

January 1, 2013



The Caller

Did you make your New Year's Resolutions? I did. I resolve to laugh more and argue less. Does this seem odd? Am I letting myself off easy? What about the old standby's to eat a healthier diet and get more exercise? You know the ones with the side benefits of lower cholesterol levels and reduced blood pressure. Nope. I resolve to laugh more and argue less.

Make no doubt about it: changing habits is hard. Change is more difficult when you are swimming against the tide. We are in an area that takes itself very seriously, but is not really serious. We just survived the long dreaded fiscal cliff. Of course some people think we don't have a revenue problem, but only a spending problem and think the federal government can suddenly live off tax revenue of 17% when we have historically required 20%. Now add an aging population to the fiscal calculus. This is not serious thinking.

What we really have is a medical-cost problem that gets worse due to demographics and our insistence on costly technology to treat every ailment. How do I laugh about this? I watch the network news to see what alarming new condition the pharmaceutical companies are encouraging me to ask my doctor to treat with their new drugs. Low T? Restless leg syndrome? You can't make this stuff up. You can either be outraged or chuckle. This year, I will make the choice to chuckle. See, it's working already.

I came up with this resolution when I watched a video from the 2012 Chicago Religious Leadership Prayer Breakfast. This is a very serious group. The keynote speaker was Rev. Susan Sparks, who is the first female pastor in the 165-year history of the Madison

Avenue Baptist Church in New York City. Susan is also a trial lawyer and a standup comedian. Rev. Spark's is the author of "Laughing Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor." She opened her address by saying, "If we laugh at ourselves, we can forgive ourselves. If you can forgive yourself you can forgive others."

Forgiveness is hard. As a pastor, I have known many people who cannot forgive themselves and hold grudges that build barriers with others, especially family members. Unforgiveness produces a hardened heart that slowly, but relentlessly, builds higher and higher walls with each passing month. Sparks calls forgiveness "the WD 40 and duct tape of life." Duct tape stops things from moving when they shouldn't. WD 40 gets something to move that is stuck.

Humor helps us be less certain that our opinions are 100% right. Humor done right creates rapport and trust. Humor helps us see commonalities rather than differences. Laughing together helps us think outside our intellectual boxes and reminds us that where we are in the larger scheme of things. Ponder that for a moment. Meanwhile, I will eat my homemade vegetable soup for lunch and head to the gym. I'll somehow manage to lose the 10lbs I always gain between Thanksgiving and New Year's and then lose by Easter.

Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,

James Brassard

Worship Notes

Sunday, January 6th:

Epiphany Sunday. We read the story in Matthew 2 about the visit of the Magi, referred to as Wise men, but in first century Israel people who sought the message found in the movements of the stars were considered idolaters and quacks. What does their inclusion at the birthday party of Jesus say about the gospel?

Sunday, January 13th:

Luke 3:15-22 reports the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. As Jesus rises from the waters the Holy Spirit (the shy member of the Trinity) proclaims his identity, "This is my beloved Son, listen to him." Who is Jesus? How does our baptism connect to his?



January Sunday Calendar

Sunday, January 6, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr High
11:00 AM Adult Ed: Speaking Christian -- Conference Room
5:00 PM Youth Group -- Sr High Room

Sunday, January 20, 2013

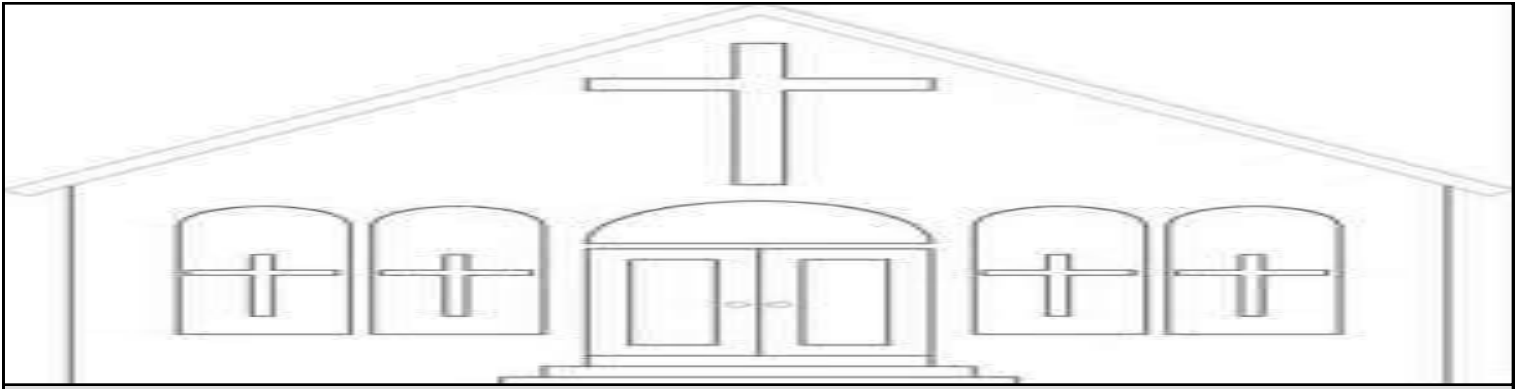
Warm Nights
8:30 AM Chapel Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr High
11:00 AM Adult Ed: Speaking Christian -- Conference Room
5:00 PM Youth Group -- Sr High Room

Sunday, January 13, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr High
11:00 AM Adult Ed: Speaking Christian -- Conference Room
5:00 PM Youth Group -- Sr High Room
6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor

Sunday, January 27, 2013

Warm Nights
8:30 AM Chapel Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr High
11:00 AM Adult Ed: Speaking Christian -- Conference Room
5:00 PM Youth Group -- Sr High Room



Warm Nights

CCPC will be participating in the Warm Nights Shelter Program from January 20th to 27th. The program is a collaborative effort of numerous committed church congregations throughout Prince George's County that provide a rotating emergency shelter from mid-November through the end of March each year. It has been in operation since the early 1990's and CCPC was the first church in Bowie to participate in the program.

