



The highly hyped and much anticipated coronation of the Nationals as the 2015 World Series Champions crashed and burned last week. Poor seasons by star players, nagging injuries to team leaders, and the yearlong incompetence of the bullpen, all conspired to produce a very disappointing season where the Nat's missed the playoffs. The low point came Sunday afternoon when Nat's star, and almost certain league MVP Bryce Harper, got into a shouting match with closer Jonathan Papelbom that ended with Papelbom grabbing Harper around the throat. This melee somehow escaped the attention of the manager who sent Papelbom out to pitch the 9th inning where he proceeded to help the team give up eight runs to the last place Phillies and lose 12-5.

I guess even the Pope's aura of peace and goodwill can't solve everything. The Pope's prayers did appear to prod House Speaker John Boehner, a devout Catholic, to give up his Speakership to bring a couple months of effective governance to Congress. In sharp contrast to the inner turmoil at Nat's Park Sunday, CCPC has been blessed these past two weeks with a very healthy and open conversation about Same-Sex Marriage. Christian Education Director, Justin Devine, has worked extremely hard to create space to have this conversation. Justin's instant polling via text messaging shows that the congregation mirrors the country's divided opinion on the topic. Approximately 60% believe same sex couples should be permitted to marry and 40% disagree.

The first week the class examined the changing attitudes to homosexuals in culture. We revisited the AIDS crisis and the impact of Magic Johnson admission that he was HIV positive. We heard from members who worked with the VA as they treated veterans who got infected with the disease when it was an almost certain death sentence. We have come a long way to address what Peter Gomes calls "Americas last extreme prejudice."

Last week, the class examined the top 10 biblical passages that deal with homosexuality, including those that speak of judgment. Justin begins each week telling the class that he is not out to convert anyone. His objective is to provide a place where the issues can be intelligently discussed. The learning has been strengthened by sending out materials in advance so participants can read and watch videos. This allows the 45 minutes of class time to be used for informed discussion. Justin is a skilled discussion leader.

In my sermon on marriage, I used the Apostle Paul's challenge in *Colossians 3:12-17* to put away the cultural forces of vengeance, greed, slander, and divisiveness and "to cloth ourselves with compassion, humility, meekness, and patience." Paul goes on to say Christians are to "bear with one another, to forgive one another" and if you have a complaint against the other, to quietly "admonish one another in wisdom." Did you get that Mr. Papelbom?

The result of living a spirit-filled life is being able to live in peace and harmony with one another. We experience the presence of the kingdom of God when we sit around the table and listen to people with different life experiences and acknowledge that our opinions are always susceptible to human sin. This coming Sunday, October 4th, we gather to celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive the Peace and Global Witness offering. Having witnessed the power of God's peace in our midst, we can pray and share some of our abundance to further the work of other peacemakers.

Grace and Peace,
James Brassard

PS. On October 11th, Justin will make available a bibliography of all the resources used in the classes, including the Biblical texts from last Sunday. A copy of my sermon on "Marriage: We Can Do Better" along with the references I used will be available this Sunday.

Worship Notes

October 4th: World Communion Sunday. We will receive the Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering. Rev. Brassard will talk about the power of prayer and communion in a sermon titled, "A Table Set in the Midst of Trauma." The text is *Psalm 8:1* "You (God) have set your glory above the heaven."

October 11th: Guest preacher will be Rev. Jessie Lowry. Please join us and give her a warm welcome back to CCPC.



Directory Updates

Please update Chris Campbell's email address to:

campbell.chris47@gmail.com



Peacemaking Offering

Sunday, October 4, 2015

Transforming cultures of violence into communities of peace

The Peacemaking Offering is one of four church wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that plays an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offering is an opportunity for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affects the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

Working with others, the church engages in issues such as poverty, stewardship of creation, forced migration, the rights of indigenous peoples, gender justice, and unjust land development.

The Peacemaking Offering inspires the faith needed for forgiveness and reconciliation and equips and connects Presbyterians to respond to cultures of violence, including our own.

A gift to the Peacemaking Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Your true gift is the peace of Christ, for all of God's children. With each gift, we can begin to create a world of peace—together.

Please give generously:

Through our congregation on October 4th

Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10

presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global

Thank You!

