



**F**or decades, the Academy Awards reliably recognized films that tried to capture the American idea. Movies like “Saving Private Ryan” and “Rocky” and even “Forrest Gump” tried to define America and its people all at once. If you wanted a shot at an Oscar for best picture, you had to tell the country who they are.

Until a few years ago, only five films were nominated for best picture. The big Hollywood studios produced high budget blockbusters (the kind I never watch) to make money during the summer and then produce a few movies for adults that the Academy would value. I think it made the rich white studio executives appear interested in art. These earnest Oscar worthy movies usually come out late in the year (better to be foremost in the voter’s mind) and attempt to say something about the uniquely American character. In an effort to broaden the sort of stories that would speak to a wider and more diverse nation, the Academy expanded the best picture category to include 10 films. Thanks to the advent of on-demand cable television, Andrea and I have tried to watch all the nominees each year. This is a challenge. Some pictures I would prefer not to watch, especially those that are very violent, like Mel Gibson’s “Hacksaw Ridge.” I justify the time the same way I justify preaching on those difficult Old Testament texts of terror: you have to listen to the whole canon.

This year, except for “La, La, Land,” called a love letter to old Hollywood musicals (it was a treat to see it at Christmas time in Los Angeles and then drive by all the iconic LA sites), the 10 films didn’t present an all-encompassing vision of American identity. Taken together, these films provided a rich sense of the regional and ethnic identities that now make up America. I would argue we are finally seeing stories that were previously not told.

The winner, “Moonlight” (which we watched Sunday afternoon) follows a gay, black male from a very difficult childhood to a hardened young adult. We follow his struggle to find self-acceptance. Actor Mahershala Ali (the first Muslim to win an acting award) plays a drug dealer who becomes this young boy’s father figure. Ali delivers the best line of the year, “At some point, you got to decide for yourself who you’re going to be. Can’t let nobody make that decision for you.”

New York Times writer Peter Suderman says the line is the key to the entire slate of best picture nominees. “The pictures are built on depictions of specific people and places and cultures and cadences, and accents and aesthetics that define the characters as separate from the rest of the country.”

I have yet to watch “Lion” and “Arrival” (watching Science fiction is a chore for me) or “Hell and High Water.” I look forward to seeing the stories that give me a wider perspective on American life of which I am very unfamiliar. For folks like us who live inside a Washington bubble, this is a much-needed exercise in expanding a closed mind.

Suderman says this year’s crop of best picture nominees suggest there is no one American story. There probably never was. Instead, America is a collection of very specific and unique stories. America is a nation of both individualism and pluralism. “We are not represented by superheroes, but by ordinary, extraordinary lives, overlapping and intersecting in a sprawling national epic too big for one film.” Therefore, if you want to discover what America looks like, you have to watch them all. Luckily, at \$5 a pop (and cheap snacks for the fridge) this is not too hard.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard

# Worship Notes

**Sunday, March 5th:** First Sunday in Advent. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is well known. The parable is Jesus' attempt to answer the timeless question: Who is my neighbor? Communion will be observed.

**March 12th:** Jesus is warned by the Pharisees that King Herod wants to kill him. Herod had already beheaded John the Baptist, was Jesus next on his list? Jesus' response to the warning presents us with a strange but powerful metaphor for the church. Title "Foxes versus Hens."

## Lenten Luncheons

All Lenten Luncheons will be after the 10:30 AM worship service in Dodds Hall and everything will be provided.  
All you have to do is show up!

**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

*Choir's Chili Cook Off!*

**Come one, come all!**



Sample more than ten different types of chili (from vegetarian to mega-spicy!), and enjoy salad, cornbread, and dessert with the CCPC Choirs after church on Sunday. You can vote for your favorite chili recipe, converse with your friends and neighbors, and not have to do the cooking!

There will be non-chili luncheon options available as well.



**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

*Deacon's Potato Bash!*

**What is a Potato Bash?**

The Deacons will prepare baked potatoes for you to top with favorites such as cheese,

chili, broccoli, salsa/hot sauce, and sour cream.

Dessert also will be provided!

**Sunday, April 9, 2017**

*Children and Youth Ministries Pasta Palooza!*

Children and Youth Ministries will host a pasta dinner with all the fixings!



# *Ash Wednesday Services*

Join us in the Sanctuary on  
Wednesday, March 1st at 7:30 am and 7:30 pm.  
Imposition of ashes at both services.

## *Lenten Lectionary*

*"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 (March 1 through April 15)  
at 7:15 AM for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer.  
We are usually finished by 7:30 AM.

## *Parking on Sundays*

We've received requests from our neighbors asking us to not park so close to their driveways. Please make sure you leave enough room for our neighbors to have no problem getting in and out of their driveways. Thank you!

