

What an amazing year! So many surprises. So much bitter disappointment. So much uncertainty. And that's just with the Redskins. Seriously, I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and join me in looking forward to a great 2017. It has been a joy to serve with you this year. I can't believe how fast the last 12 ½ years have gone. I appreciate all of the support and encouragement you offer me and the rest of the staff all year long. Thank you.

Earlier this year, 160 of you completed the survey known as the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) Scan. The survey is a data-based instrument that measured our congregations level of satisfaction and energy. It then compared these numbers with congregations of similar size. Compared with other congregations, we are blessed to have high energy and high satisfaction scores. This is good news. It means we have a solid base of programming and a congregation that likes to participate in our various programs.

The report highlighted key indicators of vitality. It showed where we are strong and where we need to improve. Across all age groups, it was agreed that we need to "develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church." A related desire was for "creating more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships." For too many people, especially among younger and middle-aged members, we don't know each other very well.

We took these initial findings and sought your programmatic ideas during our summer cluster gatherings hosted by the Deacons. As a result of your input, the Session made a wide variety of small adjustments during the year. However, as the new year begins, we will be starting to introduce some of your big ideas that came out of our group meetings. One such idea that we are going to be launching is "**Wednesday Night Live**," which will occur on nine Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM from January to May. Justin has been working with many people to come up with a variety of activities for this program. There will be food, fun, fellowship, mission opportunities, lessons, singing, and more! These events will be designed to include people of all ages. We are looking for dinner volunteers, so if you are ready to be our head chef for one of these nights, please let us know. Contact Justin at church or send him an email at ccpcdirced@verizon.net.

The dates for these winter gatherings are 1/11; 1/25; 2/1; 2/15; 3/1; 3/15; 4/5; and 4/19. We have scheduled a special closing event on 5/17, coinciding with our new spring Warm Nights week. Yes — we are doing Warm Nights twice this year. You also asked for more hands-on mission opportunities. So, mark your calendars and plan to bring out your friends and the whole family.

This is a multigenerational event. It is a marvelous chance to get to know more people and to know them better. It is a chance to bring the church together. It is not that big of a time commitment. It's only one hour. After all — you have to eat dinner anyways. For some of you, it brings back fond memories of our Lenten dinners. We will mix the programming up. Sometimes it will feature a group mission activity; sometimes we will play a group mixing game. There will be storytelling and other activities that will stimulate your heart and nurture friendships. We need you to give this a chance. So, get off the couch and join us for fun and fellowship.

Let's start the new year off right. See you on Wednesday the 11th of January!

Grace and peace,
James Brassard



And . . . Congratulations, Anita and Mark Pesses!

Mark and Anita welcome grandson Ashton Louis Lieberman, born on Dec. 15. He is the son of Jordan and Michael Lieberman, of Springfield, VA.

Worship Notes

December 25th: Christmas Day. One Service at 10:30AM with Children's Church. No Sunday School or Adult Education. Rev. Gary Cox will preach on the faith of Anna and Simeon in Luke 2:21f.

New Year's Day Worship: One Service at 10:30AM with Communion and Children's Church. No Sunday School or Adult Education. We will celebrate Epiphany. Rev. Brassard's sermon is based on John 1:1-18, "In the New Beginning."

January 8th: We return to our regular schedule with worship at 8:30 and 10:30AM and Sunday School and Adult Education at 9:30AM. Rev. Brassard will preach on the Baptism of Jesus and we will celebrate the Reaffirmation of our Baptismal promises.



Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve: Services are at 6:00 and 8:30PM.

The 6PM service will feature an original poem by Justin, a short chancel drama about Mary's Ponderings, and a candlelight ceremony. The 8:30PM service will include communion. Rev. Brassard's Christmas Homily is titled "Mary Did You Really Know?"

Christmas Day: December 25th, we will have only one service at 10:30 AM. No Sunday school or Adult Ed. Rev. Gary Cox will preach on *Luke 2:21-38*: the witness of Anna and Simeon.

New Year's Day: One service only with communion at 10:30 AM. Reverend Brassard's sermon title is *In the Beginning*, based on scripture from *John 1:1 – 18*.



Merry Christmas!

Youth Christmas Party!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD!

A Youth Christmas party will be held at 7 PM at the Devine's home (2503 Kegwood Lane). All 6th—12th graders are welcome to attend. There will be a white elephant and regular gift exchange as well as plenty of food and fun!

