



Nothing in life gives me a bigger shot of adrenaline and hope than Easter morning. From the moment I get up, I have the traditional Easter greeting ready at the tip of my tongue. "Christ is risen. *He is risen indeed.*" My favorite flower is the daffodil and these hearty flowers escape the earth around mid-March and explode with color. My mood changes when they first appear. I love that the yellow blossoms tend to stick around for a whole month announcing the hope and second chance that resurrection brings.

Easter offers such a jolt of hope because at its heart Easter is a day full of miracles. There is the magnificence in music, the bold Easter affirmations of faith, and the words of scripture just shout confidence. But miracles are not easy for everyone to recognize.

As I reread the four gospel accounts of the Resurrection, I am struck by the skepticism of the first people who heard the news that the tomb was empty. They lacked confidence and certitude. It is not just "Doubting Thomas" who asks for physical confirmation of this miraculous truth. Lots of people walk right by without noticing the miraculous around them.

Sadly, for a lot of people, Easter is a hard day. They have lost the wonder and excitement they had as children. The alleluias and eggs filled with candy and new Easter clothes don't match the lives they live. Just this week, I was struck by the picture in the Post of the people of Japan lined up hand in hand at a service commemorating the 2nd anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the country. Many people in our area will celebrate Easter and then face furloughs as Congress continues to use the federal employees as their whipping boys in the struggle to deal with deficits. For others, grief casts a long shadow over the bright lights of Easter dawn. For many, the miracle at Easter remains a tough sell.

The Easter readings remind me of the difficulties grieving people have in recognizing God in their situation: Mary at the tomb, Thomas in the Upper Room, and the two men who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. We discover that God truly meets us where we are, revealing him to us in different ways, using a variety of ways to communicate hope. God knows us so well, and understands what we need in order to move on from the places of deepest sorrow and doubt.

So, I just ask you to open your eyes and look for the hope that shines bright on Easter morning. You never know; the old jolt might just show up and surprise you.

Christ is risen.

James Brassard



Worship Notes

March 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent. At a gathering in Bethany, Mary (sister of Martha and brother of Lazarus) anoints Jesus' feet with an incredibly expensive bottle of nard and then lovingly wipes it off using her hair. This act of extravagant generosity fills the room with a powerful fragrance. Then Judas questions the act arguing that the nard could have been sold and used to feed the hungry. Why doesn't Jesus buy into this austerity plan? I wonder. Who are we more like? Mary or Judas?

March 24: Palm/Passion Sunday. This Sunday is probably the most challenging Sunday for preachers and worship leaders. It is the pivotal day of the whole season of Lent. It encompasses both the joy of Easter and the horror of Good Friday. It begins with the joyous and triumphant entry of Jesus on a donkey into Jerusalem and ends with him being hoisted up on a cross. The challenge is to get a flavor of the most important week in the Christian faith. We will follow Jesus' focus during this busy week.

March 31: Easter Sunday: The Day of Resurrection. In the resurrection account in John 20, we find the two very competitive disciples, John and Peter, racing to the tomb to see who can confirm the rumor first. Their competition was a polite but spirited effort trying to *win the Lord's favor*. It seems only logical that they wanted to be the first to confirm the rumor. Was Jesus no longer dead? Yet something changed as they stood outside the entrance to the tomb. What is it about the resurrection that stops all of us cold?

Holy Week Schedule

March 24—Palm Sunday Services 8:30 & 10 AM

March 28—Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 PM

Communion is served

March 29—Good Friday Service at Noon

March 31—Easter Services:

Sunrise Service at 7 AM

Breakfast by Session at 7:30 AM

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10 AM

If able, please park on the street for our Easter services.

Easter Lily Order Forms

Easter is Sunday, March 31. At CCPC, we honor and remember loved ones with Easter lilies. Lilies have 6-8 blooms and cost \$11. The order forms are on the easel in the Atrium. Please put the order form and payment in the Flower Committee mail box in the office or in the collection plate. **The deadline for ordering is Palm Sunday, March 24.**

"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.

Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Betty Cartin, mother of Barbara Engh, on March 23 at 11 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by a luncheon in Dodds Hall.

The love and support of a mother can never be replaced, but we hope Barbara finds some strength, in the love of family and in the warm embrace of her CCPC family and friends.

DEACON'S CORNER

This is the 26th 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.

"This is a story about four people named: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!"

Who are you waiting for to do the job or make the decision about a move or a change in your life? Are you Somebody, Anybody, Everybody, or Nobody? It is very hard to leave a good friend or your home of many years. There are many emotions that surface, even when you just think about it. First, there is a **deep sense of loss**. It's the same emotion we feel when we lose a friend either through a move or death. For most of us, our friends and homes represent personal peace and safety. How do we replace a friend or the space we feel so comfortable and safe in? Letting go of what we know, can cause us to become **angry**, especially, if we are forced to sell, or lose control of the whole process. This situation is often brought on by deteriorating health, financial concerns, or changing environments. **Fear** is another strong emotion you might feel in the process of letting go: fear of the unknown, fear from loss of security, fear of disappointment or heartache. In our lives, we go through seasons. Sometimes it is hard for us to understand the why of what might be happening to us, but as hard as we may try to keep things the same, the truth is they are always changing.

So many of us can list a dozen reasons why a move would be the best for us, BUT, emotionally we cannot take the steps to actually make the decision to move. Because of this, many seniors continue to live in homes that do not meet their physical and/or social needs. In a survey I read, the question posed to the seniors was: "What are the top three reasons why you are considering a move?" Number one answer was **maintenance** (42%). Home and yard work was too much, hard to find reliable help, home deterioration (can't afford the work or unable to maintain the home), shoveling snow or cutting grass, or just the responsibility of caring for the home. The second reason for considering a move was **health issues** (34%) as people realize that they will need help soon due to reduced physical abilities, beginning stages of dementia or Alzheimer's disease, inability to care for self and loss of eyesight. The other reasons for a move were **downsizing** (house too large, kids gone); **loneliness** (need companionship, someone to check up on them to make sure they are OK, spouse passed away or children moved away); **transportation** (close to doctors, stores, security, and unable to drive), **age** and **finances** were the last two reasons. The survey also asked: What are the top three fears that keep you from making the move? The results were **fear of change** (32%), **fear of downsizing** (26%), and **emotional fears** (24%). Other fears were **financial concerns** (8%), and **loss of independence** (4%).

There are many things you can do to overcome the fear of any change in your life. Know your "FEAR" (False Evidence Appearing Real) can mislead you into a feeling you have to accept a difficult situation. You do not want to let fear spoil your golden years, especially when you have long anticipated the day you could simply relax and enjoy life!"



*Thank You
So Much!*

A sincere **Thank-You** to my church family for your concern, caring, and support these past weeks as my back heals.

All you have done, your cards, visits, food, and prayers are so very much appreciated and treasured.

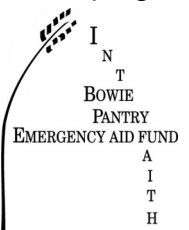
Elsie Bell



Bowie Food Pantry Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Emma Clement is working on her gold award by creating a pet food area at the Pantry and keeping it stocked.

You can help Emma by dropping off donations of pet food at the Pantry. Many of our families have cats and dogs, and it is nice to help them take care of these special family members.



Paper Tigers Book Review



Dave Honeyford has written a review of the book entitled, *The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predications Fail — But Some Don't*.

To read Dave's review, grab a copy from the alcove in the Narthex, read it in the email with the link to the online newsletter, or ask Robin for a copy.

