



I try to start early on my Easter Sermon because I want it to be thoughtful and provocative. It is an event that is provocative and unbelievable, even to people of faith. My preacher professor at Princeton Seminary, the late Dr. Donald McLeod, famously used to prod us to come up with sermon titles that are so catchy that a rider on the bus who passed the church sign on Sunday morning would demand the driver stop so he could go in and hear the message. Good luck with that Dr. McLeod! I do have a title, "Staring into the Cave," but the combination of thoughtful and provocative have not yet come together. I have time.

There is an amazing mood always connected with worship on Easter morning. Nothing quite captures the jolt of the news. How do you add commentary to a story about a man brutally murdered, dead for three days, who suddenly comes out of the tomb with the crack of a thunderbolt?

I have usually tried to capture it in drama. Why not? Is anything more dramatic? Dramas are usually effective. There is plenty of material to base them on. There is the fear that caused the three women to run away. There is disbelief looking for more evidence. The disciple Peter tries to outrun John to the tomb to check out this rumor. There is Mary Magdalene's shock when she realizes the man talking to her in the Garden is Jesus.

The best dramatic effect I have ever heard of is what William Sloan Coffin shared in an Easter Sermon several years back. Coffin describes an Easter Sunrise service that takes place on the edge of the Grand Canyon. As the decisive scripture line is read, "And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord ascending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone," (*Matthew 28:2*) a giant bolder is heaved over the rim. As it goes crashing down the side of the Grand Canyon into the Colorado River far below, a two thousand-voice choir bursts into the Hallelujah Chorus.

"Too dramatic?" Asks Coffin. "Not if, despite all appearances, we live in an Easter world."

How about that for a take away message? See you with your flowers on Resurrection Day.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard



Holy Week **Schedule**

April 13th is Palm Sunday: The gospels report Jesus arriving in Jerusalem in a brazen act of street theatre. It is Passover and the city is alive with anticipation that God will do something dramatic. The scene reminds me of the march of the tribal warriors through the capital city in the last segment of the “Hunger Games.”

Following our 10 AM worship, Children’s Ministry will present our final Lenten luncheon, which is an Old Fashioned Church Picnic.

April 17th is Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 PM. There will be communion.

April 18th is Good Friday Service at Noon. We will read the Passion story in John. The service will include periods of silent reflection. We will sing the hymns of the cross.

April 20th is Easter Worship. We offer **three services:** 7 AM, 8:30 AM, 10 AM:

The Sunrise Service will be held at 7:00 AM in the Sanctuary and will be approximately 30 minutes. The service will conclude with communion served in the Memorial Garden.

An Easter breakfast, prepared and hosted by the Session, will follow the Sunrise service from **7:30 - 8:30 AM.**

A Celebration of the Resurrection will be held at 8:30 AM and 10 AM. We would encourage more people to attend the 8:30 AM service so we can accommodate the large crowd at 10 AM. The Children’s program with the Easter Egg Hunt, the Blossoming of the Cross, and a lesson will follow the Children’s Sermon at the 10 AM service.

The Sermon is titled: “The Answer to Failure.”



Lenten Lectionary

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

Looking for a different Lenten discipline this year?

Join us in the Sanctuary each morning (except Sundays) during Lent (March 6 through April 19) at 7:15 AM for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer.
We are usually finished by 7:30 AM.



DID YOU KNOW?

that if you give weekly/monthly donations and miss a week/month you can include all missed donations in the same envelope and on the same check?

If you have any questions regarding donations, please feel free to contact Marie Farney at mpfarney@verizon.net or 301-430-0350.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

DEACON'S CORNER

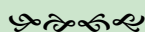
This is the **38nd in a series** of articles about living well by considering the host of things we can change in our lives, our homes and our surroundings that can make our lives healthier, happier, and safer. Special thanks to Joy Bible, former Moderator of the Board of Deacons, for sharing her wisdom and expertise through the Deacon's Corner. We will be preparing a complete set of Deacon's Corner articles to share with CCPC.

