



The Caller

June 1, 2015

Summer Worship is 10:30AM

New York Times columnist, David Brooks, has written a bestseller titled, "The Road to Character." In an April 11th op-ed, Brooks penned a thought provoking summary of the book's themes in a column titled, "The Moral Bucket List." Since it is graduation time, I thought I might share some of his comments and make a few of my own.

Brooks believes there are two sets of virtues, the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues. He says the résumé virtues are the skills you bring to the marketplace. The eulogy virtues are the ones that are talked about at your Memorial Service — whether you were kind, brave, honest, or faithful.

Brooks says that although we know that the eulogy virtues are more important than the résumé ones, our culture and our educational systems spend more time teaching the skills and strategies you need for career success than the qualities you need to radiate what he calls an inner light. While Americans complain about the decline in character and civility; leaders are judged by external measures of success. When our culture highly values and honors those who master the resume virtues, it is not surprising that most of us have learned how to build a career. With little value placed on eulogy virtues, you might expect few people know that inner character has to be developed.

Brooks admits that his life has been spent seeking external achievement while allowing the years to pass without exploring the deepest parts of character. So, a few years ago he set out to discover how deeply good people got that way. He admitted that he didn't know if he could follow their road to character. But at least he wanted to know what the road looked like.

Here are a couple of his conclusions.

Wonderful people are made, not born. He discovered that the people he admired had achieved an authentic inner virtue, built slowly from specific moral and spiritual accomplishments. The column suggested you could call these spiritual and moral accomplishments a moral bucket list, the experiences one should

have on the way toward the richest possible inner life.

In contrast to the hyper-individualism of our time, character is defined by how deeply rooted you are. He asks some good questions: Have you developed deep connections that hold you up in times of challenge and push you toward the good? Have you come to a reasonably settled philosophy about fundamental things? Are you blessed with a web of individuals who love you unconditionally? Are you involved in tasks (I call them mission tasks) that can't be completed in a single lifetime?

Brooks echoes my lament about Commencement speakers who are always telling young people to follow their passions or their bliss or to be true to yourself. This is a vision of life that begins with self and ends with self. But, people on the road to deep character do not find their vocations by asking, "What do I want from life?" They ask, "What is life asking of me?" How can I match my intrinsic talent with one of the world's deep needs?

I found myself agreeing with almost everything Brooks is saying. However, the lack of character development should not be blamed on our educational system. We seem to blame our schools for every societal shortcoming; then, we underfund them. The journey towards character is primarily a spiritual one. It is best pursued when one is regularly in conversation and study with others who come together to be Christ-like. I believe the decline in character in our culture is primarily caused by the widely reported reduced participation in religious activities. The quasi-religious organizations are also facing declining membership. In my first call, I was in the Rotary Club. Every week we were reminded of the motto: Service above Self. Weekly participation at meetings and help with community service activities was mandatory. Although most of the members were members of churches, the ones who were not told me they liked the club because it reminded them of what was important in life. "It helps keep me humble."

Yes, character in short supply. We can do better if we value it.

Grace and peace,
James Brassard



Worship Notes

June 7th: Women's Sunday. We are blessed to welcome as our preacher the Rev. Jessie Lowry. Jessie is a Bowie native who came to faith in a nearby church as a teenager. She attended Eastern University studying Sociology and then attended Princeton Theological Seminary upon hearing the call the ministry. The Presbyterian Women of the church will present their "Woman of the Year" award.

June 14th: Youth Sunday. The Middle School and High School youth will be leading us in worship; filling the roles of Ushers, Greeters, Readers and Liturgists. There will be a variety of new songs to be done as well as some Special Music from a few of our youth. Justin will be preaching a sermon that discusses the difficulty of balancing church life with the demands of the world. Please come and join us for this special Sunday!



June Sunday Calendar

Sunday, June 7, 2015

10:30 AM Women's Worship Service with
Communion -- Sanctuary
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, June 21, 2015

10:30 AM Worship Service with
Installation of Officers -- Sanctuary
12 Noon Free Yoga for Veterans -- CE Building
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, June 14, 2015

10:30 AM Youth Sunday Worship Service with
Justin Devine -- Sanctuary
6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, June 28, 2015

Jr. High Retreat
10:30 AM Worship Service with
Agivie Baptism -- Sanctuary
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room



Memorial Garden Brick Ceremony

Brick Order Deadline

The Memorial Garden Brick Ceremony will be held at

12 Noon on Sunday, October 4, 2015

The deadline for brick orders is by

12 Noon Wednesday, July 15th.

(Please note this is a strict deadline as time is needed for the orders to be processed, the bricks to be made, delivered to the shop, picked up from the shop, then laid in the pathway.)

Bricks are \$50.00 each. The order forms are in the church office.

For more information, please contact Robin in the church office via email ccpcbowie@verizon.net or by phone (301) 262-6008.



The next Caller will be sent out on June 12th. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, June 9th.
Any questions, please call the office.



The Gadabouts

Lunch at Brio's on June 2nd!

Join the Gadabouts for lunch at Brio's in Annapolis. Those not going directly to the restaurant should meet at 11:30 AM in the church parking lot to car pool.

Our reservations are for 12 noon.

Any questions, please contact Marge Clark.

Lady Tigers

Heads-Up Ladies!

Lady Tigers Book Group meets year-round and usually focuses on lighter reading in the summer. If you have the time and feel the urge to read and discuss books, please join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. We are currently reading *The Warmth of Other Suns*, about the great migration from the South to the North. We will be selecting our summer reads soon.

If you are free this summer and like to read as well as discuss the book, please do consider joining us even if it's just for the summer months. For information you can call Bea Uehling at 410-741-1883 or Anne Shelby at 301-262-1412.

Welcome!

A new grandson for Sandy and Paul Dorsey!

Jack James Demers

Born on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 to Katie (Dorsey) and Troy Demers.

James was born in Anne Arundel Medical Center, weighed in at 7 lbs.

9 oz., and 20" long.

Congratulations to Katie and Troy!

And, congratulations to our proud grandparents, Sandy and Paul!





Friendly Reminder!

**Don't forget
to sign up for VBS**

**Deadline is by
12 Noon June 21, 2015**

Home Town Nazareth

**Vacation Bible School
June 22nd through 25th
5:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Ages 3 to Entering the 6th Grade
Dinner will be served!**

Come join us for 4 nights of Fun, Music, Games, Food and Bible Stories. Students will be able to Interact and purchase items in the Marketplace, enjoy stories about the young Jesus from his mother Mary. They will sing, dance, and worship through music and most of all have fun in the name of Jesus!

Junior and Senior High Retreat

WHEN: June 26th through 28th
WHERE: Meadowkirk retreat Center in
Middleburg VA
COST: \$25



Come for a weekend filled with fun, food and Fellowship!
We will be participating in a ropes course as well as tubing, playing night games,
and of course studying the Bible.

Contact Justin Devine at ccpcdirced@verizon.net or 707-344-332 to sign up!

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.

