



The Caller

July 1, 2014

The recently concluded meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly in Detroit has already generated plenty of controversy. This was expected. I warned you about it in my last column. Whenever you decide to openly debate and make decisions on difficult issues, you always leave those on the losing side of the vote unhappy. This is the reason democracies tend to kick the can down the road on hard choices. Politicians don't like to face voters who are mad at them. Some get so mad they marshal the resources to defeat them in the next election. We have seen how timidity and cowardice has become the norm in Washington and nothing important gets done.

The church is not a political body, although it has plenty of politics. When commissioners debate and vote in General Assembly gatherings, they don't represent the members in the sense that they take polls and vote the way a majority of their congregation thinks. They vote their conscience and try to ascertain, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the truth. Church commissioners don't hold office so they don't have a constituency that holds them accountable. They vote their conscience and seek to act in ways that will further the work of Christ in the world. In my mind, being accountable to God is a higher calling than being accountable to a party or an interest group. It is also a terrifying responsibility. As you will hear when Chuck Tanner shares his experience at General Assembly during worship on July 20th, commissioners take their duties very seriously.

Here is the statement released by our Presbytery Executive Wilson Gunn. Wilson preached here during our 50th anniversary celebration. He is a very thoughtful and discerning Christian leader:

The PCUSA General Assembly has voted (310-303) to divest from Caterpillar, Inc., Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions which profit from the occupation by Israel of Palestinian territories. The PCUSA continues to acknowledge the threats faced by the State of Israel from several neighboring states. The General Assembly did not and does not endorse the BDS movement (*BDS stands for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions — a pretty radical group that is trying to use economic and political pressure to get Israel to halt settlements in the occupied territory*). Any attempt to link the PCUSA position to the BDS movement is false. The PCUSA continues to invest in Israel and Palestine and looks forward to the day these two nations are mutually recognized by each other and live beside each other in peace.

The pushback has been immediate and almost predictable. My colleague and friend Rabbi Steve Weismann and I have been in close contact. He shared this in a recent e-mail exchange after I told him I thought that in general the decision and the

vote was constructive:

I actually agree with you, to a degree, that the proposal that was narrowly adopted says many more good things than problematic things. However, as we are already seeing, the press handling of it, and sadly, the general Jewish reaction to it have been ugly, and likely to only get worse this week. I am hearing many of my (usually more sober) colleagues saying things like "Nope, not talking to my Presbyterian colleagues any more" — a position I neither understand nor endorse. I am also seeing and hearing the mainstream media, as they pick the story up, NOT making all the carefully nuanced distinctions that, having read the actual motion, would be the items you and I would both want to see clarified and focused on.

I see that there are two issues. A security issue and a justice issue.

The nation of Israel is rightly concerned with their security. Israel faces neighboring nations that have openly said they want Israel wiped off the face of the earth. People who are threatened will "do what they have to do" in order to feel more secure. However, some actions, like the bulldozing of the homes of Palestinian families that have lived and farmed the property for 300 years and then building Jewish settlements, are unequivocally unjust. If such actions become routine, and efforts to bring change in policy are ignored, those American Christian groups who do mission work in the area are right to say we need to try another way to achieve peace.

Presbyterians and Jews are not united as to the best way to bring peace in Israel/Palestine. There are some Israeli groups that are highly critical of their nation's actions against the Palestinians. The vote at General Assembly was so close that if four commissioners had changed their votes the motion would have failed. I interpret the Assembly action as saying: The present path towards peace is not working. Let us try, in spite of the hardened positions on both sides, to go in another direction.

Peacemaking is hard and thankless work. Have you ever tried to mediate a domestic dispute? However, we can't say we were not warned. Jesus says in the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers." He then adds, speaking from experience, "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

After I get back from my vacation, I will preach a sermon on July 27th about the process that led to the decision to give permission to pastors to perform same sex marriage ceremonies. I will use Acts 15 as my text.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard

July Sunday Calendar

Sunday, July 6, 2014

9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship with Rev. Cox. Communion served -- Sanctuary
Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High School --
Sr. High Room
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, July 13, 2014

