



At the March Presbytery meeting, Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson led a workshop titled, "Spiritual Practices for Effective Leadership." She asked our group a question: "What have you not done in your ministry that you originally felt called to do?" I drew a blank because I think I've tried everything over the years. Dr. Jackson was asking us a vision question. What needs to be done to make your church more effective?

Historically, when congregations went looking for ways to be more effective in fulfilling Christ's call to make disciples, they have employed two avenues to discern a vision and to formulate a strategy. Instead of listening to the perspectives, experiences, and aspirations of their entire membership, they expected the pastor or the current leadership team to discern the needs and to formulate the strategy to carry it out. The process went like this: The pastor and leadership team came together and shared their impressions and feelings about what needed to be done. The group assumed that all the wisdom needed to formulate a strategy existed in the room. To buttress their personal opinions, each member of the leadership team added anecdotal evidence they had heard in the congregation. They assumed the comments they had heard from their circle of friends represented the opinions of the whole church. Or, they hired an expert (a consultant or successful practitioner of the church arts) who came in and presented them with a one size fits all program.

These two often tried methods of developing an effective strategy invariably fail because we ignore *James 1:19*, which calls church leaders to be "quick to listen, slow to speak." Pastors and church leaders don't really listen to the whole body. The church has not done what all other organizations have done to analyze and improve their effectiveness: listen to all its people and make an evidenced-based assessment.

Brain researcher Andrew Nearberg said, "Having an accurate perception of reality is not one of the brains strong points." Our impressions and the anecdotal opinions of people close to us distort our understanding of reality. The best correction of this distortion is actual data.

Your Pastor and Session are embarking on an evidence-based assessment. We are going to gather a collective opinion and find out where the data leads us in formulating strategy going forward. Where is CCPC's shared energy? What level of satisfaction (or lack of) exists in our current programs? If we need to hone our approach, what collective opinions justify the change?

We are asking you to share your opinions, experiences, and perspectives in an assessment tool called, "The CAT Scan?" We want to hear from as many people as possible. Every member (or regular attendee) of the church, including Youth, should take the survey.

Q: How do you take it?

A: You click on a link in the email that was sent out Easter evening. You just click the link, answer the questions, and hit submit.

Q: What if I don't have email?

A: Go to another member's home and use their link in the email. Or, you can come to church on Sunday, April 3rd or 10th and take the survey on the computers that will be set up in Dodds Hall.

Q: How long does the survey take?

A: Between 15 and 30 minutes. Yes, there are 97 questions. The people who designed the tool really know what they are doing. Please be patient and thoughtful in providing answers. The key is to not over think it and try to discern what they should answer. Just give the questions a gut reaction.

Russell Crabtree, founder of Holy Cow Consulting, the designers of the CAT SCAN, and other organizational intelligence assessment tools writes, "Making adjustments is hard work, but it is easier to sustain when there is real evidence to support it."

The CAT SCAN is a well-refined assessment tool. It has been used across denominational lines.

Our Presbytery is heavily invested in this diagnostic instrument and has trained consultants to help each church interpret the data. Our first interpretative date is Saturday, April 30th. We have asked all Elders, Deacons, and programmatic staff to attend. Our consultant is Rev. Geoff McLean, pastor at Trinity Church in Fairfax. His church has used the tool and found great benefit in it. The Presbytery has had many positive outcomes and have used the data to initiate new ways of doing things. Sometimes churches have discovered that their favorite programs are not producing the results they thought they were. They have also found that programs they almost ignore are actually transformative. The purpose is to discover where we should be going given our congregation and our community. The survey asks the questions that need to be asked; not the questions we want to ask or think to ask.

Finally, all of your answers are confidential. The demographic data is needed to help make distinctions based on age, gender, and other background information. The data is collected so we can be compared with other congregations our size. No one sees any individual answers. We only see the amalgamation of the data.

We are ready to listen. Please take the survey so we can hear you accurately.

Grace and Peace,

James Brassard

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChristianComPresBowie>



Worship Notes

April 3rd: Second Sunday of Easter. It must have been a long week for Thomas. On Easter evening, Jesus arrived unannounced in the upper room where the disciples were hiding out in fear. Seeing Jesus excited and energized them. But Thomas had been absent. Thomas refuses to believe until he gets to see Jesus. The disciples want to know why it is so difficult for Thomas to believe. Does Thomas lack faith? Or is he a heroic model for modern Christians?

April 10th: Luke's gospel has one of the most beloved stories of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. Jesus walks seven miles with two men who had previously heard him preach. The two had heard the "idle tale" told by the women that Jesus was resurrected, BUT ... they didn't believe it. What changes their minds?



