



The Caller

May 15, 2013

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

You might have caught some of the media coverage of the opening of the George W. Bush Presidential Library. Andrea and I make it a practice to visit Presidential libraries when we are traveling. Before Truman made the Presidential library a research center for Presidential papers, previous Presidential libraries are quite modest. This is appropriate because many Presidents came from modest means and governed a nation that was much smaller and less complicated.

One writer covering the gathering of all the former Presidents mentioned the dramatic increase in the approval rating of Presidents once they were no longer in office. Even those that leave office with high favorability ratings find their public approval going even higher the further removed they are from office. Some (like Carter and Truman) have become very popular even though they left office with approval ratings similar to present day Congress.

Why do Americans feel better about their leaders once they have left office? Here is my analysis, which is probably as worthless as any other attempt to explain this disparity.

1. **Americans need someone to blame when things are not going as well as we want or expect them to go.** Life is changing rapidly and most people do not like change. When was the last time you heard someone say that life is getting better? Yogi Berra famously said, "The future is not what it used to be." So, when the leader exits office and things do not dramatically improve, they focus their blame on the current occupant of the office. Then nostalgia, or maybe it is amnesia, kicks in as we gaze in the rear-view mirror and we start to say the old guy is not as bad as we thought. Being a former President is maybe the best gig in the world.
2. **Give us enough time and we are a forgiving people.** We might not accept Calvin's doctrine of total human depravity, but we tend to acknowledge that no one is close to being perfect. If we learn to accept ourselves, warts and all, we then tend to accept the shortcoming of others. Let's face it, being President is the toughest job anyone can ever have. Have you ever noticed how quickly Clinton, Bush and now Obama have aged in office? Americans tend to be forgiving people once they no longer have political gain to be made by being incessantly critical.

I was thinking about this when I heard that former South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford won election to Congress only 18 months after he went AWOL as Governor claiming he was getting a spiritual rebirth by hiking the Appalachian Trail when he really was off with his South American mistress. On election night someone said to a smiling Sanford, "You look a lot like Lazarus." A more cynical writer said his election proved that gerrymandering ensures that ideology usually triumphs over ickiness. As they say, you cannot choose your opponents, but you can choose your voters.

I believe forgiveness is good for our soul and probably good for our politics.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard.

DEACON'S CORNER

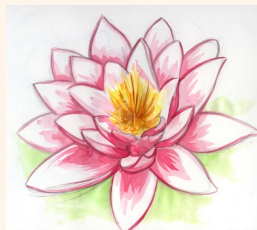
This is the 28th in a series of articles about living well by considering the host of things we can change in our lives, our homes and our surroundings that can make our lives healthier, happier, and safer. Special thanks to Joy Bible, former Moderator of the Board of Deacons, for sharing her wisdom and expertise through the Deacon's Corner. We will be preparing a complete set of Deacon's Corner articles to share with CCPC.

“Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the loving kindness of the Lord.” (Psalms 107:43) We have all heard and/or practiced the three second rule. You know, the one where if something hits the floor and is picked up within three seconds, it is OK to eat. Well, how about the five minute rule? Maybe it is time for a refresher course in appreciating and reconnecting with God's creation. We all live lives of chaos, auto-pilot, tuning out, and noise, lots and lots of noise. How do we think, reflect, and wonder with all that noise? See how hard it is for children to be still, quiet. I Pads, game-boys, computers, television and a host of noisy toys crowd their world. Every day, every hour.

God has filled His creation with wonder, beauty and sometimes answers to our needs. All you need to do is step outside your door. Every day take five minutes, (that is not much) and observe something around you. It is spring, one of the most beautiful seasons. Look at a flower, or a dandelion, and study it for a while. Look at the color and shape, wonder at the intricacies of the petals. It's amazing! Look up at the sky, see how blue or gray it might be, watch the clouds float. Play the game I play with our grand-kids: “What shapes do you see in the clouds?” Close your eyes, feel the breeze, feel the sun. Listen to the birds talking to each other, hear the children laugh, dogs bark, cars moving, and airplanes flying overhead. Breathe in and smell fresh cut grass, scent of flowers, someone grilling.

