



September 15, 2016

Last month was the hottest August ever recorded, marking the 11th straight month that global heat records have been shattered, according to NASA data. This is not news. Last week I got my BGE bill. In August 2015, all of my electrical needs were supplied by my solar panels. Not so this year. If anyone wonders if there are costs of confronting climate change — we are already paying for it.

When NASA broke the bad, though not unexpected news on Monday, August had a global average surface temperature of about 1.76 degrees Fahrenheit above average. It also tied with July as the warmest month ever recorded since record-keeping began in 1880. We are well on our way to the warmest year recorded. If deemed the hottest year ever, 2016 will be the third year in a row to boast this unfortunate title. Statistics are one thing, the stories associated with cumulative effects of steadily warming climate are frightening.

During the past five years, a writer with the *Christian Century* has been reporting on the communities on the island in Barrow, Alaska, located a few hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle. Each year, they have updated the struggles the communities have done to adapt to the changes. In Tuesday morning's *Washington Post*, it was reported what it might cost to relocate all of the communities on the island; it's a staggering figure. It is hard to fathom the social costs to people cut-off from generations of living in this region.

The horrific flooding in Louisiana reminded me of my drive out of New Orleans two years ago on the elevated highway. With rising sea levels and increased intense rainfall, it is not hard to imagine much of the region being uninhabitable in not too many years due to rising sea levels. In addition, Epidemiologists are beginning to suspect that Zika is just the first of many new diseases that are emerging because of rising temperatures. The economic and human costs of climatic change will be staggering.

I saw another story from the highest place on the planet. On one side of Mount Everest, the ice is melting so fast that lakes are forming on the surface of glaciers. A team of British scientists recently traveled to Mount Everest's Khumbu Glacier, and found that "for the first time supraglacial ponds on the ice river's surface have coalesced into lakes the length of several football fields."

Elsewhere in the Himalayas, other glaciers have been melting down into lakes too; the worry is that these lakes will become so large that they will start flowing down the mountain and flood the area below. As ponds and lakes form, they may also speed up the melting of the glacier, as they transfer thermal energy from the sun to the ice below. At the Khumbu Glacier, scientists have found ponds in the past; now, those ponds are joining up to form these larger bodies of water.

These climate change stories came to my attention when I started preaching through the Genesis creation stories this month. Genesis 2 is the second creation story in Genesis. The story has God creating humans out of the earth. God then assigns the first humans to care for and protect the earth. The result of the human disobedience not only moves the human heart away from God, the human beings become alienated from the earth itself.

The first creation story in Genesis presents humans as the crowning act of creation. Being created in the very image of God, humans are "given dominion" over everything on and in the earth. In the rapacious period known as the Industrial Revolution when the northern forests were being clear cut and strip mining was gouging holes in the mountains and polluting the rivers, this text was used as justification against people concerned about environmental degradation. "We are only fulfilling the divine command," wrote one biblical scholar.

I don't know too many people that are not aware that the warnings made a few decades ago are already here. I don't think it is an exaggeration that climatic change is the greatest threat to human civilization. So much of the current civil strife in the world is exacerbated by the environmental changes that are diminishing the ability of many people to live and produce sufficient food to eat and enough drinkable water to sustain life. The effects of climatic change are obvious to everyone — except perhaps the Congressional majority. The Presidential campaign has hardly mentioned the topic and congress still refuses to fund Zika eradication.

Although the story of the creation and fall in Genesis 2 and 3 is an ancient one, it can't be more modern or more challenging. As I mentioned on Sunday, the story ends with a cliffhanger: What are God and God's people going to do about it?

Grace and peace,
James Brassard

Worship Notes

September 18th: We continue in Genesis with the promise God makes to Abraham and Sarah in *Genesis 15* that their descendants will be more numerous than the stars in the middle eastern sky. Although Abraham has been following God's direction and trusting in God's promises for several years, it's a little hard to take when you don't even have one offspring to show for it. How do we keep trusting God when there is no evidence that God is fulfilling God's part of the bargain?

September 25th: The story of Joseph and the rivalry with his siblings is a familiar story. Perhaps you have been on one or the other side of obvious parental favoritism. The story ends well because a few important things happen. What does this say about God's providential care and human forgiveness? If you are still estranged from a family member, what is the basis of hope for reconciliation? After the Service we will consecrate this year's memorial bricks in our memorial garden.

October 2nd: World Communion Sunday. We will receive the Global Peacemaking offering. We will examine the Promise of God in the Passover that initiated the start of the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Peace & Global Witness Offering



**Sunday, October 2, 2016
CCPC Sanctuary**

Help Bring People to God's Table

Your generous support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering will further the ministries working to spread God's peace and grace in local neighborhoods and in areas of unrest around the world.

By giving and working together in Christ's name, Presbyterians everywhere are inviting people to share in God's table of peace, justice, and healing.