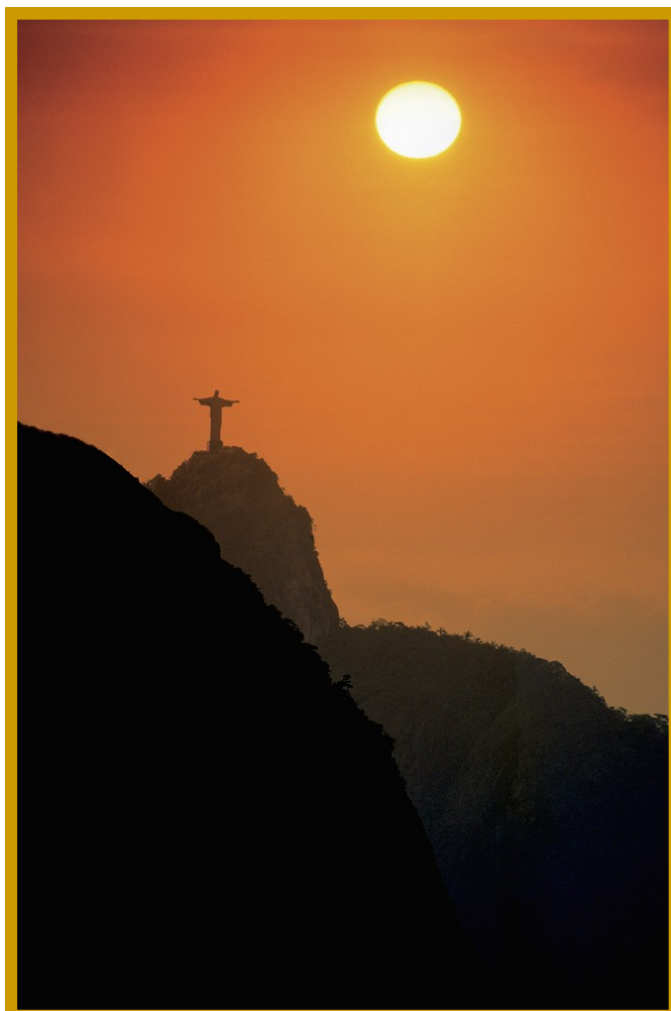
9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship with Rev. Neff -- Sanctuary
7:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale Board Meeting --
Adult Ed Conf Rm
7:00 PM Sea Scout Ship 1009 (BSA) --
Dodds Hall Classroom

Sunday, July 20, 2014

9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
(Chuck Tanner to give report on General Assembly)

Sunday, July 27, 2014

Montreat Trip Begins
9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary



In Memoriam

Bobbie and her husband, Norman, were former members of CCPC. They originally joined in 1966. Our thoughts and prayers are with Norman and the Kallemeyn family.

Bobbie J. Large Kallemeyn, age 79, of Sevierville, passed away at her home Wednesday, June 18, 2014. Bobbie was preceded in death by her mother Erma Temple; father Perry Large, and step-father William Temple. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Norman Kallemeyn; her daughter Debra Kallemeyn; her daughter Karen Kallemeyn Boushie and son-in-law Kristopher Boushie; and her granddaughters Katherine and Madeline Boushie.

Bobbie spent her early years in Sevierville and attended the Benson School in Walden's Creek. As a young woman, she moved with a dear friend to begin work for the federal government in Washington, DC, where she met Norman. His career in the Foreign Agricultural Service took them to Hong Kong, Costa Rica, China and Italy, and in her frequent role as hostess Bobbie bestowed her warm and genuine smile of welcome on guests of all nationalities and levels of diplomatic and military service. In between postings abroad Bobbie and Norman enjoyed returning to their home and community of close friends in Bowie, MD.

In 1994 Bobbie moved back to Sevierville with Norman to build their retirement home on family land. Her active church membership and interest in volunteerism quickly created a wide circle of friends, to whom the family expresses special appreciation for their support. As a high school student Bobbie played basketball, and she was a huge fan of the Lady Vols, cheering on the team at home games and at several tournament games. Bobbie's interests over the course of her lifetime included traveling, hiking, sewing, crafting, gardening, reading, playing the dulcimer, and, most enduring, spending time with family and friends.

