



The Caller

August 18, 2015

Christian Community Presbyterian Church Newsletter

While on vacation, I attended a Court of Honor ceremony for our godson who was receiving his Eagle Scout Award. The service was well attended, partially due to the sad fact that the Scout Troop that has served the community at that church for 83 years was disbanding. This was the last court of honor and last Eagle Scout.

I spent a couple years in Scouting as a youth. However, the camping trips and other weekend outings conflicted with my participation in my church youth group and my part time jobs. I couldn't do everything. I did stay in scouting long enough to learn to appreciate what scouting stands for, including reverence for God, and I admire Scouting's rigorous commitment to teaching self-mastery.

We live in an age of institutional anxiety. It is a time when all of the traditional large organizations are losing influence. This is partly because we have seen the failure of these organization and partly because we live in the era of what David Brook's calls "The Big Me:" we put the individual first. As Brooks writes, "We tend to prize the freedom to navigate as we wish, to run our lives as we choose, and never to submerge our individual identities in conformity to some organization." These days' people tend to jump in and out of organizations whenever it suits their individual needs. The Days of the "Organizational Man" are over. Start-ups are the preferred company model, rebels and disruptor's are the exalted leadership style, and those people committed to incremental societal change and social stability are considered dinosaurs. This mentality has all contributed to institutional decay. Writer Tina Brown put it well, if everybody is told to think outside the box, you've got to expect the boxes themselves will begin to deteriorate.

I am a person who believes we need institutions to shape us and to build character. Being a Christian with a healthy appreciation for sin, I am very suspicious of those who think they can figure life out all on their own. Psychologist Daniel Kalineman said that "Humans have an almost unlimited ability to ignore our ignorance."

Each institution comes with certain rules, obligations, and standards of excellence. Scientists have certain methods they use to advance and verify knowledge. Teachers treat all their students equally and invest extra hours to their growth. Soldiers respect the chain of command and will risk life and limb to rescue a wounded fellow soldier. Pastors are required to adhere to professional standards and to stay within the theological boundaries of their religious community. In the process of subordinating ourselves to the institutions we inhabit, we become who we are. The rules, not all written, of a profession or an organization are not like practical tips or best practices to do something. They are deeply woven into the identities of the people who practice them. Over time, by practicing the customs of our institutions we know we are not alone, and we know we are committed to a community that transcends time.

So call me a dinosaur. I believe in the power of our social and religious institutions to build and uphold our communities and to form strong personal character. Institutions are a vital part of our society. We eliminate them at great risk. I am sorry to see Wayne Scout Troop 103 award their 86th and last Eagle Award.

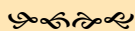
Grace and peace, James Brassard



Worship Notes

August 23: As teachers and students prepare to return to school, we will observe our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the children's sermon. After the people of Israel settled themselves into the land of promise, their leader, Joshua, gathers them in an assembly. In *Joshua 24*, we hear Joshua challenge the people to make the choice as to whom they will serve. Although the false God's of the world change with time, the need to choose doesn't.

August 30: These verses from the Epistle of *James 1:17-27* include the point that the epistle is best known for: "Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers." For years, protestant preachers have tended to fixate on the apparent contrast to Paul's teaching on justification by faith alone. Have to protect the Reformation battle lines with the Catholic Church! However, James drives toward the point that our theological integrity -- our whole-hearted, consistent, comprehensive devotion to God -- requires of us a particular kind of life and character. We will examine the character of faith.



Church Directory **UPDATES**

Please make the following updates to your directory.

1.) Susan Brutout has a new email address:

brutout2004@verizon.net

2.) Gerry & Joan Burdett's contact information is:

10450 Lottsford Road, #259
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721
(301) 541-5126

3.) Margery Conley has moved. Her new address and phone number is:

10450 Lottsford Road, #1215
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721
(301) 925-7246

4.) The Farney's house number is:

20580

5.) Nancy Honeyford's email address is:

nhoneynana@aol.com

Hey Everyone,

I just wanted to give you a heads up that the September 1st edition of the Caller will have our full Fall Schedule and Preview. We will cover Sunday School teacher sets, Adult Education, and the Youth Calendar. The first day of Sunday School is Sept. 13th at 9:30 AM, so log that date and time into your planners and be ready for an exciting fall lineup here at CCPC!

Justin



Blessing of the Backpacks

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015
During the Children's Message

Children, grandchildren, teenagers, college students, and teachers bring your "Back to School" backpack and let us bless you and your new school year!

