



Each month another front page article appears on the changing role of religion in America. This week the Pew Research Center released the results of a survey showing that 20% of Americans list their religion as “none.” This is up from 8% in 1990. And, what is more alarming is that a third of citizens under the age of 30 claims to be non-affiliated with any religious group. Like the changing demographics in America, there is a reshuffling of our nation’s spiritual identity.

Causes of this shift are debated. Some of the slide in affiliations is because churches have failed to lead the “service revolution” that is alive and well among American youth. Volunteerism is up. People want to help others who are in need. And, there is plenty of need in America, even though politicians like to talk about the struggles of the middle class and not the dire straits of the working poor.

The Pew research documented one suspected cause of the movement away from churches by America’s young people, especially those who are better educated. Younger voters don’t believe religion and politics should mix. Some prominent Evangelical leaders — including Jim Daly, new President of Focus on the Family (who replaced James Dobson, a very partisan supporter of the GOP) have uncoupled faith from politics. This year, once we got out of the GOP primaries where the white evangelical vote is king, there is not much interest in the so called culture wars. The culture wars are particularly offensive towards those highly sought after independent voters. Some analysts have said the cultural wars are over because there are few potential customers.

There are signs that religious tolerance is increasing. Three years ago there was a survey funded by political groups trying to get a reading on the voters tolerance for candidates’ religious affiliations. For me, three statistics jumped out:

- ♦ **6% of Americans said they could never vote for a Catholic** for President. It was widely reported that JFK’s Catholicism greatly reduced his plurality in 1960. My political science professor friends joked, “He might have actually won the election today.”
- ♦ **20% said they could never vote for a Mormon for President.** This partially explains Mitt Romney’s silence about his Mormon faith. I think this number has declined significantly. The LDS church ran a multimillion dollar ad campaign called “I am a Mormon.” The biggest hit on Broadway was the musical “The Book of Mormon,” which poked pretty innocent fun at Mormons. Viewers who loved the show said it depicted Mormons as a little odd, but so is everyone. You have become accepted in America if popular culture can talk about your beliefs and practices with light hearted humor.
- ♦ **40% of Americans said they would never vote for a Muslim or a foreigner.** This explains the occasional use in some southern rural areas of the Islamophobic claim that if the Democrats take over Congress they will mandate the use of Sharia law in American courts. Commuters might have seen the anti-Muslim ads are running in the DC and New York City subway systems. It really explains why the Birther Movement still raises its ugly head. While you are riding the anti-Muslim fears why not add a foreigner label by claiming that President Obama is really a Kenyan-born Muslim anti-colonialist.

Although I believe that my Christian beliefs should influence how I feel about particular policies, I am thankful that in America there are no religious tests for public office. I think you should vote for a candidate because you trust their vision for the country going forward and you believe that vision is realistic given the current fiscal and geopolitical realities. I am most thankful that the yearlong and very expensive race for the Presidency is less than four weeks away.

Grace and peace,
James Brassard

Worship Notes

October 21st: Last week, we learned the value of lament and the precious gift of having Jesus who not only understands our suffering, but embodies God's mercy. In Job 38, The Lord, towards whom Job had been crying out, finally answers Job out of the whirlwind. This is not the happy Hollywood answer we are accustomed to in our day. A one word clue to God's answer: perspective.

October 28: We conclude our journey through Job with chapter 42, where God restores Job to the joy and exuberance he used to have before his life was turned upside down.

Dear Members and Friends of CCPC,

We returned to the rush of events kicking off the new season here at our church in South Pasadena. In quiet moments, usually while out walking, we remember the generosity and kindness shown to us in the whirlwind weekend celebrating the 50th anniversary of CCPC last month. We are so grateful that you made it possible for us to join in that celebration.

Seeing growth, health, and strength in so many of you, especially those who were small children when we left Bowie delighted us greatly. The hope and purpose still very apparent in the life of CCPC encouraged us as well.

We pray God's blessing upon you as you live into the story of CCPC in the next 50 years.

