

February 1, 2013



The Caller

In the biblical perspective social issues are always framed as questions of our obligations, not our rights. Instead of insisting on absolute freedoms, we consider our obligations to our neighbor. The Bible assumes that loving one's neighbor will entail some conditions on one's actions.

In Deuteronomy chapters 20 through 23, we find numerous practical directions on how we balance our rights and the welfare of others. If the things you build or possess present a life threatening hazard to your neighbor, you need to take steps to reduce the danger. I have a swimming pool. I am required to have a locked fenced in back yard.

I have never understood our nation's infatuation with guns. Except for the BB gun I had as a child, I have never owned a gun. I have never hunted, but know it was a big social experience for the men in my western Pennsylvania church. I used to say the opening prayer at the annual venison dinner and enjoyed the camaraderie. But, certain coarseness has overtaken our society since those more serene days 25 years ago. I am horrified when I see the graphic violence in the video games my nephews play by the hour. I am alarmed that my 20-something kids like watching television series like "Game of Thrones." We are a society where the celebration of violence is everywhere.

We are becoming more and more aware of how those that witness violence are severely scared. Recently, it was the tragic report about the frequency of suicide among members of our military. The Pentagon reported that in 2012 more soldiers died of suicide than were killed in our never ending wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This statistic didn't sound out of the ordinary when I read that twice as many people died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds than were murdered with guns. Something is seriously wrong! The answers are not simple, but it is not getting more

guns in circulation and arming teachers and college students.

Any reasonable effort to work at solutions is hampered by our insidious political environment. Any questioning of the disastrous status quo is deemed opportunistic. Today, "Everything is political" instead of just being an obvious moral imperative. Freedoms must be protected against any infringement! So, next year, when another horrifying mass shooting happens (we all know it's coming – it happens at least once a year), which community will be forced to bear unspeakable tragedy as somehow the price of our freedoms?

So where does the conversations start? First, by admitting that defending the status quo is indefensible. Most gun owners are calling for changes to our weak gun laws. Even Senator Manchin, who has the NRA's highest rating, is saying enough – we need to strengthen our gun laws. Why can't people recognize that the NRA is funded by gun manufacturers? They are the only people the NRA are representing. Like any lobby, they will use any fear tactic, evoke the most tortured second amendment interpretation and trot out the congressmen whose campaigns they support to make their case. The NRA wants to support the maximum sale of guns and ammunition. Period.

Second, more reasonable people of good conscience and good faith, including responsible gun owners, need to talk openly, honestly and forcefully about the need for additional, reasonable regulations. There is power in speaking up. We know the face of unfettered gun proliferation. Now it's time to see more faces of regulation and restraint.

I saw retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal a few weeks ago on TV. The General said, "I spent a career carrying typically an M16 and later an M4 carbine. And, an M4 carbine fires a .223 caliber round, which is 5.56 millimeters, at about 3,000 feet per second. When it hits a human body, the effects are devastating. It's designed to do that. And, that's what our soldiers ought to carry. I personally don't think there's any need for that kind of weaponry on the street and particularly around the schools in America. I believe that we've got

(continued on next page)

(Pastor's Corner continued from front page)

to take a serious look. I understand everybody's desire

to have whatever they want, but we've got to protect our children, we've got to protect our police, we've got to protect our population. And, I think we've got to take a very mature look at that."

A "mature look" indeed. Like any other complicated problem we confront, we must understand that whatever we do now is not necessarily the whole of the solution but a step in the right direction on a long walk back from a precipice. We don't want to pass the point where society is so saturated with the most dangerous kinds of weaponry that people feel compelled to arm themselves or be left vulnerable. Sometimes I wonder if we haven't already passed that point.

Grace and peace,
James Brassard



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
Youth Coordinator	Kristen Zacheis ccpcyouth@verizon.net 845-729-8125
Coordinator of Ministry to Children and Their Families	Rebecca Coleman ccpckids@gmail.com 202-302-4071
Director of Music	Susan Ricci Rogel ricci-rogel@msn.com
Assistant Director of Music	Kevin Clemence kclemence@earthlink.net
Administrative Assistant	Robin Seekford ccpcbowie@verizon.net

Santa Pictures

There are still some pictures with Santa on the table in the Atrium. Please pickup any that are yours.
Thank you!

February Sunday Calendar

† Sunday, February 3, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr High
11:00 AM Annual Congregational Mtg -- Sanctuary
11:45 AM Youth Souper Bowl of Caring
5:00 PM Youth Group -- Sr High Room

† Sunday, February 10, 2013

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

† Sunday, February 17, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr High
11:30 AM Deacons Potato Bash -- Dodds Hall
5:00 PM Youth Group -- Sr High Room

† Sunday, February 24, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr High
11:30 AM Children's Ministry Lenten Fellowship Luncheon -- Dodds Hall
4:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 1688 Dinner -- Dodds Hall
5:00 PM Youth Group -- Sr High Room

Buildings and Grounds

As many of you have already noticed, the renovations of the ladies bathroom in Dodds Hall have been completed. The long-overdue renovations included new sinks, new ceramic tile flooring, new mirrors, some towel hooks near the shower, a shelf near the changing table, and a fresh paint job. The Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to thank Al Wimbish for overseeing the work and for personally installing the beautiful ceramic tile. We would also like to thank Miriam Salsbury and Ellen Wimbish for selecting the tiles, paint, mirrors, and counter top. We hope to have an open house soon so everyone can see the upgrades.

