship Notes

February 16th: This week I will address some of the ongoing issues related to those who believe that science and faith cannot coexist. In a sermon titled: "Does God Still Matter?" we will examine three Psalms that address the experience about the majesty of God. We will share some special music and liturgy connected to our observance of Black History Month.

**February 23rd**: We return to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:38-48 where Jesus famously deals with how we observe biblical law by our actions and our attitudes. How does one uphold the high standards of belief and conduct that Jesus demands? Can we turn the other cheek and resist violence? Can we love our neighbors and pray for them? Can we be perfect?

Celebrating the Life of Frank Conley

Frank Conley, a long time member and friend, passed away Wednesday, February 12, surrounded by his loving family. Frank is survived by his wife, Marge. They were married for 57 years.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 22 at 11 AM in the Sanctuary. The Deacons will host a reception in Dodds Hall after the service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marge and her family.



# **DEACON'S CORNER**

This is the 36th 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.

A new year is upon us. Is it a new beginning? Or the same old, same old? Could this be a crossroads in your life? A time for change and/ or growth? It just might be time to set some new goals. For some reason using the word "resolution" has, at times, become another name for failure. Statistics show that about 46% of Americans under the age of 30 make resolutions, the highest percentage of any age group. Approximately 78% of people surveyed do NOT make New Year's resolutions. Three in ten make resolutions, but only half of them keep their resolutions. People 65 and older are the least likely group to make any resolutions.

What does it mean to make a resolution or set a goal? Ah, on to my trusty thesaurus for other definitions of "resolution." Well, as a noun it can mean: decision, aim, intent, plan, commit, firmness of purpose, determined, perseverance, stubbornness, tenacity, boldness, spiritedness, and braveness. These are but a few words that can take the place of "resolution. "I once had a psychiatrist tell me that we all **need** goals to survive and thrive in this world. I am not talking about solving world problems, but everyday life. Each day we consciously or sub-consciously set goals. From getting dressed to brushing our teeth, we mentally check off the things we need to do before we even go out into the world.

When we have decided to make a change in our life — whether it is a physical, mental, or spiritual change or all three — we have to look beyond our self-imposed limitations. There are some questions to ask when seeking to move forward, to dream, to change. Ask yourself, "What is it that I really want to achieve?" Do not limit yourself to what you think you can do or ask how it can be done. Ask, "What do I need to stop doing so I can start doing what I really want to do?" Ask yourself, "What commitment am I willing to make to achieve my goal?" Change requires effort, will, courage, and perseverance. Visualize the end result of reaching your goal. Pray and ask God to be with you in the process of dreaming and planning as you work toward your goals. Start small, such as "This month I will try to talk to my brother at least twice." For me, I am going to focus more on my health this year, starting with making an appointment to see my doctor. I am going to take at least ten minutes a day to practice meditation.

Set a simple goal for the day or week and just think how good you will feel when you can say, "Check, I did it!" Every day is a new day with all sorts of challenges. Make a list of your goals from the smallest on up. Write down your goals for the day, the week, the month, or the year, and share them with your friends and family. They can be great as a support. Encourage others who are setting goals and in turn they will encourage you. Remember, "Those who believe they can and those who believe they can't are both right," So, be resolved to try — you can reach your goal!

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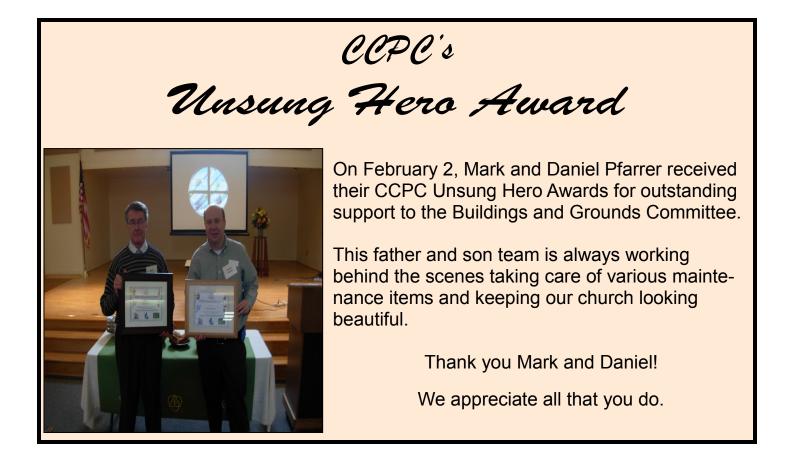
Women's Retreat Call For Pictures Reminder!