Dear CCPC Family,

We want to thank our many friends at CCPC who sent us cards and well wishes for our 60th wedding anniversary. We had a wonderful family celebration with a dinner for 23 of us at Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, PA, followed by a slide presentation of our 60 years. Thank you again for all your remembrances!

Trudy and Dick Neff



Dear Members of CCPC,

It was a tremendous privilege in early May to receive your gracious welcome as we came for the memorial service for Jack. Because of your love and ability, Jack's earlier request was honored. You met kindly all of our needs and preferences. You gave us beauty, music, and gentleness. You gave us fond memories, nourishment, and time. You gave us strength. We are grateful to all of you for the comforting assurance of unity to all who came.

Love from
Mary Frances, Anna, and Jenny Jones



Tiger Lilies

You're Invited!

Tiger Lilies is a women's book group that meets the first Monday of the month from September through June at 7:30 PM in the Parlor.

Our next meeting is October 5th.

We are reading *The Good Book* by Peter Gomes — available in paperback or Kindle. We plan to discuss parts one and two.

Contact Andrea Brassard at andrea.brassard@verizon.net for more information.



Christmas Market

The Christmas Market is coming to CCPC on Sunday, November 1st from 9 AM to 1 PM

Give a Gift That Cares — your gift donation to any of the organizations given in the name of someone in your family, a friend, or a coworker will help improve the quality of life for people here and around the world. There will be tables representing organizations that work in Bowie, in the United States, and in countries from Honduras to South Sudan.

The gifts will provide disaster assistance, clean water, literacy instruction, animals, needed supplies for our fire department, animal shelter, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Whatever your heart calls you to, you will find an organization or project that is a perfect match. Some of the organizations represented are: Church World Service, Chikumbuso, Heifer International, Honduras Water Project, Operation Christmas Child Children's Ministry, Hospice of Chesapeake, Bowie VFD, CLAW (Citizens for Local Animal Welfare), PAS (Pet Assistance and Support program), Presbyterian Disaster Program, and Literacy at the Well in South Sudan.

Children will be encouraged to participate with gifts in their price range and a passport to travel to the various locations that they can help. There will be a Soup Kitchen to get a delicious, warm lunch and proceeds will go to the St. Matthews Housing Corporation.

If anyone would like to donate a crock pot of soup for the soup kitchen, please contact Debbie Sell at 301-928-9267. This year we plan to have kid-friendly food of hot dogs and mac and cheese along with the soup. You can purchase your gifts and finish the shopping with a lunch and fellowship. If you have any questions you can call Sharon McNamara at 301-262-7060 or Kris Ross at 240-206-8787.

We hope to see you there!

Adult Ed Classes

October 11, 2015 at 9:30 AM

Confessions & Creeds

Have you ever wondered how the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds came to be? Where are they in the Bible? How did we first decide what we believed as a church? How has it changed over time?

This class will be led by our Pastor Emeritus Dick Neff. He will be discussing Confessions and Creeds and their history in the Church. This will be a three-week class in the Adult Ed Conference Room. Please join us for an in depth discussion on how we came to express the message of Christ in the Bible.

Parents in the Parlor

This new offering will be a discussion based group that is led by Kathryn McCarty and Mikaela Devine. They will look at topics relevant to current parents of children in a variety of age groups. They will share experiences and discuss the many difficulties of parents in today's world. This group is designed to aid and empower parents to do just that as well as create a space for adult fellowship that is often hard for parents to find. Join them in the Parlor.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Mark your calendars!
This is a fun event you do not want to miss!

Sunday, October 25, 2015
2:30 to 4:30 PM

Decorate your vehicles, dress up in costumes, and hand out treats from the trunk of your car.

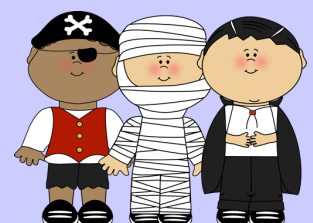
We will have games and crafts for the kids in Dodds Hall from 2:30-3:45, followed by "Trunk" or Treating around the parking lot.

**Best decorated trunk gets the
Golden Pumpkin Award!**



**Volunteers are much needed
to staff tables for games and crafts.**

**Please email Kemi Komlan
(Kemi.Osho@aol.com) if you can volunteer.**



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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.

