



A Message from Session

Our society misleads us. It tells us that the most important human need is to be loved. God reminds us that equally important is our need to give love. Consider our anticipation anxiety when we give a gift on an occasion or to a person that has relevance to us. It can take forever from the moment we choose the present, place that gift in the receiver's hands, and wait until it is opened. We hold our breath for a response. If the gift is not liked, we feel hurt. If the gift delights, then we're more excited than the receiver.

There are reasons for this vulnerability. Some are rooted in our insecurities. More important is that every gift we give is a symbol of our love. It is a symbol of our heart and soul wrapped in paper and ribbon then held in someone's hands. This exposure implies poignant questions: Is my love acceptable? Is my love appropriate? Will you receive my gift with joy or am I found needing additional acceptance? As eager as we are to be loved, we are just as eager to have someone to love. In order to be fulfilled, we need others; and more significantly we need God to receive our gifts.

The great news which we are called to proclaim: Christ will receive our love and our gifts. We are perfect in God's view. We are received by the Creator exactly as we are. We need this news: those who are heart-broken by having their love rejected; who wonder if their lives bring anything acceptable; who have believed the lies that they must have perfect teeth, bodies, and bank accounts to deserve to give love. No gift, given in love, is rejected by God.

Stewardship invites you to participate in CCPC's mission with your financial resources. You have an opportunity to make a difference in ways that are more difficult to do alone. When you understand the abundant pleasure of giving, you will never regret making a difference. Let us not deny you a chance at that joy.

We hope everyone had a chance to participate in the dedication of your Estimate of Giving (pledge) cards on Stewardship Sunday. You can continue to give us your cards throughout the month by placing them in the offering plate or in Cyd Radden-LeSage's box in the office. If you are not comfortable with a set amount, just turn in your card with your name, so we can anticipate your continued support of CCPC. Additional cards are available on the table in the Atrium. We have been heartened by the response to date.

CCPC will be providing more details on how you can make your contributions, without having to place a check in the offering plate. The Finance Council wants to provide alternative giving options for your convenience.

We express our thanks for the delicious luncheon organized by Susan Brutout on Sunday. While enjoying our time of fellowship, Session members listened to your suggestions for enhancing CCPC's mission and fellowship. Thank you for sharing your ideas!

With God's Grace,

Cyd Radden-LeSage for The Session of
Christian Community Presbyterian Church



Worship Notes

November 18: Baptism of Penelope Hallau Miller. In Mark 13:1-8 Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. He suggests that this and other dramatic events are not to be feared, but serve as the birth pangs of exciting new things God is doing. How do we deal with radical change?

November 25: In John 18:33-39, Pilate sits in judgment over Jesus. He snidely asks Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" In this fateful encounter the power of the government meets the power of Christ. What does the gospel say about the nature of citizenship? We will look at Abraham Lincoln's relatively unknown meditation on Divine Will. Have you seen the new movie yet?

Adult Education Class

Beginning on November 18th at 11:15 AM in the Adult Education Conference Room, there will be an Adult Education class led by Jim Bridger centered on the Marcus Borg book entitled, *Speaking Christian, Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They can be Restored*.

This class will study such Christian words as mercy, forgiveness, sin, born again and several more as well as delve into their original and culturally-tinged meanings. We will also examine how they are understood today. Our discoveries may be controversial, but are sure to be interesting. I hope that many of you will attend. Twelve copies of the book will be available in the Atrium to read if you plan to attend the class.

Questions or more information, please contact Jim Bridger.

Friendly Reminders

- ◆ Christmas Families school supplies are still needed. If interested, please drop off your donation(s) of three-ring, wide-ruled notebook paper and 4 oz. washable glue in the box next to the guest desk in the church office.
- ◆ CCPC Fall Clean Up will be on November 17 from 9 AM to Noon. Please bring rakes, blowers, and tarps.
- ◆ SCRIP cards fundraiser will end November 18. See a CCPC youth in the Atrium after church services if you'd like to purchase.