#### We need your help!

We are collecting digital pictures of vacations, scenes from nature, with or without people in them from church members and friends to use as background photos for the presentation at the 2014 Women's Retreat.

Please email your photos to Carrie Casto at carrie.casto28@gmail.com.

Questions: Contact Roxanne Johnson at 240-731-0683 or roglojo@gmail.com.



#### Center Ring Circus Reminder!

On February 23 at 3:30 PM, CCPC will welcome Center Ring Circus School — a children's circus troupe of local kids from Greenbelt. All ages are welcome to attend the performance in Dodds Hall. The Center Ring kids will guide our Sunday School children in learning a variety of skills for performing under the Big Top! Balloon animals and tasty treats will be our grand finale. There will be many activities for our littlest members.

So, come join the circus!

#### County schools chief named finalist for national recognition

Posted: Thursday, January 16, 2014 1:00 pm | *Updated: 9:56 am, Fri Jan 17, 2014.* By DAVID EMANUEL Editor

Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, chief executive officer for Prince George's County Public Schools, was named one of four finalists for the title of 2014 National Superintendent of the Year by AASA, the School Superintendents Association.

States throughout the nation submitted their nominee for this award, which recognizes superintendents for their outstanding leadership, dedication to academic excellence and ability to engage stakeholders in education.

"We are extremely proud of Dr. Maxwell's leadership and the designation of being considered a finalist for the AASA 2014 Superintendent of the Year Award," said Dr. Segun Eubanks, chairman of the Board of Education for Prince George's County Public Schools. "We are proud to have a life-long Prince Georgian and truly accomplished education leader at the helm."

The 2014 National Superintendent of the Year will be announced during AASA's National Conference on Education, which is being held Feb.13 -15 in Nashville, Tenn. A \$10,000 college scholarship will be presented in the name of the 2014 AASA National Superintendent of the Year to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated, or the school now serving the same area. Maxwell was named 2014 Maryland Superintendent of the Year by the Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland.

He began his career in public education with PGCPS in 1978, where he served 22 years as a teacher, principal and administrator. From 2000 to 2006, he worked in Montgomery County Public Schools as a principal and community superintendent, then went on to serve as superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools for seven years. In June 2012, he was appointed by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III as CEO for Prince George's County.

"Dr. Maxwell is a worthy candidate for consideration, and on the front line of academic advancement for students," said Carolyn Boston, vice chairman of the Prince George's County Board of Education. "He represents excellence in administration on a national level, and has done a tremendous job in bringing parents and the community together to support our students' academic achievement."

Recognized as a "Champion of Change" by President Barack Obama, Maxwell has been recognized throughout his career for outstanding leadership, impact on student achievement, and work in building strategic partnerships and engaging the community in education. Maxwell served PSSAM as president from 2012 to 2013 and presidentelect from 2010 to 2011.

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Sue Cobb Memorial Scholarship

### **Pancake Dinner**

Sue Cobb fought a courageous battle against ovarian cancer for more than seven years. She was very active at CCPC. Sue served on Session and was very involved in our Missions. She loved, and lived for, serving others. We honor her memory with an annual scholarship to a young woman from our congregation. Your support of this dinner will help fund this scholarship.

The dinner will be on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, 2014 from 6 to 8 PM in Dodds Hall.

All female Seniors are given an application for the scholarship, which is reviewed by a committee consisting of PWOC *Woman of the Year* recipients. Sue was a 2009 *Woman of the Year*. The scholarship will be awarded on Women's Sunday.

