

January 15, 2013



The Caller

We have some changes in leadership for our youth program in the new year. Kristen Zacheis has stepped down as youth coordinator as of January 1st. The demands of her full time job and work hours were making it difficult for her continue in the position. But, we are so thankful that she is not leaving us and will continue to volunteer and stay active in the program. The youth have grown very attached to Kristen and we are so happy she will remain.

Rhia Miller has been hired as our new part-time CCPC youth coordinator, beginning January 1st. Many in the congregation already know Rhia. She was a vibrant member of our church youth group and CCPC Theatre Troupe during her teen years. Rhia recently graduated from Montreat College and relocated back to Bowie. She brings creativity, experience in running small groups, Bible studies, and great organizational skills. She has a passion for the youth and is excited to get started.

Rhia has been a member of CCPC for ten years. Through her own experiences as a CCPC youth, she was introduced to Montreat, NC, where she went to college and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies. Through Montreat, and therefore, through CCPC, Rhia gained a strong faith in Jesus as her Savior. When she heard that the youth coordinator position was available, she jumped at the chance to bring her experiences full circle and give back to the CCPC Youth a bit of what she gained through participating in youth activities. Rhia is excited to have accepted the position and has many fresh ideas to bring in new teens and get our youth working with the local community and serving in God's name. She has high hopes that the youth will come to know God to be a friend and to rely upon Him through their struggles.

We are blessed to have the service of these two wonderful women. With them, we will continue to build an impactful ministry for our youth that we hope will also feed the church.

Debbie Armstrong

Elder for Youth Ministries

Worship Notes

January 20: Following his Transfiguration on the mountain in Matthew 17, Jesus and his disciples are making their way down the mountain. The disciples are asked to cast a out a demon; they couldn't do it. They asked Jesus why. "Because you lack faith," responded Jesus. This story begs the questions, why have efforts to overcome evil failed? What insights are we lacking in our battle with personal and social evils?

January 27: In Luke 4:14-21, Jesus returns to his hometown synagogue where he is invited to read a scripture and interpret what it means. He does. The hometown congregation gets very angry at his interpretation of the prophet Isaiah. What's the fuss about? Does the context matter?

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION

- ◆ The annual congregation meeting will be at 11:00 AM on February 3, following the 10 A.M. worship service. The purpose is to receive various reports, approve the 2013 budget and approve the 2013 Pastor's Terms of Call and elect four congregational members to the Nominating Committee.
- ◆ The Personnel Committee hired Rhea Miller as youth coordinator as of January 1, 2013. (The position title has been changed from Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry.) Please seek her out and welcome her, even if your family does not have youth in CCPC Junior or Senior High. Kristen Zacheis will continue to assist with the youth in a volunteer capacity. The Session is grateful to Kristen for her ability to serve as the youth coordinator in the past year.
- ◆ Rev. Brassard will be attending the Florida Winter Pastors' conference January 28-Feb 2 as continuing education. He will return in time to moderate the February 3 annual meeting.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear CCPC Family and Friends,

On behalf of our immediate and extended families, I wish to express our gratitude and thanks for the caring and support shown when Iris left us to be under God's care.

She was a very devout person, with many friends in the congregation. The memorial service was unforgettable, and the Deacons excelled in providing a wonderful luncheon following the service.

God's blessings on all of you for everything.

Joe Love

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Dear CCPC Family and Friends,

I want to say thank you to all my friends for their wonderful cards and their concerns during my 12-month journey. This has been a very difficult time for my family. Unfortunately, the journey is not over yet. Thank you to everyone for your kindness.

June Ricchiuto & Family

Reflections on Christmas Families 2012

The words “thank you” simply do not adequately convey the overwhelming sense of gratitude I have for everyone’s tremendous support of Christmas Families. So, I’ll say them again – THANK YOU!

Christmas Families was particularly challenging this year due to many reasons, but the fantastic people of CCPC, and the numerous groups and other friends who have been supporting the program for many years, came through and did what needed to be done to allow us to serve 118 families with 320 children. The numbers are staggering – 449 individuals, 944 bags of groceries, 960+ gifts wrapped, 126 hand-made scarves and hats, and 150 packets of school supplies. THANK YOU!

It is always amazing to me how God works in His mysterious ways. This year was no different and I wanted to share some of the stories. One of the Pupil Personnel Workers (PPW) referred a family with two boys. Their mother is visually impaired and legally blind and needed a new winter coat. So the PPW asked if there was any way we could provide a coat for this mom. When I looked to see who had sponsored the children, I discovered that both had been adopted by the same family. So I called the mom in that family, explained the situation and asked if there was any way they could also provide a coat for the mother. Without hesitation, she said yes. I was thrilled, but she was even more thrilled when she went on-line to search for a winter coat for the woman and was able to purchase a fabulous coat from Lands End originally priced over \$150 for less than \$45. Turns out she had several discount coupons and was able to get the coat at 73% off! She was so excited! Way to go! Coincidence – or God’s divine plan?

Ann and Bob Shelby coordinated and prepared the school supply packets. It was particularly challenging finding wide-ruled notebook paper this year. It was getting down to the wire and they were still two packages short – just two packages. We found two packages of wide-ruled notebook paper on the Christmas Families table in the Atrium and still have no idea where they came from. Coincidence – or God’s divine plan?

Sharon McNamara was helping to sort and wrap gifts. She was working on gifts for an 18-year-old special needs boy who liked Christian music, but there was no music included in the gifts provided. Sharon had received a Christian music CD in the mail that very day. It was a THANK YOU gift from WGTS 91.9 FM radio, so Sharon donated it to this child. Coincidence – or God’s divine plan?