God loves variety, seasons, color, shapes and fragrances. God is giving you wonderful gifts, blessings and miracles. BUT, if you don't take a moment, to observe His creation, His gift, how will you learn to know God's constant love and care for each of us. Just five minutes a day can help ground you, open your eyes and let you see creation and its wonders.

Look in the mirror, realize you too, are one of God's beautiful creations. There is no denying pain, sin and sorrow, but, even then, you can draw from the knowledge that God is constantly loving and caring for you. Quiet, awareness, and gratitude go hand in hand and help us not only see God's kingdom but help us in our own understanding of ourselves and others. No matter your age, stage of life, in pain or feeling joy, just take five minutes a day to rejoice in God's creation. It is healing, healthy and will fill you with gratitude and just maybe some wisdom too! If you learn to cultivate an awareness of the small things in life and to value them, your understanding will grow and so will wisdom. “I applied my heart to know, to search and to seek out wisdom and the reason for things.” (Ecclesiastes 7:25). *Come into His presence, just five minutes!*





May 19 Worship—Music Sunday

Next Sunday is Music Sunday with special music starting at 9:30 AM, worship at 10 AM, followed by a reception in Dodds Hall to honor our choirs. All are welcome.

May 19 also kicks off our summer schedule with one worship service starting at 10 AM. We will go back to our regular services (8:30 AM and 10 AM) on Sunday, September 8.



Covenant Circle Meeting Change

The Covenant Circle will meet at Noon on June 10th at Sylvia Dunlap's home instead of at 10 AM in the CCPC Parlor.

Any questions, please call Sarah Hyde at 301-262-6819.

WANTED!

A loving home for a 5x9 foot model train layout, assembled, on folding legs. Consists of HO scale track and switches and a control panel. The perfect companion to the box of houses and other accessories that was adopted at the 11 May share/swap. Or to anyone else desiring a head-start on a great hobby. Needs a transformer and trains. Will fit in a garage or bedroom. Will deliver. Please contact Mark Pfarrer at mark@theESHgroup.com to obtain a photo or to ask questions.

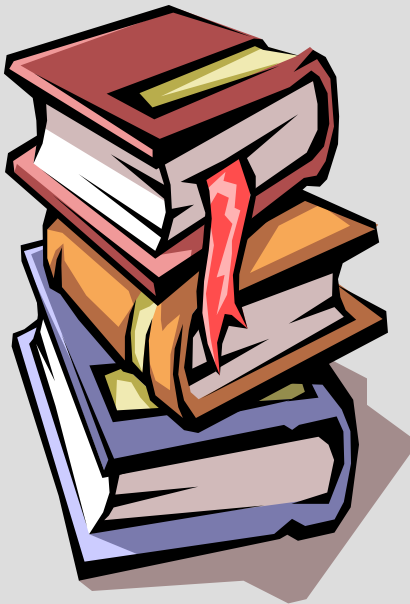
Highlights of Session

The Session received two new members into the congregation on May 13. You will be introduced to them on Sunday, May 19. **Please welcome:**

Kristen Zacheis, originally from Rockland County, New City, N.Y. came to the community four years ago for a job after graduate school. She is a Mental Health Counselor for Youth and Families. Some of you know Kristen as last year's CCPC Youth Coordinator and have already received the benefit of her talents and gifts. Kristen was raised in the Presbyterian Church.

Janyce Watt, mother of Becky Pfarrer, has lived in West Virginia, Orlando Florida, and Winter Haven, Florida. She married a college professor and has a love of education, primarily as a piano teacher. She enjoys art and has worked for the tourist industry using her art skills. She is a newcomer to the community, having moved here in April to be near her two daughters. Janyce, raised Baptist, became a Presbyterian when she moved to Florida.

PWOC BOOK SALE



PWOC is having a book sale on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2. We are looking for books, both hard back and paper-back. All proceeds from the book sale will go to help purchase new dishes for the kitchen. So, clean out those bookshelves and boxes and bring in your books, then come out and find some new reading material. We love children's books and so do grandmas. Help us help the kitchen. Books can be placed in the Dodds Hall conference room starting now. Any questions, please call Peggy Oates at 301-262-6959 or Joy Bible at 301-262-9204.