The family would like to thank Bobbie's caregivers Joy Miller and Jennifer Rush, and the University of Tennessee Hospice Services. Memorial donations may be made to The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (www.theaftd.org; Radnor Station Building 2, Suite 320, Radnor PA 19087). The family received friends on June 26 followed by a funeral service at First Presbyterian Church of Sevierville with Rev. Terry McAnally officiating. Cremation arrangements by Atchley Funeral Home.



Thank You So Much!

The Brock family would like to express their sincere appreciation for all the prayers and expressions of sympathy following the death of Scott's father earlier this month.



CCPC's Endowment Account

The Endowment Account has been established with Merrill Lynch for the transfer of securities from your account directly to the Endowment Account. Please follow these instructions to process the transaction:

For in-kind donations of securities, request your financial institutions transfer (share quantity, name of security and tax lot) to:

MERRILL LYNCH DTC # 5198
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ACCOUNT 707-02267.

Once the transfer has occurred; please contact me or the financial secretary so we can credit your donation for the Endowment Account or for our current Capital Improvement Campaign.

For your added convenience, we accept automatic weekly/monthly offerings via direct debit from your checking or savings account. Please contact the financial secretary for instructions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the financial secretary.

To the greatest extent possible, we will continue to automate our processes to meet your needs. Bob West, Treasurer, 301-464-3730, email: mvgwest@verizon.net

Cluster Gatherings!

Cluster gatherings happen once a year during the summer months. These gatherings give people in their cluster as well as other clusters a chance to get to know each other better and spend some relaxing time with good food and good folk.

We hope you will enjoy your cluster gatherings this year!

Clusters 3 and 14 will gather on Sunday August 10 at 11:15 AM in Dodds Hall

Clusters 7, 13, and 15 will gather on Sunday, August 17th at 11:15 AM in Dodds Hall

Clusters 2, 8, 11, and 12 dates are pending

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are lay-people — Christian men and women — trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, the birth of a child, or other challenges. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Since 1975, people from more than 11,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers. The CCPC Stephen Ministry team has provided confidential support to numerous people in our congregation since it was established here in 2006.

Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work they are undertaking. On Sunday, June 29, we commissioned Astrid Jonas, Marshall Saylors and Ellen Wimbish, who responded to God's call to be a part of this ministry at CCPC. They will join the Stephen Ministry team of Scott Brock, Sue Evans, Dennis Evans, and Judy Genson, with Stephen Leaders Anita Pesses and Margaret Hallau.

This commissioning service offers an opportunity to show our support for this ministry as our Stephen Ministers assume the duties of their ministry. How can we help?

- † First of all, we can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. This ministry calls for both time and effort. At times they may feel tired or discouraged. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them keep moving forward.
- † We can also affirm and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry. We can tell them how much their hard work means to us, tell others how much we value our Stephen Ministry, and bless and affirm them.

We can become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may apply to be a Stephen Minister. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. We can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care.

As we commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers, let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.



There will be one newsletter for July and August. The next newsletter will be on or before August 1, 2014. Deadline for articles is by 9 AM Thursday, July 24. Any questions, please contact the office. Thank you!



TODDLER VBS

Vacation Bible School

Join us at CCPC for a fun morning of Toddler VBS on

Saturday, July 19 from 9:30-11:30 AM!

Carnival-style games, Bible stories, crafts, songs, and water play (bring your swimsuit and towel!). It's all the fun of "big kid" VBS, reimagined for little brothers and sisters ages 0-3. Register in advance to receive a special rubber-duckie prize, or drop-in as your schedule permits for a morning of summer fun.

This event is parent-guided(no drop-off) and FREE to all!

Email ccpckids@gmail.com to register in advance.

Volunteers Still Needed!



Free Yoga for Veterans

Friday, July 4th at 10:30 AM

Thank you for your service!

Taught by Pamela Eggleston, Certified Yoga Teacher with specialized training for service members and veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In her spare time, Pamela works with military and veteran spouses and families through Blue Star Families.

Located in the CE Building
(in the building behind the church)



Are You Traveling this Summer?

This year, we plan to give families personal items as a supplement to their gifts for Christmas Families.

Many of you travel and are given small items like soap, lotion, shampoo, etc. by hotels, cruise ships, and other hospitality groups. Please bring back any extras and put them in the bag marked Christmas Families in the church office.