Ironically, we were wrapping gifts on Friday, December 14 – the day of the horrible school shooting in Connecticut. Lara Clemence was helping to wrap that evening and reflected on how difficult it will be for these families to get through Christmas. Many of the families had probably already wrapped gifts for the children they lost that day. It gave a whole new perspective on wrapping gifts.

On the lighter side, when we were setting up Dodds Hall to sort food, we lined the perimeter of the room with long rectangular tables, and then put the round tables in the center of the room. Turns out there were **14** large families, each receiving a different “order” of groceries than the remaining 104 families, so we sorted them separately and planned to stage them on the rectangular tables lining the perimeter of the room. The tables could comfortably hold bags for **two** families. **14 divided by 2 = 7**. And that’s exactly how many rectangular tables we had set up. Coincidence – or God’s divine plan?

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Working on this project, and with all of you, always teaches me something new. This year it was confirmed to me once again what a wonderful group of people we have working on this project. I was blown away time after time by the obvious care people took in selecting the gifts for the children they sponsor. I wanted so badly to be a fly on the wall in the homes of some of these children on Christmas morning – like the little girl who was receiving the princess dress up clothes she asked for (right down to the light-up glass slippers); or the young teen age girl who's gift list said she likes to bake and was receiving ingredients, baking pans and a lovely cookbook. So often the people in our own families have everything they need, and buying for them for Christmas loses some of its magic. It occurred to me that perhaps we need our Christmas Families just as much as they need us. It truly makes Christmas for many of us.

Until next year, blessings on each of you and on each of our Christmas Families!

Roxanne Johnson, Christmas Families Coordinator

Blankets of Hope

The *Blankets of Hope Marathon* will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church, 16510 Mount Oak Road, Bowie, MD 20716 (corner of Mt. Oak and Rte. 301) on Saturday, January 26, 2013, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

A “Blanket of Hope” is a fleece blanket created from love to provide hope and comfort to wounded heros during one of the most difficult and vulnerable times of their lives. These blankets will be sent to combat support hospitals in the Middle East, major medical facilities in Germany, and around the world as well as to some military hospitals here at home.

Won't you make a blanket? Help ASLC reach their goal of making 200 blankets. Sewing skills are **not** required; if you can tie a knot, you can make a Blanket of Hope. For more details, please contact Deborah Rice @[240-381-1184](tel:240-381-1184).

**Be an angel – join the Marathon at ASLC
Saturday, January 26 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.**

DEACON'S CORNER

This is the 24th in a series of articles about living well by considering the host of things we can change in our lives, our homes and our surroundings that can make our lives healthier, happier, and safer. Special thanks to Joy Bible, former Moderator of the Board of Deacons, for sharing her wisdom and expertise through the Deacon's Corner. We will be preparing a complete set of Deacon's Corner articles to share with CCPC.

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream another dream" (C.S Lewis). This is the start of another new year, a time when we look ahead, make resolutions, and take stock of where we are or where we have been. If you look at the word "resolution," as a noun, it means an aim, plan, pledge, or promise and as a verb, it means to find a solution, to fix, to straighten out, put right, or figure out. Resolutions may be a good beginning to the new year, if we mean to aim for that goal or dream, plan or pledge to find a solution, fix or put right some things that may be going on in our lives.

It is a very old cliché, but we are truly never too old to make some changes in our lives. Over the years, we form bad habits or just habits that do not necessarily benefit our health or general well-being. The how, when, or where of our changes all depends on identifying areas in our life that may need change or just a minor adjustment. Our goals might be erasing stress, shedding pounds, improving memory, improving eating habits, using time more effectively, taking time for our self, reading the Bible, and so on.

It may be time to take action on that goal or dream. There is no age limit to pursuing and accomplishing a goal. It is a step-by-step process. First state and know what it is you want to accomplish. Articulate it and clarify it. Visualize the end result. Set specific goals to turn your dream into a reality. Do the work. Realize it may take longer than you had planned. Persevere, for you may have set-backs. If it is a goal to lose weight, or to stop eating one particular food, it may take time to change bad eating habits. Researchers have found that habits take at least twelve weeks to break and then should be replaced by something better or healthier.

Start NOW! Get motivated! Do not be afraid of change. Be ready and receptive to change. I have talked about our older neighbor who, with much help, emptied her house, has sold it and moved to Alaska with her daughter. She is in her eighties. Guess what she is doing today! Instead of being bedridden, alone, and ill in her house, she is now active, vibrant and enjoying a whole new life! She has joined a senior group, she is playing mahjong once a week, using a treadmill and walking around in her neighborhood. (She couldn't walk to the end of her driveway when she lived here.) She is traveling and planning on volunteering at the local retirement home. She has created a whole new world and outlook for herself. It can be done. She is an inspiration for what can be done!

You want to read more? So, create a reading list and start! You want to work out more or start a workout program? Try a 4-minute workout, twice a week and build from there. Want to eat healthier? Start with one small change, like eating an apple a day. You need to clean up your space? Tidy up a bit at night before you go to bed. Researchers say well-kept homes house healthier people. Want to spend more time with family or friends? Plan a game night or a mid-week potluck for friends.

The wonderful and healthy satisfaction you will receive by achieving your dream or goal is immeasurable. "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul." Proverbs 13:19. Dream your dream, set your goal and pray about it. Trust God to guide you. The blessings will be great.

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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.*

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