During our week, we will provide a warm place to stay from 7:00 PM until about 6:00 AM for 25 to 30 homeless people. We also will provide them with three meals a day. When the shelter clients arrive, they are greeted with a hot hearty dinner. In the morning they get breakfast and we hand them a bagged lunch as they walk out the door.

Successful participation in this program requires CCPC volunteers to perform a variety of duties. There have been a few changes in the program that make it easier for us. For example, we no longer have to launder linens or transport the cots and equipment to the next church. However, there are still many ways you can get involved. You can sign up to prepare a meal, serve as an overnight host or help set up Dodds Hall on January 20th before the shelter clients arrive. The Mission Committee will purchase the food for the lunches, as we did last year. We ask that volunteers sign up to prepare the lunches. Sign up sheets and instructions are available in the Atrium. Even if you cannot participate in any of the Warm Nights duties, I encourage you to stop by the church during our Warm Nights week. You will have an opportunity to meet the shelter clients, hear their stories, and see how our giving and caring are impacting their lives.

Paul Sell
Warm Nights Coordinator

The Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund

*The Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.
All donations are tax deductible. Receipts are available at the pantry.*

Donations

- **Food items** - GREATEST NEEDS: canned beef stew, applesauce, canned soup, tuna fish
- **Fresh produce** - fruits and vegetables
- **Financial Contributions**-may be designated for food or financial assistance; checks should be made out to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry or Bowie Food Pantry
- **Personal Care Items** - travel size items as well as regular size shampoo, lotion, soap, deodorant

We cannot accept expired food items.

Adopt-a-Shelf Program

Groups and individuals are encouraged to join our Adopt-a-Shelf Program. You would be responsible for keeping the shelf stocked throughout the year. This can be done by collection of the adopted food item or by providing financing for the purchase of item.

The following shelves are currently adopted:

- ♥ **Desserts** - Bowie Lions Club
- ♥ **Pasta** - Diane Polangin
- ♥ **Spaghetti Sauce** - Trinity Lutheran Church
- ♥ **Peanut Butter** - Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce
- ♥ **Soup** - St. Pius X Regional School 8th Grade
- ♥ We would like to have the following shelves adopted:
- ♥ Tuna Fish
- ♥ Canned Fruit/Applesauce

Volunteer opportunities

- ♥ sorting/shelving food items
- ♥ bagging food items
- ♥ assisting clients with groceries
- ♥ pickup at local stores
- ♥ shopping
- ♥ picking up donations
- ♥ assisting with special events on weekends

Please call or e-mail the pantry if you would like to sign up as a volunteer. Currently we are fully staffed on Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings and Tuesday evenings, but we will put you on our substitute/special projects list.

You are welcome to visit the pantry during our regular hours.

Bathroom Renovations

The Buildings and Grounds Committee heard your feedback and we are taking action. In early January, we will begin renovating the ladies bathroom in Dodds Hall. The renovations will include replacing the existing sinks with a single 8-foot counter with built-in bowl sinks (similar to the bathrooms in the Sanctuary building), new ceramic tile flooring, new mirrors, some towel hooks near the shower, a shelf near the changing table and a fresh paint job. We hope to have the project completed prior to the beginning of Warm Nights.

Contact Us

Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00 AM—3:00 PM
(301) 262-6008 ccpcbowie@verizon.net

Pastor	James Brassard ccpcpastor@verizon.net
Pastoral Assistant for Outreach and Care	Margaret Hallau ccpcpa@verizon.net
Coordinator of Ministry to Youth and Families	Kristen Zacheis ccpcyouth@verizon.net 845-729-8125
Coordinator of Ministry to Children and Their Families	Rebecca Coleman ccpckids@gmail.com 202-302-4071
Music Director	Susan Ricci Rogel ricci-rogel@msn.com
Administrative Assistant	Robin Seekford ccpcbowie@verizon.net

Ladies Winter Potluck

Wednesday, January 16, 2013.
Dinner will be at 6 PM.

Session Highlights

The Annual Congregational meeting will be at 11:00 AM on February 3, following the 10 A.M. Worship Service.

The Adult Education discussion class, Speaking Christian, by Marcus Borg will continue through January with Jim Bridger, as leader.

The Session is diligently reviewing end of the year records and working on a 2013 budget. The per capita for 2012 is \$36 per member. It has not changed for 2013. Kindly include this amount in your giving for 2013.

Offering Envelopes

Question: Why do our church volunteers like offering envelopes?

Answer: Because it makes it easier and faster to count and categorize the offering each Sunday!

The 2013 offering envelopes will be in the atrium this Sunday. If you do not see your name on a box please leave your name on the signup sheet on the table. The offering envelopes are the church's way of keeping track of your giving so that we may send you a statement for your income tax preparation.

Remember, by using the envelopes you are making the volunteer counters' and the financial secretary's jobs easier. Thank you!



If you no longer want *The Caller* delivered to your home and/or prefer to receive it online, please contact Robin at the church office. The next Caller will be sent out around January 18th. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, January 15th. If you need assistance, please feel free to call the office. Thank you!

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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

Bowie Interfaith Pantry

Open for distribution and service 9 AM-11 AM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
We are closed on holidays.

Located at: Christian Community Presbyterian Church
(in the Education Building at the rear of the parking lot)
3120 Belair Drive — Bowie MD 20715

Visit our website: www.bowiefoodpantry.org
E-mail us: BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com **Phone:** 301-262-6765

Thank you for your continued support!

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.

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