Common Sense! Many say that common sense is not common any more. My father use to say he would rather be in a room with one person with common sense than a whole room of PhD's. Common sense is the ability to think and behave in a reasonable way and to make good decisions. Also, it means to make sound and prudent judgments based on a simple perception of the situation or facts. Many dispute that there is such a thing as common sense at all. However you feel about "common sense," it is important to LISTEN and behave in a reasonable way and make good decisions that affect your health.

If you pay attention to your body's features, characteristics, and vital signs, you can then use "common sense" to make simple judgments about what is or is not going on in your body. There are some simple observations you can make on how your body is functioning. Recognize, record, and listen to your inner thoughts. How do you feel in general? How well are you sleeping? Do you harbor any aches and pain? What kinds of activities or foods seem to irritate your body. Do you ever ask yourself: Do I feel healthy? Is it hard for me to get out of bed in the morning? Is there a pattern to the times when I feel lousy and conversely, fantastic?

You might be surprised how easy it is to decode your own body and the mysteries of your own body's quirks and rhythms just by tuning in! You can make sound judgments about your health care and specific needs based on your physiology, genetics, value system, and individual circumstances. It is a fact that our bodies love predictability. The body functions and prefers to maintain a balanced state of being (homeostasis). You can reduce stress on your body by maintaining a regular, consistent routine on a daily basis 365 days a year to the best of your ability. Yes, that includes weekends and holidays. You can honor your body's balance by consistency in your sleep-wake cycles, eating times, periods of physical activity, and schedule for taking any prescribed medicines.

Remember to Tune-in and Listen to your body. There is only one YOU. You are unique and only you can assess your body's functions. Use your common sense to maintain, recognize, and judge your health status. If you have a good handle on your own health, you will be more attuned to any changes that may occur and quicker to attend to them. It is more than common sense to listen and record your body's daily functions, it may be a LIFE saver — Your Life!



Health and Healing

On April 8, Health and Healing started having their meetings at
Doris Kobe's house
(12111 Millstream Drive) at 10 AM on Tuesdays.

Please feel free to join them!

If you have any questions, please contact Doris at
301-464-2097 or jdkobe@verizon.net.



Prayer/Study Group

The Prayer/Study group is looking for a new leader!

For the last 25 years, Doris Kobe has done a wonderful job leading this group, but she has decided that it is time to step down from this role and pass the torch on to another.

Thank you, Doris, for all of your guidance and leadership!

So, what exactly is the Prayer/Study group? The Prayer/Study group delves into spiritual topics along with a small group of seekers. The group selects a book to read aloud and discuss. The last fifteen minutes are spent in prayer and meditation, focusing on prayer requests from the congregation as well as on world concerns.

If you are interested in leading this group, please contact Doris Kobe at 301-464-2097 or jdkobe@verizon.net.

Youth Ministry **NEWS!**

The CCPC Youth Ministry is coming along and we have many events that are approaching this spring/summer. First of all, thank you to the youth, parents, and interested congregants for your ideas, feedback, and support.

Our youth looking to be involved in community service will be at **the Share Shop on April 26**. There will be a **special Youth Group event on April 19** where they will have a Nighttime Egg Hunt on church grounds. Thanks to Rebecca Coleman for bringing up the idea! **May 3rd will be a Car Wash** fundraiser for Youth retreats, where they will build stronger relationships with each other and have fun too! More details to come in the upcoming weeks.

There will be no SCRIP fundraiser this spring, but we are looking to resume it this fall. Giant Cards fundraiser continues on a monthly basis. If you have any questions or want to participate, please contact Debbie Armstrong.

Our next Youth Council meetings are on **May 4, and June 22**. As always, ALL are welcome, even if you just want to listen and observe. The more people we have involved in this program, the more successful it will be in the present and the more successful our church will be in the future!

Six of our youth are attending **Montreat conference this summer July 27- August 2** and we are very excited for them! We are currently looking for chaperones, so if you are interested or know anyone who is, please let us know.

Thank you again for your support during this time of transition.

