



The Caller

April 15, 2015

Christian Community Presbyterian Church Newsletter

April 15th is the 150th anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln. Leading up to this week's revisit of the tumultuous time surrounding our 16th President's Assassination, was a reenactment of Robert E. Lee surrendering his Northern Virginia Army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. General Lee was graciously permitted to ride home on his famous horse, Traveller. The Union did, however, retain his family estate in Arlington, which became the most hallowed Military cemetery in America. Thankfully, the war which cost the lives of a staggering 750,000 soldiers was finally over.

The Civil War freed slaves in the south, but the freedom was illusory. Once the period of Reconstruction ended and northern troops were no longer around to enforce the constitutional amendments guaranteeing the right to vote and equal legal protection, a white backlash against Emancipation gained steam. Black citizens found themselves yet again powerless and many were relegated to convict leasing camps that were in many ways worse than slavery. Sunshine gave way to darkness and the Jim Crow system of legalized segregation emerged. The more things change, the more they stay the same. It would take the Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 60's to bring an end to Jim Crow laws.

However, the backlash against the successes of Civil Rights legislation soon gave way to "Law and Order" campaigns that brought the American prison population to the staggering 2 million level of today. Sadly, we have 5% of the world's population, but a staggering 25% of its prison population. Millions more are relegated to the margins of mainstream society, banished to a political and social space not unlike Jim Crow. The old Jim Crow of segregation has morphed into the New Jim Crow of mass incarceration. What American history has clearly shown is that racism is highly adaptable. Once one system of racial control is abolished, another system quietly, but efficiently, gets rebuilt.

This week the Paper Tigers Men's book group will begin reading and discussing the most important public policy book of our day: "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander. This morning I was concluding the reading for this week at Panera when my well read African-American, Christian friend looked at the book and said, "Your church is reading that!" When I said yes, he said, "Maybe there is hope for real change!"

We shouldn't really be surprised that the racial caste system has been so persistent and adaptable in this country. The system of slavery was a main ingredient baked into the original constitution. That is why Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address had to call the country back to its ideals enshrined in the Declaration of Independence 87 years earlier.

150 years have come and gone since that gracious meeting of gentlemen generals at Appomattox Court House. I am not sure who won the war. I do know the people who continue to lose out. For that I am not proud. Sadly, the average citizen just doesn't see what is really going on. We think what is invisible to us doesn't exist. The good news is that when events shine light on the dark side of American justice things do start to change. Look what live television coverage of the savage beating of peaceful protestors on the Edmund Pettis Bridge did to getting Voting Rights passed in 1965.

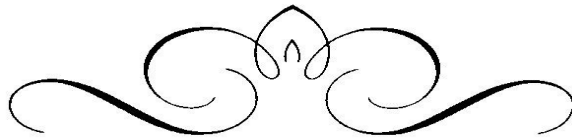
"The Civil War ended—somebody won and somebody lost," writes David Blight, a historian at Yale, "but 150 years later we are reliving the two huge legacies of the war, on race and federalism, on the front page every day." We have a long way to go. Progress is slow. Thankfully, Alexander's book has already led to some bipartisan efforts to address mass incarceration and its deleterious effects on our nation's health. If you have enough guts, pick up and read Alexander's book. The headlines will start to make sense again.

Grace and peace,
James Brassard

Worship Notes

April 19th: We continue the post resurrection appearances of Jesus as he reassures his followers and helps them understand this miracle and its message. In Luke 24:36B-48, Jesus shares another meal with his followers. Sermon is titled: "Inviting Yourself to Dinner." We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Sean William Campbell at 10:30AM

April 26th: This is "Good Shepherd Sunday." We read John's long discourse on Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18) and Psalm 23. How do we distinguish a good shepherd from the many false shepherds trolling the world? What does being a good shepherd cost Jesus?



A Celebration of Life

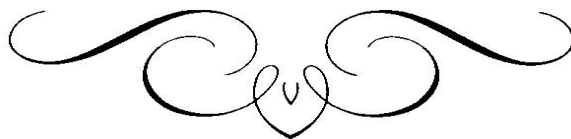
for

Jack Jones



Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 2:30 PM, CCPC Sanctuary

A reception in Dodds Hall will follow the service.



Adult Education

The Age of Reformation

Lesser Known Reformers

Rev. Dick Neff will be leading a three-part series on
Another Look at the Reformation: Early Christian Reformers

April 19th & 26th and May 3rd

At 9:30 AM in the Adult Education Conference Room

We all have heard about Martin Luther and John Calvin, and perhaps, since we are Presbyterians, John Knox, as well. But what about Jan Huss, John Wyclif, William Farel, Heinrich Bullinger, Martin Bucer, and others. On Sunday April 19th we will consider the pre-Reformation years; on the 26th, the era of the Reformation; and on May 3rd, the post-Reformation years including the Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation. Come to expand your knowledge of this crucial era for Western Christianity.