DEACON'S CORNER

This is the 22nd 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.

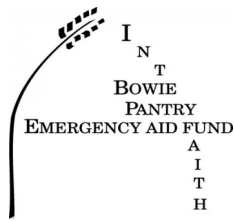
Sometimes don't you wish that relationships were easier. Or that in dealing with the challenges of life, there would not be any problems. But that is not the case. One of the areas of life that we all face is loss: the loss of a spouse or other loved one, loss of a job, loss of health. The list is long. How do we handle losses? Grief reactions do not follow a specific pattern or rate and you may be surprised by how long you experience the painful feelings of loss. Remember that everyone in your family or your friends will have their own unique grief reactions. It is important to be supportive of each other as you may grieve differently.

There are many normal physical reactions when faced with loss. We can experience few of these or many. Here are some of the reactions: frequent crying and expression of grief, difficulty sleeping or sleeping excessively, poor appetite or overeating, loss of interest in usual activities, sensitivity and irritability, questioning what you could have done differently, hurt and anger. Often people will withdraw from friends and relatives or question their faith in God. You may experience emotional ups and downs or become preoccupied with the memories of the deceased. You may have sensations that you see or hear the loved one or feel a need to talk about your feelings multiple times. There may also be expressions of relief that your loved one is no longer suffering.

The most critical part of grieving is to give yourself time to grieve and time to heal. There is NO time prescriptions about how much is too long or too short. Any reaction to grief may be normal, but some people may feel overwhelmed. If you do experience severe or prolonged symptoms, which prevent you from functioning in a healthy way, seek professional help. We are all called to care. Part of that care can be as a support system for our loved ones, or in prayer.

Taking care of yourself when you experience loss is an absolute necessity! Be aware of your own health since often exhaustion follows care of a loved one or stress of a sudden loss. It is important to eat regularly, get enough sleep, and to take breaks from your stress. Exercising is often a therapeutic activity, especially a long walk. You may find it relieving to get away from your usual environment for a few days. Time off from work is helpful for some, but work provides a much-needed structure for others.

As well as the care of your physical health, it is important that you get the emotional support that you need in the weeks and months ahead. Seek out those persons who are able to listen and be supportive. Give and receive help within your own family by sharing your feelings and your ideas for getting through this difficult time. Most of the painful reactions to death of a loved one diminish with the support of others and the healing passing of time. Life will never be exactly the same again, but you will be able to move forward to enjoy life, while you continue to mourn your loss. Nurture your Spirit through meditation, Bible reading and prayer. *"You number my wonderings; put my tears into your bottle; are they not in Your book?" Psalm 56:8. Remember every tear is treasured!*



Interfaith Bowie Food Pantry

News & Events

Holiday Basket Food Items

The pantry will be putting together dinner baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donations of any of the following items would be appreciated. The following items are needed:

- ❖ Boxed instant mashed potatoes ❖ Stuffing ❖ Canned mushroom soup ❖
 - ❖ French fried onion pieces ❖ Cranberry sauce ❖ Gravy ❖
 - ❖ Pumpkin pie mix (not pure pumpkin) ❖ Fruit pie filling ❖
- ❖ Boxed pie crust mix ❖ Hot chocolate ❖ Hot apple cider packets ❖ Marshmallows
- ❖ Pancake mix ❖ Syrup ❖ Canned yams ❖ Snacks—salty or sweet ❖ Fresh fruit
- ❖ Holiday paper products ❖

as well as perishable items: turkeys, chickens, hams, eggs, butter, dinner rolls

Individuals and groups may also put together holiday baskets for donation to the Pantry.

And, a friendly reminder for the

2012 Bowie Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

The 2012 Bowie Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:30 PM at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church 14900 Annapolis Rd. Bowie, MD.

Local clergy will speak on the theme, "Poverty in America: What is our Religious Commitment to the Poor?" Other clergy who wish to take part in the program should arrive at 7:00 PM to be given a role. An Interfaith Choir will sing "All Thy Gifts of Love" by David L. Brunner. Those who wish to sing in the choir should also arrive at 7:00 PM.