Paul Sell
Buildings and Grounds Chairman

Congratulations Great-Grandma, Mary!

Mary Keller is celebrating being a new great-grandmother! Her granddaughter Jessica gave birth to Rosslynn Leggett on January 15, 2013. Rosslynn weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz.

The Gadabouts

The Gadabouts will meet in the Adult Ed Conference Room on Tuesday, February 5th at noon. Bring your lunch or snack. Beverages and desert will be provided.

Offering Statements

The 2012 end of year giving statements are available for pickup. Please help us save on mailing costs by picking up your envelope on Sunday's in the atrium or throughout the week in the church office.

For anyone that cannot get in to pick up their statement they will be mailed on February 11th. If you would like your statement mailed before then please call the church office at 301-262-6008.

Paper Tigers Book Review

Mark Pesses has written a review of the book entitled, *Steve Jobs*, which the Paper Tigers read last fall.

To read Mark's review, please pick-up a copy in the Alcove outside of the Sanctuary, read it in the email with the link to the online newsletter, or ask Robin to give you a copy.



If you no longer want *The Caller* delivered to your home and prefer to receive it online, please contact Robin at the church office. The next Caller will be sent out around February 15th. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, February 12th. If you need assistance, please feel free to call the office. Thank you!



Lenten News

Lenten Fellowship Lunches

Three Lenten Fellowship Luncheons will be held after the 10 AM service

On February 24, Children's Ministry will host an Old Fashioned Maryland Church Lunch, featuring chicken from Popeye's. You are encouraged to bring one of your family's favorite recipes to share.

On March 10, the choirs will host a chili cook off, featuring a variety of chili recipes. You don't have to be a member of a choir to enter your favorite recipe! If you are not bringing, chili, you are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

On March 17, the Deacons will host their annual potato bash, which includes baked potatoes with all the fixings you can imagine. You are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Each meal will include an activity area for children and kid-friendly items.

Having the meals right after church will encourage more people to attend and for families to bring their kids. It's also a chance for us to look around the congregation and invite a visitor or new member to join in the fun.

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday services, including the imposition of ashes, will be held in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 13th in the morning at 7:15 AM and during the evening at 7 PM.

Sue Cobb Memorial Scholarship Pancake Dinner

Sue Cobb fought a courageous battle against ovarian cancer for more than seven years. She was very active at CCPC. Sue served on Session and was very involved in our Missions. She loved, and lived for, serving others. We honor her memory with an annual scholarship to a young woman from our congregation. Your support of this dinner will help fund this scholarship.

The dinner will be on Shrove Tuesday—February 12th— from 6 to 8 PM in Dodds Hall.

All female Seniors are given an application for the scholarship, which is reviewed by a committee consisting of PWOC *Woman of the Year* recipients. Sue was a 2009 *Woman of the Year*. The scholarship will be awarded on Women's Sunday.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Looking for a different Lenten discipline this year?

Join us in the Sanctuary each morning (except Sundays) during Lent at 7:15 AM for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer. We are usually finished by 7:30 AM.



Warm Nights **Wrap Up**

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Warm Nights Program. CCPC had another successful year. We could not host Warm Nights without the active participation of many congregation members. It takes the involvement of the women's circles, the Paper Tigers, the Youth Group, and the many families and individuals who sign up to perform so many tasks. Did you know that CCPC provided almost 600 meals during Warm Nights and over 200 warm beds (almost 30 per night for seven days)? More importantly, you showed compassion to those in need and helped them maintain their dignity while they work to resolve personal and financial issues, which is something that cannot be measured by any statistics. Thanks for all you do.

Coordinating Warm Nights is a big task. It has become clear to me that serving as Warm Nights Coordinator and Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee at the same time is too much for one person. I have asked the Mission Committee leadership to seek a new coordinator for next year. I will continue to participate and support the program, but we need another person to coordinate the effort. If you are interested in serving as the Warm Nights Coordinator, please contact Jane Mellow, the Chairperson of the Mission Committee.

Paul Sell, Warm Nights Coordinator

Adult Education Classes

Wayne Smith, retired professor of history, will lead a series of classes, *Episodes in American Religious History*, to be held in the Adult Ed Conference Room beginning February 10th at 11:15 AM:

Feb 10—*What was the greatest sermon in American History?*

Feb 17—*How did the Second Great Awakening in the 1820's and 1830's Affect Society?*

Mar 3—*What are the Origins of American Fundamentalism?*

Mar 24—*Why did the Religious Right Enter Politics in the 1970's?*

Please join us on February 10th. All are welcome!

Sweet Life ... **Ladies Retreat 2013**

March 1-3 at Rhodes Grove Conference Center – Chambersburg, PA

Join us for a weekend growing closer to God through food for heart! We will discover how important it is to put our hope in God – no matter our circumstances; realize what it means to believe in Jesus as the bread of life; and challenge ourselves to make a difference in the world.

In our hectic lives, women don't find enough time for their friends. In a recent study on friendship conducted by Pepperidge Farm, nearly half of the women admit they neglect their girlfriends most consistently when they get busy or overwhelmed, and they lack opportunities to meet new people. This weekend retreat is designed to give us new friendships and time to spend together.

Registration is now open!

Please fill out and return your registration by February 10th.

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