Flower Arranging **Workshop**

On Saturday, May 9th at 10 AM to Noon in the CCPC kitchen, we will discuss the key points to designing an arrangement. Flowers will be available for Sunday's flower ministry. If you would like to make your own arrangement to take home, please bring three to four bunches of flowers, which will be the amount needed for one arrangement.

REMEMBER:
Mother's Day is the next day—Sunday, May 10th!
This could be a perfect way to say Happy Mother's Day, Mom!

The Flower Committee

CCPC



CCPC will be doing our annual Spring cleanup on

Saturday, April 18 from 9 AM to Noon

Bring your rakes, gloves, weeding tools, and willing to work attitude because we will be weeding, mulching, and cleaning up the outside grounds of the church.

If you can't make it that day and want to participate, you can come in earlier that week and do some weeding — that would be a big help in preparing for the mulching. We will have lunch for all of our hard working volunteers at noon.

Power Outage

Get Your Food!

Due to some electrical work happening in the kitchen on Monday, April 27th, the power will be out all day on the Dodds Hall side of the building.

If you have anything in the refrigerator that you want to keep, please make sure you take it out sometime before April 27th. You can put it back anytime on or after Tuesday, April 28th.

Youth Council Report

January and February 2015

Events in January/February:

- ◆ Warm Nights on January 18th. Nine youth volunteered to cook, prep, and serve the homeless guests.
- ◆ We joined the Children's Ministry to collect \$784.48 through SouperBowl of Caring. All the donations went to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry.
- ◆ Backpacks for the Homeless Mission Project. The youth put together five backpacks and people from the church gave them out to homeless in the DMV area. We plan to do this project in the future.
- ◆ The Youth have been volunteering to help out with Optional Activity that takes place during the second service on Sundays for young children.
- ◆ Teachers for Sunday Morning Connect are Kevin Clemence, Charlie Dziduch, Kristen Zacheis, and Justin Devine.
- ◆ Justin Devine has been running Youth Group on Sunday evenings each week. There has been a gradual increase in attendance each week, with some youth bringing their friends.
- ◆ Hiding Easter eggs for the children on Easter Sunday. Thirty-five kids participated in the egg hunt with seven Youth helping out as well.

Upcoming events:

- ◆ Laser Tag in April
- ◆ SCRIP and Car Wash fundraisers
- ◆ Youth Sunday
- ◆ VBS on June 22nd-25th
- ◆ Combined Junior High/Senior High Retreat currently planned for June 26th-28th. Dates might change.
- ◆ Montreat on August 2nd-6th

Kristen Zacheis and Gladys Tataw-Ayuketah
Youth Ministry Elders



Thank You!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the Lenten Luncheon, hosted by Children & Youth ministries. All of the pasta dishes were delicious! A BIG Thank You to all of the people who helped with setup and cleanup. We could not have had as successful a luncheon without the help of all volunteers!

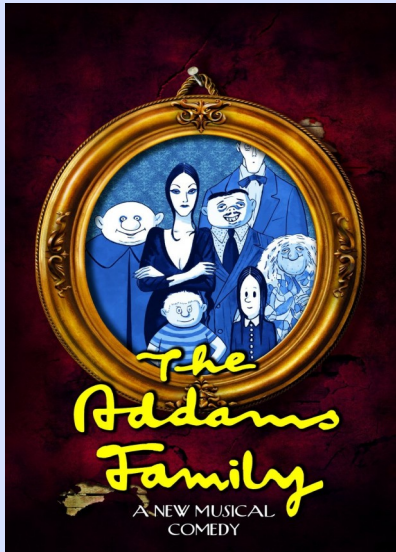
Carrie Ahearn and Alex Bourne
Children Ministry Elders



Thank you for your support of the *Blankets of Hope* project. I think it went very well as we made almost 100 blankets for our soldiers. The turnout was fabulous and many folks told me they liked the venue better than before. Here is the link to the BOH Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/287763678013992/>.

Thanks to the congregational support of the project! The folks from the church that came out did a great job and seemed to be enjoying themselves. We appreciate the donation of fleece from those who could not personally be there to help. I hope that we are welcome to continue the annual project at CCPC.

Continue to walk with God, Deborah Rice



The
Addams Family

Thursday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 19, at 3:00 p.m.

Becker Center for the Performing Arts
Indian Creek Upper School
1130 Anne Chambers Way
Crownsville, MD 21032

<http://www.indiancreekschool.org/arts/upcoming-shows>

Tickets can be purchased online through their website or purchased at the door

WARNING: musicals do tend to sell out



Free Yoga for *Veterans*



Sunday, April 19 at noon

Every third Sunday of each month, please join
Imagine Yoga and Wellness Center for FREE Yoga for Veterans. Imagine wants to welcome home war
veterans and help them cope with stress of combat through yoga instruction.

Info@ImagineThePlace.com or call 443-510-6308

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
Web: <http://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 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.

