



July 1, 2015

The shooting in Charleston a week ago last Wednesday night left nine people dead. The nine victims were worshippers who had come to the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church for bible study, singing, and evening prayers. Witnesses said the shooter, Dylann Roof, was muttering racist comments as he fired multiple rounds into each of his black victims. If true, this was a crime bred by a particularly craven form of racial hatred. The Southern Poverty Law Center has been tracing the connection between American and international white supremacist movements. Anders Behring Breivik, the Norwegian terrorist who killed more than 70 people in his country in 2011 because he wanted “to save Europe from Islam,” had ties to American white nationalists. A photograph of Mr. Roof appears to show him in a jacket bearing replicas of the flags for apartheid South Africa and Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was called when whites were still in control. To label this the work of one sick individual, not a reminder of the region’s past and the alarming growth of white hate groups, is wishful thinking.

President Obama said the nation needs to do more than mourn and call for healing. “At some point, we, as a country, will have to reckon with the fact that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries,” he said. “It doesn’t happen in other places with this kind of frequency.” The mass killing raises disturbing questions about how yet another obsessed individual in America got his hands on another deadly weapon.

I will leave the topics of racism and gun carnage for other people to address. Meanwhile, I spent part of the past two-weeks supporting a fellow Methodist pastor, Margaret Clemons, as she dealt with two shootings, one fatal, in Old Bowie. The shootings appear to be related; the second shooter was the brother of

the young man who was killed. Our congregation was part of a group that did home renovations to the King family home. A couple members of St. Matthews had tried to mentor the young man who was killed. Sadly, when the shooting stops we will have four more disaffected young men whose lives are permanently ruined. The community of Old Bowie is frightened and short on hope. The city government and the Police Department are starting to pay attention.

A recent report of the Social Science Research Council Study found that 5.5 million people between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working nor in school. At a time when the economy is requiring workers to have higher levels of skills, one in seven of America’s young adults can’t even get started. Although there are racial and regional variations on these grim statistics, we have a large group of alienated young people. Without a sense of direction and without strong family support, these young men are often drawn to dangerous activities. Some even gravitate toward hate groups that blame their alienation on blacks or immigrants. The violence follows a typical pattern. Arguments with “friends” escalate, the young men agree to meet, they run and grab their weapons. Deadly things happen when guns are involved.

The task of bridging the alienation gap is daunting. We need better schools, mentoring programs, more job training, and more community involvement in segregated areas. Sadly, the country seems largely unaware that a large number of young people exist wholly apart from the mainstream. This situation is not only enormously damaging to these young men, but also to the rest of our society. The pattern of disengagement needs to be broken.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard



Worship Notes

July 5th: Plenty of special music, patriotic and otherwise, is on tap as we celebrate the holiday. We will say farewell to our Worship Team's drummer, Lou Aquilina, who will be moving his family to Charleston, SC for the next year as he completes a construction project. Rev. Brassard's sermon will be titled "The Cross, the Flag, and the Cup." Communion will be served.

July 12th: King David joyously escorts the Ark of the Covenant into his new capital city. The nation is rejoicing the unification of the north and southern kingdoms. David gets so excited he strips off his clothes and dances naked. The response to his lack of modesty brings a strange rebuke. What is the nature of joy?



July Sunday Calendar

Sunday, July 5, 2015

9:45 AM Choir Practice -- Choir Room
 10:30 AM Worship Service with Communion --
 Sanctuary
 6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, July 12, 2015

9:45 AM Choir Practice -- Choir Room
 10:30 AM Worship Service -- Sanctuary
 11:30 AM Cluster 5, 8, & 13 Gathering -- Dodds Hall
 6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room
 7:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale Board Meeting --
 Adult Ed Conf Rm

Sunday, July 19, 2015

9:45 AM Choir Practice -- Choir Room
 10:30 AM Worship Service with Dziduch Gedrich Baptism --
 Sanctuary
 6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, July 26, 2015

9:45 AM Choir Practice -- Choir Room
 10:30 AM Worship Service -- Sanctuary
 6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

2015 CCPC Elder & Deacon Biographies

ELDERS

Amy Littlefield - Amy grew up in Houston, Texas, graduated from Baylor University, and moved to Washington in 1984. She has lived in Bowie for over 25 years with her husband Roy, and has 3 children (Leah, Roy and Christy). Amy has been a teacher for 13 years and earned her PhD in Educational Psychology in 2011. Amy currently teaches high school world history full-time, and also teaches education courses at the university level on a part-time basis. Amy has been a member of CCPC since 1997, where she has taught Sunday School for 7 years and served as a deacon twice. Amy is now looking forward to serving CCPC as an elder.