Christmas Gift Market 2016

Dear CCPC members and friends,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! What a loving, caring, and generous congregation we all are fortunate to be a part of here at CCPC. Cyd has kindly categorized the 17 mission projects you donated to, so now you will all know how much each one received. As a church we don't get a penny of the money. The checks have been written and distributed to the organizations. \$22,615.80 is a lot of money you all generously gave to help others.

Again thank you, thank you.

Sharon McNamara and Kris Ross

Amor - Youth Mission Trip - \$875.00

Bowie Food Pantry - \$50.00

Bowie Volunteer Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad - \$417.00

CCPC Habitat for Humanity Projects - \$810.00

CCPC Honduras Mission Workers - \$100.00

CCPC Honduras Water Project - \$8,375.00

Christmas Families - \$170.00

Church World Service (CWS) - \$630.00

Citizens for Local Animal Welfare (CLAW) - \$587.00

Community Crisis Response Service - \$1,050.00

Dick Arnold's Photo Table (goes to Memorial Garden) - \$860.00

Heifer International - \$2,250.00

Honduras Educational Program - \$410.00

Literacy at the Well - \$1,270.00

Medical Benevolence Foundation - \$1,560.00

Miscellaneous Mission - \$119.50

Operation Christmas Child - \$403.00

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - \$2,050.00

St. Matthew's Building Corporation Maintenance - \$160.00

St. Matthew's Alpha House Personal Items - \$254.00

Soup Sales from Kitchen (goes to CWS) - \$215.30

GRAND TOTAL \$22,615.80

Directory Updates

Please make the following change to your directory.

This is the correct address for Margaret Levitan; the one in the last Caller was not correct.

19121 Staleybridge Road, Germantown, MD 20876

Warm Nights

CCPC will be participating in the Warm Nights Shelter Program from January 15th to the 22nd. The program is a collaborative effort of numerous committed church congregations throughout Prince George's

County that provide a rotating emergency homeless shelter. It has been in operation since the early 1990s and CCPC was one of the first churches in Bowie to participate in the program. Each week two churches provide shelter for 25 to 30 homeless families. The program is managed by Community Crisis Services Incorporated (CCSi), a nonprofit organization. Previously, the program ran from mid-November through the end of March each year; however, beginning this year it will be operated year round. CCPC, like many of the other participating churches, has agreed to host the shelter for a second week. We will host our second week May 14th to the 21st. More details will be provided in the spring.

During our week, we will provide the shelter clients with a warm place to stay from 7:00 PM until about 6:00 AM. We also provide them with three meals a day. When they arrive, they are greeted with a hot hearty dinner. In the morning, they get breakfast, and we hand them a bagged lunch as they walk out the door.

Successful participation in this program requires CCPC volunteers to perform a variety of duties. There are still many ways you can get involved. You can sign up to prepare a meal, serve as an overnight host, or help setup Dodds Hall on January 15th before the shelter clients arrive. The Mission Committee will purchase the food for the lunches, as we did last year. We ask that volunteers sign up to prepare the lunches. Sign-up sheets and instructions will be available in the atrium starting on December 18th. Even if you cannot participate in any of the Warm Nights duties, I encourage you to stop by the church during our Warm Nights week. You will have an opportunity to meet the shelter clients, hear their stories, and see how our giving and caring are impacting their lives.

Paul Sell, Warm Nights Coordinator



Women's Fellowship

PWOC Winter Potluck

All women of CCPC (you do not have to be a member of a Circle) are invited to a Winter Potluck Luncheon after worship on Sunday, January 8th.

Come join us for great food, fellowship, and entertainment. Dane Frandsen will be providing special music for us. Mark the date on your calendar and bring a dish to share. Marjorie Tanner is the contact for this event.

Honduras Mission 2017

The Living Waters for the World (LWW) Honduras

Mission Team is excited about its trip to the mountain village of San Jeronimo, Honduras on January 13—21 to install a clean water system and educate adults and children in the use of clean water. Members of the team are Judyann Feinstein, Julia and Claire Leaman, Paul Sell, and Marjorie and Charles Tanner. Claire is making her first trip to Honduras.

As you can imagine, there is a lot to do to prepare for this trip. On Saturday, January 7, at CCPC from 9 AM to Noon, we will have a work morning to make name tags, assemble folders, and cut out items for use with our education classes. We really need your help. Come join us on January 7 and be a part of this ministry which will help bring clean water to the people of San Jeronimo.

Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my extreme gratitude to all of the musicians that I have worked with this year at CCPC. They have given tirelessly of their time and talents to the music program here and have uplifted us with their service and special music throughout the year. Without their loyalty and dedication, my job as music director would be impossible. Thank you!

Special thanks to John Rogel and Lerna May-Frandsen for their excellent work in Ekklesia, our contemporary music ensemble. My eternal thanks to Kevin Clemence, whose amazing and wondrous God-given talents as a multi-faceted musician, composer, arranger, and conductor are the bedrock of our CCPC music program.

Merry Christmas and blessings to all of the singers, ringers, and instrumentalists who make joyful noise unto the Lord!

Susan Ricci Rogel

CCPC YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Violin I: Janessa King, Makiyah Holder **Violin II:** Payne Jackson, Nakiya Harrod

Viola: Joshua Hawkins, Lerna May-Frandsen **Cello:** Peter Swanson

Flute: Dane Frandsen **Oboe:** Robert Berinson, Amanda Rogel

Clarinet: Alaina Clemence **Conductor:** Kevin Clemence

CELEBRATION CHOIR

Sopranos: Eileen Callahan, Mary Lou Chappell, Lara Clemence,

Judyann Glazener, Astrid Jonas, Diane Kraft-Kemberling, Becky Pfarrer, Sherry Saylors,

Barbara Stone, Sharon Youngdahl **Altos:** Andrea Brassard, Alaina Clemence, Bev Clemence,

Trudy Neff, Anita Pesses, Amanda Rogel, Marty Sippel, Von Willingham **Tenors:** Ernie Doyle,

Allen Frank, Bruce Jonas, Marshall Saylors **Basses:** Kevin Clemence, Dave Honeyford, Dick Neff, John Rogel, Chuck Tanner

CLINQUANT

Susan Brutout, Sue Evans, Astrid Jonas, Jackie Lindbeck, Esta Keim, Betsy McArdle, Dick Neff, Trudy Neff, Becky Pfarrer, Dan Pfarrer, Irene Remley, Barbara Stone, Jen Woods

To the People of CCPC,

Thank you for providing my students such a beautiful place to have their piano recital on November 20th. We love being in your Sanctuary, with the visual beauty and the welcoming space.

This year several people commented that the piano sounded particularly beautiful.

I want to thank Reverend Brassard and Susan Ricci Rogel for making our recital there possible. And, Justin Devine for coordinating his play rehearsals in the Sanctuary with my students' need to warm up before the recital. I'd like to thank Wesley Shoemaker for helping us to move the piano beforehand, and Jane Mellow for helping to return the Sanctuary to its original state after the students finished playing (as well as for connecting me with CCPC years ago). And, as always, I so appreciate working with Robin Seekford. She helps me find dates that work for all of us, and this time in particular she called me in advance a number of times about small changes that were happening on the day of the recital so I would know what to expect. She is a wonderful representative of your church, and is a fantastic and fun communicator.

On behalf of my students and their families, I've gifted an offering that they collected to the music department. And, thank you again for the generosity of sharing your space with us.

Warmly,

Martie Harris

Knits with Sticks

Hi Knitters and Crocheters,

Thank you for all your loyalty during the year. May you all have a blessed, happy Christmas.

We will NOT meet this December.

The CCPC Knits with Sticks group welcomes all knitters and crocheters to join us in the New Year. We normally meet the third Monday of the month at 1:00 PM in the Parlor, but for January only, we will meet on the 4th Monday.

We welcome newbies and experienced crafters alike. You can work on personal projects, as well as charity projects. If you are stumped by a pattern or a stitch, this is the place to come for help.

We will be donating items to PG Hospital Center. We can also contribute to the ongoing scarf project for breast cancer patients at Anne Arundel Hospital.

Blessings and Happy New Year,
Priscilla Bouic, 301-262-4906

Sarah Hyde

Anyone who would like to remember Sarah Hyde at Christmas can bring the cards to church. They can give the card to me or put it in the Christmas Post Office. I will pick up the cards and deliver them before Christmas. I know she would like to hear from friends in the congregation. Thanks, Nancy Arnold

Tiger Lilies

The Tiger Lilies next meeting will be January 9th, when we will start discussing "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. Readers are welcome to join us!

Contact andreabrassard@verizon.net or
301-352-0075.

Thank you, Andrea

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
Web: <http://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.*



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.