Faithfully,

Rex and Kate McDaniel



DEACON'S CORNER

This is the 21st 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.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MY FAMILY'S LIFE EASIER IF I SHOULD DIE? WHAT DOES MY FAMILY NEED TO KNOW?

To ease the pain at loss of a loved one, or illness, or your own death, here are some very important things to know and list! Tell someone — a friend, child or lawyer — where the list is and what to do first. Give them a copy of the name and phone number of the person who should be called first. Second, make a list of other important people in your life who need to know what is happening or what has happened with their phone numbers. If necessary, notify the employer. Please list the location of personal papers. Even though someone in the family may have been told at one time, it is hard to remember in times of crisis or sorrow. Important papers needed include: birth certificate, will, living will, marriage certificate, military records, organ donor information, Social Security card, trust agreement and tax returns. If there is a post office box and/or a safe deposit box, the numbers, names and keys, and what might be in the boxes should be listed. It is important to list **phone numbers** for your family members to save time and anxiety for those carrying out your wishes. If your accounts are accessed electronically, it is important to list access codes and PIN numbers.

In the case of death, list what arrangements should be made with the designated funeral home. The phone number of the funeral home you or your loved one would want should also be listed. In case of death, the designated person will need to request at least 10 copies of the death certificate. Ask the funeral director to get them for you. Contact the lawyer or person to begin the process of settling the will.

Set up an appointment with the local Social Security office and file a claim immediately to avoid any possibility of losing any benefit checks or to stop payments of benefits. List the insurance companies you may have policies with, their phone numbers, and policy numbers. All insurance agents need to be notified: auto, life, disability, health, and veterans. Many people have employee benefits and thus the employers needs to know about the death and will inform you of the process for claiming benefits.

Be very specific about banking information. List the banks with your checking and savings accounts, account numbers, and approximate amounts kept in the accounts. List money market accounts or certificates of deposit with their phone numbers and locations. It is also very helpful to make a list of what is owed to various lenders.

Other people who have to be notified might be lenders such as the mortgage company, credit card companies, etc. Many people have mortgage insurance or accidental death insurance and that should be listed. Important people to contact should also be listed such as accountant, attorney, bank, stock broker, clergy, doctor, dentist, and employer.

For family members, it is important to list benefits they can expect. The clearer the information is, the less likely there will be problems among family members and hurt feelings. It is important to note that some accounts, like 401ks have tax implications so benefit amounts will need to take into consideration the tax ramifications.

This may all seem like a lot to list, but once you have the initial information put down, it is easier to keep up with and will make the lives of the loved ones who are entrusted to deal with such details less burdensome, as they also deal with sorrow and pain. If we take care of these things today, while we can, we insure that not only can we have our own peace of mind, we can be assured that our loved ones will also, receive the gift of peace even in sorrow. Hopefully, they will not be so stressed about what comes next.

“Wisdom is far more valuable than gold and crystal.” (Job: 28)

Be wise, give the gift of peace of mind to your loved ones.

What a legacy to leave behind!

Stewardship Dinner

Stewardship Sunday is
November 11th.

Come enjoy a potluck luncheon and
fellowship after the 10 AM service.

If your last name begins with:

A-I bring dessert,
J-Q bring sides, and
R-Z bring main dishes.

Hope to see you there!

Picture Frames

Dick Arnold is
collecting picture frames.

If you have any extras
— any size is fine —
please drop off at the
church office.

Thank you!

Wedding Invitation

Bruce and Astrid Jonas have the pleasure to announce the wedding of their daughter Jessica to Andrew Sillers on Saturday, October 20th at 2:30 PM.

A brief reception will follow in Dodd's Hall.

All are welcome!

CCPC's Unsung Hero Award



Al Wimbish received the CCPC Unsung Hero Award on Sunday, September 30th for his dedicated support to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Heaven's Got Talent! **Variety Show Postponed**

Please note that the *Heaven's Got Talent!* variety show that was originally scheduled for October 27th has been postponed. The new date and time will be posted.