Anita Pesses - Anita has been a member of CCPC since 1998, and grew up in United Church of Christ and Presbyterian churches in Iowa and Wisconsin — Go, Packers! She has served on Session twice before, and has worked on Mission, and the Outreach and Nominating committees. Most recently, she was part of the search team that brought Justin Devine to CCPC. Anita also sings in the Celebration Choir, is a Stephen Ministry leader, and writes and designs our church website. She has led two PWOC women's retreats and will do a third next spring. Professionally, Anita is chief of the Public Affairs and Marketing Division in the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Department of Parks and Recreation. She holds degrees in journalism and political science from the University of Iowa. She and Mark have lived in Bowie since 1989, and have two adult daughters and three grandchildren.

Bob Brutout - Bob and Susan, his wife of 42 years, moved to Bowie from Pittsburgh 1990. They have three children, Christopher, Amy and Emily, and one grandson, Gibson, who is five. Bob and his family joined CCPC in 2004. Bob has served as Deacon, utilized his skills on many Habitat for Humanity trips, and held an assortment of "starring roles" in a variety of CCPC productions. Bob has volunteered as a CCPC Elder because it's the duty of every member to serve in a capacity where they can make a difference.

Ryan Remley - Ryan's epic journey began in Southern California in the year of our Lord, 1982. From an early age, it was apparent that he was destined for greatness. A true renaissance man, he has worked as a Commercial Diver in California, a Submarine Pilot in Maui, and defended freedom and democracy around the world as a member of the US military. It was in Misawa, Japan he met his partner-in-crime and Baby Mama, Irene. The two established headquarters in Bowie, Maryland in 2012, and joined CCPC that same year. Ryan and Irene are currently expecting their first podling. Oh, and he also invented s'mores.

DEACONS

Debbie Armstrong - I have been member of CCPC for about 17 years. I grew up in Bowie and have been married for 26 years to my friend and classmate Jesse. Our two children, Michael (23) and Brooke (21) grew up in CCPC and enjoyed a meaningful spiritual journey through their years here. I have previously served as a Deacon and Elder, been a Sunday School teacher (all ages), and supported VBS. I continue to be involved with the Youth Ministry, when they need me. I have participated in an occasional skermon and been active in the CCPC Theatre Troupe productions. I am a member of Grace and Glory Circle. Professionally, I am a project coordinator for the pharmaceutical group of a D.C. law firm and help to manage the activities of several pharmaceutical consortia. I am excited for this opportunity to serve our church and members again as a Deacon and look forward to this rewarding and meaning experience.

Priscilla Bouic - I grew up on various Indian Reservations out West and in South Dakota, attended the Indian School for three years at the Fort Thompson Sioux Reservation. Later, we lived at Chilocco, Oklahoma, but I attended high school and the first two years of college in nearby Arkansas City, Kansas, graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a BA in Spanish. I had a Rotary Fellowship to the University of Mexico and I was a Teaching Fellow at the State University of Iowa where I got my MS in Spanish. After working in West Virginia and California, I came to Washington D.C. to work for the government. I met and married and later left the job for the birth of our first baby. After an overseas assignment, we moved to Bowie in 1966. I have been a substitute teacher in the public schools as well as a part-time faculty at Prince George's Community College, and later worked for M-NCPPC in the Natural and Historical Resources Division. I am also a long-term member of AAUW (The American Association of University Women) and am an Honorary Life Member. After retirement from M-NCPPC, I returned to teaching for the college, but off campus, at the Bowie Senior Center, for about 10 years. I have been a member of CCPC since 1966 and my growing family attended church here through their teen years. I have many pleasant memories of singing in the choir over the years until about three years ago. Over the years, I have helped out in Bible School and have participated in Joy Circle. I started attending most of the women's retreats in the 1990s and have enjoyed every one I have been able to attend. I was the facilitator of the needlework group that made the banners for the new sanctuary, using Nancy Sanford's designs. I participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry and also am the facilitator for the "Knits with Sticks" group that makes scarves and other items for the parents of the Christmas Families. I have twice been a deacon, and also served a term as elder. The CCPC family has always been an important part of my life and I have always felt warmly supported by this community. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service again as a deacon.