Christmas Families **2015 Schedule**

Day	Time	Event
Sunday, November 8		Christmas Families Kickoff
Sunday, November 15		Sign Ups Continue
Sunday, November 22		Sign Ups Continue
Sunday, November 8 – Sunday, December 6		Early Gift Drop Off (Library)
Tuesday, December 1		Order Food from Aldi's
Sunday, December 6		Final Deadline for Gift Drop Off – by Noon
Wednesday, December 9	9 PM	Set Up Dodds Hall for Gift Sorting & Wrapping
Thursday, December 10	9 AM – 5 M	Gift Sorting & Checking
	6 PM – 9 PM	Gift Sorting, Checking, & Wrapping
Friday, December 11	9 AM – 3 PM	Gift Wrapping
	10 AM	Pick Up Non-Perishable Food Order from Aldi's
	5 PM – 9 PM	Gift Wrapping Continues
Saturday, December 12	9 AM – 2 PM	Gift Wrapping Continues, if required (Time is tentative)
	2 PM – 3 PM	Reset Dodds Hall for Food Sorting (Time is tentative)
Sunday, December 13	11:30 AM	Baked Goods Due
	11:30 AM – 2 PM	Food Sorting (Water & Dry Snacks Provided)
	2 PM – 4 PM	Consolidate Gifts & Groceries
Monday, December 14	7 AM – 8 AM	Pick Up Perishable Food Order at Aldi's (Includes turkeys)
	9 AM – 1 PM	Family Pick Up/Delivery (Refreshments provided)
	6 PM – 9 PM	Family Pick Up (Refreshments provided)
Tuesday, December 15	9 AM – Noon	Pick Up & Delivery Make Up Day, if needed
	Afternoon (TBD)	Clean Up Dodds Hall

Thank You!

We are grateful for the many cards, notes, and calls received on the sudden death of our beloved daughter, Shelley. The support of our CCPC family is so compassionate and loving that we cannot say enough thanks.

Judy and Allen Frank

Welcome

(or as big sister Stella says, "Piper came out!")

Piper May



Born on Sunday, 9, 2015 at 7:35 AM

Piper weighed in at 6 lbs, 14 oz., and was 19-1/2"

Congratulations to her proud parents,
Kelly (Youngdahl) & Jeff Minich

Congratulations to her proud grandparents, Sharon and Jon
Youngdahl, on their seventh grandbaby!

Memorial Brick Ceremony

DATE CHANGE

Please note that due to an upcoming schedule conflict, the Brick Ceremony will be changed from Sunday October 4 to Sunday, September 27.

The time will stay the same at Noon.

Any questions, please contact the church office.

Hudson House Success Story!

My name is Manty Sesay, in December 13, 2009, I and my two sons Mohamed O. Sesay and Ahmed O. Sesay arrived in the United States with visitor visas. We sought asylum in 2010 since my family and I had faced a lot of traumatic incidents in our country of Sierra Leone. We were attacked several times by gun men causing physical and psychological harm to my family.

One of the foremost barriers preventing access to Sierra Leone's justice systems, both formal and informal, is cost. In Sierra Leone's formal courts, where an inadequate legal aid structure makes contesting parties responsible for court fees, legal representation, and other service fees, costs are prohibitively high for all but the wealthiest of citizens. Yet, even in local courts, which are designed to be "closer to the people", costs are often too high to encourage use. When we were attacked the third time, Ahmed, Mohamed, and my husband were severely beaten with flash lights and sticks after several gun shots in our family living room. There were seven attackers at the scene, but to date there was no verdict and all other six are still at large.

Mohamed, then 12 years old, recognized the voice of one ex-combatant (Idrissa) who lived a couple of blocks from our house in Sierra Leone. As Mohamed mentioned that to police, a warrant was issued and an arrest was made the next day. The police found a gun, cutlasses, flash lights, and many more weapons in the accused house, which was used as exhibits during trial.

Life became so unbearable that we all had nightmares frequently. Mohamed, as a key witness, suffered re-traumatization each time he took the stand to testify. He faced the perpetrator in court each time the case was called without any psychosocial support for a minor of his age.

Mohamed received no counseling nor any support in the judicial process as a minor which affected him a lot. I was paying out of pocket to get law enforcement officers to bring weapons found on the crime scene, and was charged to pay the cost of photographs taken at my house and claimed they couldn't find them. Fortunately, there was an independent photographer who happened to be at the scene that morning and took some photographs and dropped the photos off a week later. Based on all of the above as well as being a victim of war crimes, motivated Mohamed to pursue Criminal Justice and determined to make a difference through being a lawyer. He has been accepted in Prince Georges Community College and hoping to get financial assistance in paying for his tuition and then transfer to University of Maryland after 2 years by God's grace.

Despite the passage of several women's rights bills, violations of women's rights in Sierra Leone continue unabated. Not only does violence against women, children, and girls continue to be rampant, but efforts to prosecute perpetrators have been largely ineffective.