How Will Your Congregation Use Its 25%?

Peace begins in our homes and our communities, our churches and our streets. Twenty-five percent of the Peace & Global Witness Offering stays with your congregation – to support ministries that promote Christ's peace and reconciliation in your own neighborhoods.

Thank you for your generous donation!



Deaths

Ricardo Couto

Sherry and Marshall Saylor's daughter's long-term boyfriend, Ricardo Couto, was killed when he had a heart attack and hit parked cars on a Baltimore street last Sunday, September 4, 2016. Mary is holding up, but the Saylor's would appreciate your prayers, especially for Mary and Tyler.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Saylor and Couto's families.

Jeffrey E. Levitan

Jeffrey E. Levitan passed away on Monday, August 29, 2016. He leaves a brother, Carl; a daughter, Jennifer Alldredge; a son, Mark; and grandchildren: Maleck, Jameeli, and Ameera Alldredge.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Levitan and Alldredge families.

Welcome

Reagan Sawyer

Devine

Born on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, and weighing in at 8 lbs. 9 oz.

Proud parents are Mikaela and Justin Devine, and Ainsley is a proud **big** sister.



Congratulations to the Devine family!

Children's Campfire

Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 6 PM

Inviting all children and their families to join us in the
CCPC back parking lot for

Hot Dogs! Games! Smores!

If you have any questions, please call 707-344-3325
or email ccpcdirced@verizon.net Justin Devine



Halloween Candy Donations

Children's Ministry is requesting Halloween candy donations for Trunk or Treat, which is happening on Sunday, October 30th at 2 PM in Dodds Hall.

Candies need to be individually wrapped. There are two boxes labeled, "Candy Donations." One is in the library; one is in the church office.

Donation deadline is Monday, October 24th.

Any questions, please contact Alex Bourne.

Thank you!

CCPC's Directory Updates

Please make the following updates to your directory. If you know of any updates to the CCPC Directory, please contact Robin in the church office at (301) 262-6008 or ccpcbowie@verizon.net. Thank you!

Sandy & Paul Dorsey: The Dorsey no longer have a home phone. Continue to contact them through their cell phones, which are in the directory.

Dick Parlow: 907 Morattico Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23060. Phone: 571-286-2150
FYI: Due to Dick's move, his realtor donated 10% of the sale to CCPC.

Nancy & Peter Tutini: Please disregard the address in the directory for the Tutini's as they have moved to Annapolis. No new address given.

Lady Tigers

The Lady Tigers is a daytime reading group at CCPC. We currently meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM in the Church Parlor year round. We read a mix of non-fiction and fiction books chosen by the group. Anyone with a love of reading and learning or wants to make reading a part of their activities, come and check us out! For information call Bea Uehling at (410) 741-1883 or Anne Shelby at (301) 262-1412.

SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Market will be on
Sunday, November 6th.
Details will be sent out later.

Tiger Lilies

The Tiger Lilies are members and friends who select books to read, study, and discuss together. We meet on the second Monday evenings from September through May at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. New members are welcome!

Our next meeting is October 10th. We are reading "Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving.

Here is a link to a book excerpt <http://debbyirving.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Website-Book-Excerpt.pdf>

Please join us! Contact: Andrea Brassard
301-352-0075 or andreabrassard@verizon.net

CCPC's

Women's Mini Retreat & Luncheon

Inviting all women and friends to join us on

Saturday, October 8th at 9 AM to 1 PM in Dodds Hall

Cost is \$5.00 per person

Women to Women – Age to Age, Titus 2

Bring an antique or modern kitchen gadget & wear an apron

Program will be led by Nancy Honeyford and Peggy Oates

◆ Coffee, tea, and light pastries ◆ Program includes: small groups, crafts,
and a skit called, "Apron Pockets." ◆ Light lunch Closing worship program ◆

Special Note: Babysitting provided, if needed. Please specify on the signup form, which can be found in the Atrium or below.

Women's Mini Retreat – October 8th from 9AM – 1PM

Fill out form and give it along with \$5.00 to Nancy Honeyford or Peggy Oates

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact/Phone: _____

Food Allergies: _____

Babysitter Needed: _____ Yes _____ No

Bowie CROP Walk

Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 1 PM at St. Matthews

The walk is sponsored by St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
14900 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715

There will be a 2.5 mile or 4.5 mile walk. 25% of all proceeds raised from the walk will go to the Food Pantry. Food donations will also be collected on the day of the walk. CCPC will be sponsoring a team. There will be a signup before and after church each Sunday until Oct. 2. Church members can bring in food donations, support the church team with a donation, or sign up to be a walker. Walkers are encouraged to collect donations prior to the walk, but are welcome to just come and walk.

Together, we can work to help end hunger.

CCPC Contacts are Kris Ross and Debbie Sell.

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.