Jan Butler - I was raised in Lincoln, Nebraska in an upper middle class, conservative Republican and "Holiday Presbyterian" family. My maternal grandparents were leaders in the community, in their church, and lived in the style fitting their status. I was the first granddaughter of their first daughter; I was loved.

When I was four, I was taken to the family's church. Church was a traditional cornerstone building housing massive pews. The pews had been polished with beeswax so much that the stained glass windows reflected on them like mirrors and I would slide off unless I sat very still, which I did. No one made a sound except the choir dressed in formal blood red robes and the ministers dressed in stiff black gowns. Children were expected to sit through the entire service; hands in lap, feet crossed at the ankles. The ministers would stand at the twin pulpits and raising fists in the air, yell and scream at the congregation. I would keep my head bowed to avoid looking at them and the life sized carving of Jesus on the cross. God, at this church, wanted his sinners to repent and pray for forgiveness. I would ask this God to take away my temper (Mama said that it was a sin) and help me to love chocolate less, and my baby sister more.

Five years later, two events changed my opinion of who God was and that I might get to know Him. My maternal grandfather passed away and I had my first spiritual moment. The night after gramps died, he came and visited me. He wore a dark suit, crisp white shirt, red tie, and his Masonic pin on his lapel. He took the pin, pinned it to my nightgown and said that he was so sorry to leave me but so happy to be with God. I needed to know that I could talk to him and Him whenever; both God and he would love me forever unconditionally. I had always known that about gramps; but the God I'd known seemed to put a lot of restrictions on His love.

The second event was that we moved next door to a young minister who was just starting his first church in our new neighborhood. He became my first religious mentor. We had talks about church and God. I started going with him to the new church. He started a youth group and church became the place to learn about and discuss God with teachers and friends. Much later, he married John and me in that church.

Fast forward twenty five years; John and I were raising our family in Bowie, Maryland. After asking God to help find us a church where my children, Matt and Leesa, could have as positive an experience as mine; a visit to CCPC answered my prayers. Dave Loomis was their first religious mentor, teacher, adult pal, play director, and more. Again, fast forward a lot of years to Spring 2015. After surviving a brutal winter with classes at the senior center, circle, and book club prompting me to not only get out of the house, but to thrive. I was searching for more. I was looking for a way to be of service at CCPC when I attended a workshop for Stephen Ministries. Since I was sitting at the same table as James, I told him how this program sparked my desire to use my experiences with home care giving, Hospice, and Elder Care. I read over all the materials and waited to be contacted about when training classes would be held. When I received the call, not about classes, but instead asking if I would be a Deacon; once again, I knew that God had a better plan for me.

Deb Cooper - I have been attending CCPC for 5 years and am looking forward to my new duties as a Deacon. I feel with this endeavor I will now know more members of our church. I have lived in Bowie for 46 years, altho' originally from Pennsylvania, we moved here from Hawaii. I have just 'retired' from 23 years as a 'behind the scenes' volunteer at The Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, now I am working on projects with Bowie's Belair Mansion. I have 3 sons and 1 daughter who all live out of the area.

Trudy Neff - I joined CCPC in 1969 when my husband, Dick Neff, was called to be Senior Pastor of the church. Dick and I have five children, all of whom were confirmed at CCPC. Several of our children were married here, and Dick baptized most of our nine grandchildren here. I have been active in many programs of the church, including serving as Deacon and as an Elder. I have participated in Warm Nights, Bible School, Sunday School, Choir, Bell Choir, and PWOC, and last year was honored to be chosen as a Life Member of PWOC. Thirty-five years ago, I established the Bell Choir that is now the Clinquant Choir. I recently attended my 60th reunion at Dickinson College where I earned a pre-medical degree in Biology and Chemistry. I am a driver for the FISH organization, and currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Bowie Health Center. Dick and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary on August 20th this year. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to serve as a Deacon again.