CCPC Youth Council Meeting

Sunday, February 23rd at 11:15 AM (following second service)

Join us in an open invitation to our church family to share your ideas and energy as we plan programs and events for the youth in the coming months. Or just come to listen, ask questions, and find out more about the youth program.

Parents of current youth in the program, former youth group members, young parents, grandparents, singles, any and all are welcome. We will have chocolate! If you have questions feel free to contact the Session Elders for Youth Ministry: Debbie Armstrong (Debbie.armstrong@dbr.com or 301/502-4207) or Kristen Zacheis (kristen.zacheis@gmail.com or 845/729-8125)



Buildings and Grounds News

*Turn Up the Heat!* Were you wondering why there was no the heat in the Sanctuary a couple weeks ago? Although we have experienced mechanical problems with the AC/heat unit in that building, the problem this time was human error. We have a company installing vinyl soffit and fascia covers on the building and they accidentally bumped the gas shutoff value out back. This happened on Saturday when no one was around and we didn't know there was a problem until we arrived on Sunday to a very chilly Sanctuary.

**Rain Drops Keep Falling on My Head!** Unfortunately, if you sit in some of the back pews during a rain storm this is true. The Sanctuary roof is the next major project the committee will undertake. We will put this out for bid soon to get estimates.

*What's up with the Doors?* We had experienced some problems with the hardware for the new atrium doors so we recently had new heavy duty hardware installed. Unfortunately, on February 5<sup>th</sup> we had an incident at CCPC that damaged the doors. During a storm and power outage our sprinkler system alarm when off. The company that monitors our alarm system could not reach the CCPC members on the notification list so they called the fire department. The fire department had to get into the church so they forced open the front doors and one of the doors to the sanctuary building. Our lock smith temporarily fixed the doors, but he had to order some parts before we will have full functionality.

Paul Sell, Buildings and Grounds Chair

Knits with Sticks

Knits with Sticks will meet on Tuesday, February 18, at 1:00 PM in the Parlor. As Monday is a holiday and I may



not be available, I am moving the date to Tuesday.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

Priscilla Bouic 301-262-4906



A Message from Patty and Ken Adams

Just to let our Northern friends know that we are both doing well and Ken is a week ahead of schedule with his knee therapy. His goal is to be back golfing and also walking the course in four weeks and he will do this.

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, calls, and concerns.

The warm weather helps in the healing process.

Ken & Patty Adams



Thank You from Barbara Stone!

Dear Friends,

Once again I am in your debt. After breaking my arm again (left one this time), you have all been so kind to send me cards and many telephone calls. When you are shut in four walls all day, every little thing you receive is very important.

I want to thank you once again for your many kindnesses, and if ever any of you need some help, (after I finish Physical Therapy), I would be more than happy to reciprocate your kindnesses.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara Stone

Bacharach to Broadway!

Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 8 PM in Dodds Hall

Tickets \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors and military; free for students and children. Available at the door or call 410-721-5422 or online at www.chesapeakechorale.org

Join us for refreshments at intermission



# **BSA Troop 1009's**

Spring Fundraiser 2014

Buy your gardening supplies from Troop 1009. Profits and your tax-deductible donations will be used for Troop events, equipment, provisions, and expenses. **Deadline for orders is March 8**. Your order will be delivered by the Scouts on Saturday April 5.

Just fill out the order form on the community news table in the Atrium, write the check for the total amount owed (payable to BSA Troop 1009), put the order form with check in an envelope and either label it "BSA Troop 1009 Spring Fundraiser" and give to Robin in the church office or place in her mailbox,

or you may mail it to: Boy Scouts of America Troop, 1009 C/O Johnson 15725 Pointer Ridge Drive Bowie, MD 20716-1708.

Questions, contact John Lyman, Scout Master at (301) 262-4730

Thank you for supporting us last year! We hope to be of service again this year!



## **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.



## **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 <u>info@belaircoop.org</u>



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 <u>www.ImagineThePlace.com</u>, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail <u>Ann@ImagineThePlace.com</u>. Scholarships available.