The Top Ten

The "Top Ten Reasons to Come to Holy Week Services" was written by Justin Devine and read during Palm Sunday worship. We thought we'd share it with those of you who were unable to make it to church on Palm Sunday. Enjoy!

10. Because not going to Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service leads to "Bad Saturday" syndrome.
9. Because wonderful groups like Confirmation and Monday Lectionary are helping lead these services.
8. There will be no theologically indefensible bunnies at these services.
7. There will be great opportunities to worship and get to know what reminds people of Jesus.
6. Because Maryland will need all of the prayer help they can get to beat Kansas.
5. All of your friends will be there! (And if not bring them with you so this is true).
4. If you go out to dinner instead I will make sure it is your Last Supper
3. For two straight days it's the clear answer to the question: "What Would Jesus Do?"
2. Because I said so!
1. Because even though it's not MAUNDATORY it is still a GOOD choice!



Children's Sunday

April 17, 2016
10:30 am Service

The children
will lead us in
worship —
Children's
Church Style

Gadabouts

The Gadabouts will be meeting in the **Adult Ed Conference Room**
at **12 Noon on April 5th**. Beverage & desert will be provided.

Tiger Lilies

The Tiger Lilies meeting day changed to the second Monday of each month.
The next meeting is **Monday, April 11th at 7:30 PM in the Parlor**.
We'll discuss "Telling the Bees," by Peggy Hesketh. Contact is
Andrea Brassard at andreabrassard@verizon.net

CCPC's 1st Annual Golf Tournament

May 7, 2016 at Bowie Golf Club

**To benefit the 2016 Mission Trip to Mexico
and CCPC Youth Ministries**

This is a four-person scramble tournament from 10 AM to 11:45 AM with a staggered start.

The entry fee includes: 18 Holes and a Cart; Post-Tournament Luncheon; Longest Drive Contest; Closest to the Pin Contest; Hole-in-One Contest.

Also available are Raffles and a Putting Contest.

Entry fees are \$85 for individual golfers; \$320 (\$80 each) for four golfers; Veterans receive a \$5 discount; Active/Retired military receive a \$10 discount.

Sponsorships

Your donation will help send church and community youth to Mexico on a house building mission trip this summer.

Whole House Sponsorship \$1,000

Sign displayed at hole of your choice, logo in golfer packets, sign in the banquet area,
name displayed on banner and table leaflets

Ceilings and Doors Sponsorship \$500

Sign displayed at hole, logo in golfer packets, sign in banquet room

Walls and Windows Sponsorship \$200

Sign displayed at hole, logo in golfer packets

Foundation Sponsorship \$100

Logo in golfer packets

Registration forms are on the table in the atrium and also available through the church office.
If you would like one mailed to you, please contact Robin in the church office at
(301) 262-6008 or ccpcbowie@verizon.net.

Any questions regarding this event should go to Justin Devine at
07-344-3325 or ccpcdirced@verizon.net.

Church



League!

**Come out to one of CCPC's softball games
and show your support!**

April games will be played at Allen Pond Park on:

April 5 at 6:30 & 7:30 PM

CCPC vs Mt. Oak on field AP #1

April 12 at 8:30 & 9:30 PM

CCPC vs Cornerstone on field AP #1

April 19 at 6:30 & 7:30 PM

CCPC vs All Saints on field AP #2

April 26 at 8:30 & 9:30 PM

CCPC vs Trinity Lutheran on field AP #2



Friendly Reminder!

Spring Clean-up

We are planning our Spring Cleanup to focus both on cleaning out last year's dead growth from the garden beds and doing LOTS of much needed pruning and trimming. We will not be spreading new mulch this year. Please bring yourself, a Can Do attitude, as well as gloves, boots, hats, rakes, pruning shears, blowers, wheel barrows, shovels, and CHAIN SAWS. A light lunch will be provided around noon. Prepare to start your engines!!!

Saturday April 9th at 9:00AM

This is the same weekend as the Women's Retreat. And, gives us an excellent opportunity for manly fellowship for those lonesome soles whose wives are away at the retreat and are in need of something to do. We can also earn some bonus points by proving we can do this WITHOUT the girls!

Volunteers Wanted!

**Do you have a little spare time
twice a month?**

**Would you like to help out
with *The Caller*?**

The church office is looking for one to two volunteers, twice a month (usually around the 14th and the end of the month at 2 PM for about an hour) to help out with the church newsletter. Duties consist of folding, sealing, and stamping.

Would you prefer not to commit to twice a month and just receive an email/phone call when needed? That would be fine too.

If you are interested, please contact
Robin at (301) 262-6008 or
ccpcbowie@verizon.net.

Adult Education Classes

On April 10th in the Adult Education Conference room, Dodji Komlan will discuss the relationship between Christians and Muslims in Northern Africa.

Come and get your knowledge on!



Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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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.*



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



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 info@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