Sharon O'Kelly Youngdahl - Sharon has a BFA and an MA in Acting and Directing from WVU, emphasis on oral interpretation of literature. Followed husband, Jon, to D.C. in 1976 when he was chosen as member of the US Navy Band, and later Jon became choir director here at CCPC for many years. Sharon and Jon raised three children here at CCPC, son Todd, twins Kelly and Erin. Sharon has been a member of CCPC since 1983 and has sung in all choirs and is currently in the Celebration Choir. She served two terms as Elder: worked with the Youth program; served for many years on the Outreach Committee; served on the Nominating Committee; was chair of Personnel and Worship Councils. Sharon worked on many Parish Life events, assisted Jon with numerous special choir programs, has directed many musical and dramatic reviews here at CCPC since 1985, ran a youth acting class, taught Sunday School and currently directs mini worship dramas. Sharon retired in 2008 from a 30 year career as Manager for Human Resources and Attorney Recruitment for D.C. and national corporate law firms. Worked for 2½ years as substitute teacher for Bowie and Arundel County Schools and currently is proud to be grandmother on call.

Thank You!

Dear CCPC Family,

I cannot believe I have not sent out an update on my grandson, Tim Harper, in these many months. Life for Tim has been a whirlwind since mid-March when his parents had to go get him from college.

The short story is that he came home from the hospital after Easter and has been making huge steps forward every day. He began reading books again in May (after not being able to read for several months) and continues at his original pace, has incredibly meaningful conversations, went to a "Retreat" recently, which he seemed to thoroughly enjoy. He makes goals for each day and is able to meet them. His days are challenging but his nights are now restful after weeks of great difficulty sleeping.

More than anything his family has seen all the prayers lifted up for him answered so miraculously. God is moving, and we are all amazed! Relationships are healing. Life changing decisions being made for the good. We in Tim's family see God's powerful hand in this and are so thankful for His merciful love!

This grandma wanted you all to know that we so appreciate of EVERY prayer that was prayed and is being prayed for Tim. He still has a long road, but he is walking in grace. He asks that people keep praying for him

Most gratefully, I cannot thank you enough,

Joan Pitkin Bevan



Even though I didn't keep the intended schedule, church family kept up with me through phone calls, cards, and visits. Instead of days that could have been dreary, my days moved along and were mostly cheery. I moved from hospital to rehab, and from rehab to home. There is no question God was with me through the prayers and messages. I'm on my way again! CCPC – Thanks to Each and Everyone for Your Support!!

Jackie Lindbeck

Farewell to Louis Aquilina

Drummer for Ekklesia

JULY 5 at 10:30 AM

On July 5th, we will be celebrating Louis Aquilina's last Sunday with his CCPC family for a while. Lou's "real" job is with Whiting-Turner Construction, and he has spent the last year commuting between Maryland and Charleston, SC. Lou and his wife Patricia and son Patrick will be relocating to Charleston at the end of July. We will miss having Lou as our steadfast drummer for our worship team, Ekklesia. In this farewell service, we will be featuring many of Lou's favorite worship team songs as well as the premiere of one of his instrumental compositions, *There is Peace in the Garden*.

We hope you'll join us to celebrate Louis' service to CCPC and to say farewell (hopefully a

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Ross Dudley from Higginsville High School with honors, and will be attending Kansas State University in the fall.

Our apologies to Claire Leaman who we mistakenly said graduated from South River High School, but she really graduated from Arundel High School

May God's graces be with you as you step ahead towards your dreams

Cluster Gathering

Clusters 5 (Jan Butler), 8 (Joe Love), and 13 (John Butler) will meet in Dodds Hall after church service on Sunday, July 12th.

If you are in one of these clusters and have any questions, please contact your Deacon.

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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.