Youth Ministry Fundraisers

Giant Cards

Each month the CCPC Youth Ministry runs a great fundraiser we call Giant cards. Many of you already support this fundraiser, but this notice is for those who aren't aware of it. Every second Sunday of the month, someone from the Youth Ministry will be in the CCPC Atrium before and after church to collect checks from those wishing to buy Giant gift cards. It works just like purchasing a Giant gift card at the check-out line. You can purchase a card at face-value amount to buy your groceries. How is this a fundraiser?

Since this is up front money for Giant, Giant returns to CCPC Youth Ministry five percent of the total amount collected, and 100% of that money goes towards Youth conferences and retreats. Then, on the third Sunday of the month, Youth Ministry will be in the CCPC Atrium before and after church to distribute the Giant cards you purchased. The cards can be purchased in \$25, \$50, \$100, or more increments. If you already shop at Giant, this is a really good and easy way to support the CCPC Youth Ministry! I want to thank those volunteers who do this each month to help out our youth! If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Armstrong or Kristen Zacheis.

SCRIP Cards

Another one of our fundraisers are the SCRIP cards. SCRIP fundraising gift cards are the same gift cards you would normally purchase from a retailer in your local retail stores, and they work the same way. You'll find cards you can use at grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, movie theaters, home improvement stores, and almost any business that accepts gift cards. CCPC Youth Ministry can earn up to a 15% rebate on each purchased gift card and 100% of the proceeds go to our Youth conferences and retreats. Using SCRIP couldn't be easier.

You can purchase gift cards for places where you plan to shop, and use those cards instead of cash or credit. This fundraiser is done by CCPC Youth twice a year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall. **Our SCRIP fundraiser begins on October 28 and ends on November 18**, and the cards will come in after Thanksgiving. During the fundraiser, the Youth will be in the CCPC Atrium after church at a table distributing the SCRIP order form and list of retailers, and collecting the completed order form and accompanying check.

All order forms are due by **November 18th at Noon**. Two or three weeks later (which will be announced in church and in *The Caller*), the Youth will hand out the gift cards to those who ordered them. Since the holidays are just around the corner, keep family, friends, and others in mind when you fill out your order forms. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Zacheis.

The *Christmas Gift Market*

Tired of giving ties and shirts to all the men on your list?
Running out of ideas for those who are hard-to-buy-for?
Would you like to give a gift that will really make a difference ?

Come to the Christmas Gift Market!

There are gifts for everyone! You can give rabbits from the Heifer Project in honor of your nieces or nephews. Choose medicine or mosquito nets from Medical Benevolence in honor of Aunt Sue. Give someone a gift of Living Water. There are many other choices to make.

Join us in Dodds Hall on Sunday, November 4, shop for gifts and have soup for lunch.

Trunk or Treat

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS EVENT. EVENT IS NOW FROM 4 to 6 PM

Boo!

Whoooo, Are you ready? Halloween is almost here!

Join us in the parking lot for some old-fashioned fun on Sunday, ~~October 28th~~ from 4 to 6 PM. Fun and games for children in Dodds Hall until about 5:30 PM -- a Pumpkin Patch and Raffle to raise money for the Food Pantry -- and "trunk or treating" in the parking lot at 5:30!

Canned food and cash donations will be collected for the Interfaith Food Pantry!

Prize for the BEST DECORATED TRUNK!

Please bring candy to give out to our little ghosts and goblins — or you might get TRICKED!

The Share Shop is Back!

Our fall Share Shop will be Saturday, November 3 from 7:30 AM until 11:30 AM in Dodds Hall.

This is a good time to clean out your closets! If you no longer want clothing, household items, books, records, toys, etc, AND they are in good enough shape to give to a friend, then bring them to the church during the week of October 29.

On Saturday morning, come and see if there are any items you'd like to take home. We open the doors to the general public at 9:00 AM, so come early for the best selections.

Questions? Ask Margaret.

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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