Rollin' Over Cancer!

High Rollers Car Club

Fundraiser for Cindy Tutwiler



Cindy Tutwiler and her family attended CCPC regularly in the past and it would be great to show her that her CCPC family and friends are supporting her in her fight and praying for her to beat this disease.

All Proceeds Go Directly To The Family

June 1, 2013

T.J. Elliotts on Route 197 in Whitehall Shopping Center
(Rain date for car and bike show only is June 2)

Car & Bike Show, "LIVE" Bands, Live & Silent Auctions, 50/50, Vendors

DAY EVENTS (Whitehall parking lot)

9 AM—Noon Car/Bike Registration
(\$20 registration fee)
1—4 PM Car/Bike Show
1—3 PM Silent Auction Tables
1:30—3 PM Sammie and the Pirates Band
3—4 PM Live Auction and 50/50
4—5 PM Car/Bike Show Awards

NIGHT EVENTS (inside T.J. Elliott's)

7 PM Doors Open (\$5 cover)
7—9 PM Silent Auction Tables
10 PM The Crayfish Band

Stacy Hall (301) 752-5534
Erin Foskey (301) 704-3911
Jamie Woods (240) 375-8924



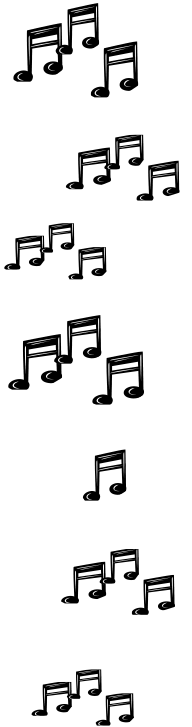
Let Music Fill the Air!

Chesapeake Chorale Spring Concert
Let Music Fill the Air! Come hear some old favorites as well as
some you may never have heard before!
Come join us for an enjoyable evening that
completes our 2012-2013 season.

Saturday, May 18 at 8 PM

at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
14900 Annapolis Rd.

Tickets - \$15 or \$12 for students, seniors and active military.
www.chesapeakechorale.org/tickets.html to purchase online.
Call 410-721-5422 for more information.



The Reasons We Sing

**Bowie's Senior Center Chorale
Celebrates 10 Years of Song
Spring 2013**



Concert Tickets On Sale Now! Tickets are \$6.00, nonrefundable and may be purchased from Bowie Senior Chorale members or the Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive (301) 809-2300

Concert will be performed on

May 22 at 7:30 PM

Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

15200 Annapolis Road

Bowie, Maryland

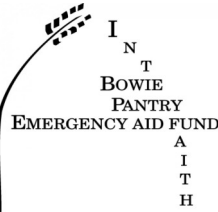
(301) 805-6880



Worship Notes

May 19th and May 26th

Come and let the Spirit move you!



Look for the Food Pantry at the following events:

Bowie Farmers Market

The Pantry is participating in the Bowie Farmers Market located in the parking lot of Bowie High School. We need many volunteers to help with this effort. We hope to be there every Sunday from June through October. Volunteers are needed each Sunday for one of two shifts: Shift One: 8:00-10:00 AM, includes set up. Shift Two: 10:00-12 noon, includes break down and delivery of food to the Pantry. In addition to set up and break down, volunteers will be on hand to answer questions, collect donations and purchase produce from the vendors with monetary donations.

Last year, the Farmers Market was more successful than we ever dreamed — fresh vegetables, fruit, and bread took over the Pantry! Special thanks to Matt Corley and the City of Bowie for making this happen. Please contact the Pantry if you can volunteer. This would be a great way for high school students to earn service hours!

BowieFest

Pantry volunteers will be with the Bowie Community Outreach Committee collecting canned/dry goods as well as monetary donations at the BowieFest on June 1. If you have any questions about the Pantry or if you just want to say hi, please stop by and see us.

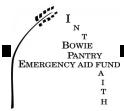
Christian Community Presbyterian Church



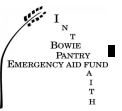
3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
Web: ccpc.bowiemd.org
E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net

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