In February 2010, I met Trudy Neff, a volunteer driver for “Fish of Greater Bowie”, who took me and my boys for counseling appointments. I explained how hard it is to transition from another country, especially with kids involved. Trudy is an angel sent to lead the way to get us into the Hudson House. I am very grateful and lucky to have had this environment where I didn’t have to worry about rent or bills, but rested assured in morale and physical support by elders of the church.

Rev. James, who I trust with my life, assisted us through our one-and-half-year residency at Hudson House. He assisted my kids by getting tutors to help them with school work, especially mathematics and science. He has been there and supported us each time we called upon him. He had an open door policy and embraced us at all times. When I was able to rent an apartment, Rev. James arranged transportation to help me move to my new apartment and got me the best furniture ever, including bed, mattresses, chairs, tables, mirrors, and night lamps.

Robin, the administrative assistant, was very supportive and helped me with building my resume and was always friendly and supportive.

Without the support of CCPC, there would have been no way for me to be able to rent an apartment in 2012. I am now a proud home owner and bought a 4 bedroom town house in Greenbelt in February of this year.

With warmest gratitude and love,

The Sesay Family





Looking for a Few Good Men

The Every Other Saturday Men's Book Group is looking for a few good men to join our fellowship. We are a group of working men who enjoy sharing fellowship and discussion of a book we are reading. We meet at the Panera restaurant in the Bowie Town Center every other Saturday morning at 7:30 AM. In addition to fellowship and a compelling discussion, we also enjoy bottomless coffee and a nice breakfast. When we finish reading and discussing a book, we come to a common agreement as to what will be read next.

We just completed reading "No Future Without Forgiveness" by Desmond Tutu. The book is an account of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was chaired by Bishop Tutu, that helped South Africa peacefully transition from Apartheid to Democracy. We were all moved by the power of forgiveness as witnessed and documented by Bishop Tutu. While forgiveness can be hard, it is an action that can benefit all of us greatly and that is all too uncommon.

Our next Book is "The Insanity of Unbelief" by Max Davis. This book is promoted as a journalist's journey from belief to skepticism to deep faith. We will begin discussion of this book after a brief summer break.

We will begin meeting again at the Bowie Panera at 7:30AM on August 29, 2015. Please come and join us.



Choir Party!

at the Pfarrers'

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015 at 1 PM

Ever consider joining one of the musical ensembles at CCPC? Whether you are a past, present, or possible future member of the Celebration Choir, Summer Choir, Clinquant Handbell Choir, or the CCPC Youth Orchestra, please join us as we kick off our fall schedule with a party!

Becky and Mark Pfarrer (12635 Heming Lane, Bowie) are our gracious hosts for the afternoon. Pulled pork will be provided as a main dish, and we ask that you bring a favorite side dish, salad, or dessert. Bring your swimsuit and enjoy the wonderful pool, too!

Please contact Susan Ricci Rogel at 301-262-6775 or email at ccpc-music@verizon.net to RSVP by August 25th. See you at 1 PM on August 30th!



Annual CCPC Crab Feast

Sunday, August 23, 2015 from 1 PM to 4 PM
Allen Pond Park, West Pavilion

Join us for steamed crabs or crab cakes, chicken, corn, watermelon, and more!
Bring your own drinks and utensils.

Cost is \$25.00 per ticket for crabs or a crab cake
\$10.00 ages 6 – 16 and adults not eating crabs
Free for ages 0 – 5



Tickets will be sold after church on August 9th and 16th
For questions or offers of help, please contact Barbara Engh at 301-906-6850 or bengh1@verizon.net

Joy, Joy, Joy
Women's Day Retreat
September 19th from 9am to 2pm

Come join us for a day retreat at CCPC in Dodds Hall.
The message will be lead by Sue Evans and Peggy Oates. There will be time for visiting, sharing, and creating. Coffee and tea will be served at 9 AM with small pastries and a "tea" lunch will be served at noon.

COST = \$8 – Make checks payable to PWOC
Bring a photo or magazine picture that brings you joy.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ALLERGIES: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT/PHONE: _____

Imagine
Yoga & Wellness
Center

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
WELLNESS DAY
at IMAGINE**

Saturday, August 29, 2015
from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Join us for a full day of **FREE** classes, **FREE** art, **FREE** seminars and much more! Discounted Reiki healing sessions available. We will be kicking off our new Fall season and celebrating the completion of the renovations to our lovely studio. Food, drink, door prizes and FUN....

It's going to be a great day,
Don't miss it!

Stay tuned for details! Set your appointments today :)

**COMMUNITY YOGA
at IMAGINE**

Sundays 4:00 PM **FREE!**
Join us for an all level class every Sunday afternoon at 4 PM. A suggested donation of \$5 helps us support Shepherd's Cove Shelter in Capitol Heights.
Allow your yoga practice to help a community of women and children in need!

Contact Imagine Yoga at
info@imaginetheplace.com



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.