One Great Hour of Sharing



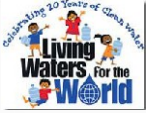
Immediately following World War II, Protestant churches in the United States made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of areas devastated by the war, primarily Europe and Asia. In 1949, the leaders of several denominations formed a committee to organize an appeal to support their churches' separate campaigns.

From the beginning, the offering has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, OGHS has varied from 8 to 29 participating communions. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. Today, projects supported by OGHS are under way in more than 100 countries, including the U.S. and Canada.

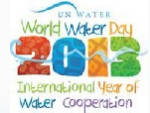
As a result of your gifts and the gifts of other congregations across the church, OGHS will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways. Thank you for your longtime support of this offering, as together we are Sharing Resources and Changing Lives!



For Palm Sunday (3/24) and Easter Sunday (3/31) worship services, CCPC will have their annual offering drive for OGHS. Thank you for your generous support.



WORLD WATER Day!



Several years ago, realizing that millions of children are dying every year from preventable waterborne diseases, the United Nations designated March 22nd as World Water Day, to be observed globally in an effort to increase awareness of the world's growing water crisis.

Living Waters for the World has taken this call to heart, and encourages churches of all faith traditions to participate annually in an observance of this day. Many churches, including CCPC, have chosen March 17th for this day.

Join us in the Sanctuary at 8:30 AM and 10 AM to honor this day and to be thankful for having clean water and generously offering to help make clean water available world-wide.

Kiss Me Kate



Bowie High School presents *Kiss Me Kate* showing at the Bowie Center of Performing Arts (BCPA).

Shows are at 7:30 PM on March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, and at 2:30 PM on March 3 and 10. Tickets are \$10 for Children, Students, and Seniors; and \$13 Adults.

It is an amazing show with very talented students. Please come and support the local talent, and enjoy the show! Website: <http://www.bowiecenter.org>.

Southern Comforters **Quilt Show**

March 23—24, 2013

Sat 3/23 from 10 AM to 5 PM

Sun 3/24 from 11 AM to 4 PM

15542 Peach Walker Drive, Bowie, MD

✂ Quilted items, incl. art quilts

✂ Raffle Quilt, "Color Play"

✂ Quilt Appraisals

✂ Demonstrations

✂ Children's Activities

✂ Merchant's Mall ✂ Silent Auction ✂ Refreshments for Sale

Admission is \$7 or bring a canned good donation for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry and get \$1 off! To schedule an appraisal send an email to president@southerncomforters.org.

Friendly **Reminders**

Bowie Food Pantry March Special is Toilet Paper

Each set of groceries includes one roll of toilet paper. Let's make it two in March! Donations can be dropped off at the Pantry or at one of their collection sites.

Now through April 17—Check out the Creativity Café every Wednesday at 6 PM in the Dodds Hall Conference Room.

March 17—Free monthly Reiki Shares are happening at Imagine Yoga. March's day is the 17th from 1 to 3 PM.

March 24—Wayne Smith's last class entitled, *Why did the Religious Right Enter Politics in the 1970's?* from his series of *Episodes in American Religious History* will be after the 10 AM service in the Adult Ed Room.

March 24—*Children of Eden* Auditions. Multi-generational cast, ages 12 and up with a few spots for younger kids. Prepare 16 bars of any song, a short monologue, and be dressed for movement. Auditions will be held in Dodds Hall from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM; call backs 3—5 PM. For more information contact Linda Miller or Barbara Sigler.

April *Highlights*

April 7—Gun Violence Prevention Forum. Vincent DeMarco, a renowned advocate for public health causes including reducing teen smoking, restraining gun violence, and expanding health care access will speak about preventing Gun Violence on Sunday, April 7 at 11:30 AM in Dodds Hall.

April 14—Human Trafficking forum. At 11:30 AM in Dodds Hall, Melissa Snow, Director of the Anti-Human Trafficking program at TurnAround, Inc. will be speaking and taking questions about this international problem.

April 14—Free Reiki Share at Imagine Yoga from 1 to 3 PM.

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