Kristen Zacheis (ccpcyouth@verizon.net) and
Deborah Armstrong (Debbie.armstrong@dbr.com)
Youth Ministry Elders





Schubert and Friends

Saturday, May 3 2014 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Come join soprano Emily Riley and Susan Ricci Rogel on piano for an evening of song in CCPC's Sanctuary.

The program will include songs by Hundley, Rachmaninoff, Duparc, Strauss and Schubert as well as arias from Puccini.

The concert is free to the public.

A free-will donation will be taken to help defray costs for Emily's upcoming travel to two renowned summer art song programs this summer as well as a food drive for the Bowie Food Pantry.

Contact Susan Ricci Rogel for more information.

A letter from the Wheeler's in Honduras

Winter 2014

Dear Friends,

The start of the New Year came quickly for us. Gloria received a mission team on January 5, the first of 20 planned for the year. She picked up right where she had let off in 2013 — providing hope and encouragement to people in Honduran communities, as she likes to say, by putting a face on solidarity. By that time I was in Mexico working with the Heifer team on using values in their work and doing a self-review program. Another trip was planned for early February to Nicaragua.

Later in January, Gloria and I went to the village of Chonco. As you wind along the river and rise up to a ridge that overlooks the river running toward Guatemala, you feel that you are going into the Mayan past. Chonco has maintained its identity, traditions and values while other villages around them crumble to the intrusions from the outside world. The road itself is a testament to them as people; they built it by hand and it is a tribute today of their determination.



Once in the village we climbed the stairs taking us into the center of the village. The usual curious boys surrounded us; the slap of tortilla-making could be heard, telling us of the normality of life taking place. We were met by the village leader, Eluterio Martinez, a quiet and dedicated leader who people look up to and who always looks for ways to bring people together for community improvement. Eluterio leads by example. He took me up higher in the village to meet his father, not favor or kindness that he bestowed on me.

He told us of the history of the village and the struggles that they have had since the border demarcations with Guatemala in 1933 determined that they were part of Honduras. Nevertheless, little changed from that time until the recent past. They had no land, lived in houses made of sticks and thatched roofs, and had to give part of their crop to the large landowner who had usurped their ancestral land. Eluterio's generation was the first to attend school. In the 1980's, peasant organizations started to bring a new message to the rural poor about their rights and the benefits of being part of an organization. They would meet hidden out in the forest for their own safety. Later, identified as indigenous people, they joined a movement that eventually led to the government buying up land and assigning it to indigenous communities. That is when they received the right to the land that had been their ancestors'. Their story is the story of many Honduran communities: a subsistence level of life with little access to land, education, and health services.

Community transformation and improved living conditions came later. This part of the story is linked to PC (USA) mission teams that were organized in a program to help them build their own houses in 2006. This became their landmark project, in which they demonstrated their abilities when given the opportunity. They made the cement blocks near the river where there is sand and carried the blocks on their backs up the hill and mountain to the housing sites high above the river. The story went on and on, about building a school, bathrooms and wash areas, all done by their own efforts with support from churches in the U.S. They received cows from Heifer and passed on offspring to more families. Children have protein in their diet and a school library. Their story became a story of what is possible when there is good leadership, a community spirit and opportunities for something different. Their community organization turned to advocacy and negotiated with the mayor of Copan to bring electricity into the village.

And yet with all of this change it was obvious that the people had maintained their cultural traditions and sense of identity. The programs had brought living improvements, had lessened the arduous work of women, and had placed a new importance on basic education. But one has the feeling that their story will continue for a long time into the future as direct Mayan descendants live with dignity and within their vision of the world.

I was uplifted from the visit that day. This visit gave me hope for what Gloria and I are involved in among other communities in terms of building up self-confidence, organizational strength, and community transformation; and, for the year ahead of challenges, of new hopes, and new calls. Thank you for your continued financial support, for your interest in our activities and in us as people. Thank you for the prayers for people in Honduras, for those least amongst us. We hope you will continue this journey with us as together we and our global partners work to address the root causes of poverty and bring about God's reign.

Yours faithfully,

Tim and Gloria Wheeler
Mission co-workers in Honduras and Mesoamerica
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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



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 Ann@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