An offering of money and staple goods will be taken for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry. A reception will follow the service.

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 items.

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.

We have a tuna shelf and a canned fruit/applesauce shelf waiting to be adopted. If you are interested, call the Pantry at 301-262-6765.

Interfaith Bowie Food Pantry **Toy Collection**

Preparations are under way for our annual "toy room." Our moms and dads stop in and pick out a toy for each of their children as well as stocking stuffers. Donations of new or nearly new toys are now being accepted.

We also need wrapping paper, tags, bows, gift bags, etc. Some of our families are adopted by groups, but there are many more children who need our help. Items should be brought to the Pantry no later than December 17.

Our children range in age from infant to 18. We especially need items for teenagers.

RICCI ROGEL MUSIC STUDIO *Winter Recital*

Join us on Saturday, December 1 at 3 PM in the Sanctuary. All are invited to this free concert which features pianists from the RRMS performing classical works as well as holiday selections.

Several of our CCPC members are featured, including Rebecca and Victoria Ilko and Alaina Clemence. There will be a reception following the performance in the atrium.

The Studio is also collecting canned goods for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry to help replenish the shelves during the busy holiday season.

Bowie Senior Chorale Presents **Our 2012 Winter Concert** *An Olde Tyme Holiday*

On Friday, December 14 at 7:30 PM, the Bowie Senior Chorale will perform their 2012 winter concert at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts.

General Admission is \$6.00. Tickets are on sale now at the Bowie Senior Center located at 14900 Health Center Drive in Bowie. If you need more information, call (301) 809-2300.

Christmas Families

The 2012 Christmas Families program got off to a great start with over 115 children adopted the first day! We have been provided the opportunity to share God's love by providing gifts and groceries for 117 families this year, with a total of 305 children. Adoptions will continue each Sunday until all the children have been selected. Monetary donations are also welcome to cover food costs, or for those who would like to adopt a child but cannot do the shopping. A sign up board for other volunteer opportunities is located in the Atrium. Below are the schedule of events and due dates.



Dec 1 – 13

EARLY GIFT DROP OFF (Library)
(Include ID Number and Name on all packages)

Dec 12 (Wed)

9 pm – 10 pm

Set up Dodds Hall for Gift
Sorting & Wrapping

Dec 13 (Thu)

9 am – 5 pm

12 pm – 5 pm
by 6 pm

6 – 9 pm

SORT & CHECK GIFTS

GIFT WRAPPING

FINAL DEADLINE FOR GIFT

DROP OFF

SORT & CHECK GIFTS (continued)

GIFT WRAPPING (continued)

**(Snacks to be provided throughout the
day/evening)**

Dec 14 (Fri)

9 am – 3 pm

2:00 pm

4 – 10 pm

SORT & CHECK GIFTS (continued)

GIFT WRAPPING (continued)

Pick Up Food Order from Aldi's
(non-perishables)

GIFT WRAPPING (continued)

**(Snacks to be provided throughout the
day/evening)**

Dec 15 (Sat)

9 am – 5 pm

7 pm – 9 pm

GIFT WRAPPING (continued)

Re-Set Dodds Hall for Food Sorting

**(Snacks to be provided throughout the
day/evening)**

Dec 16 (Sun)

12 pm – 4 pm

Food Sorting **(Snacks to be provided)**

Dec 17 (Mon)

7 am – 8 am

9 am – 1 pm

6 pm – 9 pm

Pick Up Food Order at Aldi's (perishables)

Family Pick Up/Delivery (daytime session)

Family Pick Up/Delivery (evening session)

Dec 18 (Tue)

9 am – 12 pm

Pick Up/Delivery Make-Up Day

Clean Up Dodds Hall

If you have any questions, contact Roxanne Johnson at 240-731-0683 or roglojo@gmail.com.

Christian Community Presbyterian



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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