Any questions, please contact Roxanne Johnson or Francis Rocha.

A Letter from the Boyds

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ at Christian Community Presbyterian Church,

Greetings from Kinshasa, DR Congo! It is nine months since our move back to Kinshasa and we have fairly well adjusted to life here. Both of us travel quite a bit, but it feels right when we return home. On Sundays we worship at either the nearby Presbyterian Church, a large ecumenical congregation several miles away or at other Presbyterian churches as we are invited.

On Pentecost, we worshipped at a downtown church to which we had been invited. It truly was a spirited time, as our hearts were lifted by an endearing little boy of about 4 years old. He danced his heart out, taking various percussion instruments and beating the most complicated rhythms that are so fascinating and typical for African music. You could see he belonged in this church! Following the service we had a wonderful conversation with the pastor, elders and deacons. They made very clear what was important for their Presbyterian community. It was not that they did not have electric guitars, or needed lights or repairs to their building. Rather, they brought forward their concerns about the vulnerable around them – the orphaned children who can't go to school and the elderly widows. We heard them talk about their efforts to provide food and care, and the difficulties they have in doing so. They expressed their dismay about the terrible toll divorce is taking on children, a problem we hear over and over again. Too often it is the story of the mean step-mother, but without a Cinderella ending. In this context, the congregation is trying to make the Word of God relevant.

We currently are hosting two pastors in our home. Pastor Mboyamba is the director of evangelism and church life for the Presbyterian Church of the Congo (CPC). Pastor Bob Rice is a fellow PCUSA mission coworker, serving under Pastor Mboyamba in the area of evangelism and Christian education. Yesterday we heard them talk excitedly about their recent visit to Bukavu and Goma in Eastern Congo. They were responding to an invitation by a group of independent Presbyterian churches that have expressed their desire to join the CPC. In an environment wrought with violence, these pastors with no formal Biblical or theological training have conviction and drive to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christi has made several visits, on the continent to South Sudan, Rwanda and Madagascar, and in-country to the provinces of Bandundu, West Kasai and North Kivu. She has witnessed partners efforts addressing concerns about women and children, and discerns themes that have surfaced in her experiences. For Congo, she just finished an interactive brochure in that respect. The online Justice Unbound magazine published just this week an article she wrote to provide context to an Overture related to Congo, which will be discussed at the PC(USA) General Assembly, this week.

Jeff continues to engage with the Presbyterian education leaders. Living in Kinshasa, Jeff is now better able to connect on a regular basis with the education coordinator for the Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa. Supporting quality education is a key element of Presbyterian World Mission's effort to address root causes of poverty.

Next year we hope to mark twenty-five years of service as mission co-workers with the Presbyterian Church (USA). We give thanks to God for the privilege to have participated in at least a small part of God's mission in this world. A growing circle of supporters has accompanied us, and we are thankful to be able to count you among them! There are many ways to support Presbyterian engagement in God's mission and the roles we both have in that. Most if not all of you pray for us, our colleagues within the PC(USA) and our partners. Some write encouraging letters, cards and emails; others craft meaningful reminders of our partnership. There are churches that e-mail us copies of a sermon, blessing us that way with keen insights and observations, and from time to time we read or listen to worship services that are online. That all lifts our spirits, affirms our mission connection, and informs us of your interests and needs. And then, there are the many who faithfully and generously contribute financially to our sending and support. We are appreciative of each way churches and individuals express their support, which has sustained us over the years.

We want to specifically thank you for your gifts for our sending and support. By God's grace we hope this will continue to enable us to serve as mission coworkers of the Presbyterian Church USA in the years to come. Thank you for embracing us with your Christian love, support and encouragement.

We invite you to pray with us for the following:

- + For a congregational or Presbytery partnership to emerge with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Equatorial Guinea, our only Spanish-speaking partner in Africa.
- + For the women of the churches in Cameroon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea, that their contribution to the church may be fully appreciated and their potential actively nurtured.
- + For children across Africa who are unable to get a basic education due to financial constraints of their families.

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Jeff and Christi Boyd

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E200314

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/boyd-jeff-and-christi/>

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

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.