# *Living Waters for the World Team 2017 Trip to Honduras*

## **A Report to the Congregation**

On **Sunday, March 19th**, immediately after the 10:30 church service, the CCPC Living Waters for the World (LWW) team will present to the congregation a report on their most recent installation trip to Honduras. There will be no meal associated with the presentation, but we hope to serve Honduran coffee that morning, beginning between services, and extending through the presentation.

We hope you will stay after church to hear the stories of our visits to past, present, and possible future sites of water purification systems in Honduras. This year's trip was full of adventure and blessings and success, and we hope that this report will help make all CCPC members feel a part of this wonderful international mission project supported so enthusiastically by our church!

# *Adult Education*

Our series on The Great Christian Hymns continues. Please feel free to join us in the Adult Education Conference room at 9:30 AM on the following days:



**March 5: Gary Cox**

The 19th Century Gospel Hymns in the  
Tent-Meeting Era

**March 12: Chuck Tanner**

Contemporary Hymns

**March 19: Marshall Saylor**

Hymns We Shouldn't Sing

**March 26: Kevin Clemence**

Contemporary Worship Songs

## *Bowling Day*

Join us at the Crofton Bowling Center (2115 Priest Bridge Drive, Crofton. 301-261-6670) on Sunday, March 19th at Noon for a fun-filled day of bowling. Cost of \$15 will cover pizza and bowling for the whole family. RSVP to Justin Devine at [ccpcdirced@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcdirced@verizon.net).

## *Tiger Lilies*

The Tiger Lilies are a group of members and friends who select books to read, study, and discuss together. They meet on the second Monday evenings at 7:30 in the Parlor, September through May.

The Tiger Lilies will meet on Monday March 13th at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. We will begin a discussion of "A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story" by Diana Butler Bass.

Contact Andrea Brassard at 301-352-0075 or [andreabrassard@verizon.net](mailto:andreabrassard@verizon.net) with any questions.

Join us! All are welcome!

## *Wednesday Night Live!*

Come on out on Wednesday night, March 15, 2017, for an hour of food, fun, and fellowship. We will start dinner at 6:00 PM in Dodds Hall with homemade pizza by the Brassard's. The program will be a presentation by the leadership team of this summer's Family Work Camp in West Virginia, so bring a friend and your appetite and come enjoy a family friendly activity and a midweek message. Hope to see you all there.



*The  
Chesapeake  
Chorale  
Goes  
to the*

# *Opera!*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
March 3 & 4, 2017  
at 7:30 PM in  
Dodds Hall**

Be enchanted by the thrilling sounds of Verdi, Puccini, Wagner, and more. The Chorale is pleased to welcome members of the Soldier's Chorus' expert small ensemble Cantare who will sing favorite opera arias.

The evening includes coffee, tea, and desserts in a cabaret setting.

Seating is limited.

Advance ticket orders are advised.

Tickets:

\$20.00 Adults / \$15.00 Seniors & Military

Free for kids

To purchase, see Marty Sippel or  
Chuck Tanner or

visit their website at

[www.chesapeakechorale.org](http://www.chesapeakechorale.org)

## *Men in the Mirror*

Men in the Mirror, Hombres en el Espejo - a course to deepen men's lives, spiritual hearts and ability to love each other and all of God's creation is here thanks to all of you. After many years of planning, on Tuesday morning for two days of classes, a communion supper over 110 people, mostly men, from both Guatemala and the US will get together at the National Presbyterian Seminary in San Felipe. Please continue supporting this effort and lifting up change in Guatemala for the men and the women as we take this big step forward. Pastor Rev. Kevin Frederick of WNC has been here for a week around Coban and in the Capital with CEDEPCA.

For the next week, he is with us with support from the Guatemalan Presbyterian Church, Women and Men, us and with the winds of the holy spirit at our back and the love and light of Christ leading us. May we find new teachers for this class all across Guatemala that is a testament to love, working together and learning to follow God into new changes and growth. May the light of Jesus be seen by all, lifting all of us up. Many blessings to you.

I hope next year we can celebrate another year of progress with a seminary class about men using this one-year review and support session with all of the new teachers.

Brian Thompson-Royer  
Compañeros en misión con mi esposa Sandi  
PCUSA y por la Sinodica de IENPG  
"Mientras tienen la luz, crean en la luz, para que sean hijos(as) de la Luz." John 12:36  
While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."  
<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/sandi-and-brian-thompson-royer/>

**To Donate:** <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200334>



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@belaircoop.org)

[www.belaircoop.org](http://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](http://www.ImagineThePlace.com), call 443-510-6308, or e-mail [info@ImagineThePlace.com](mailto:info@ImagineThePlace.com). Scholarships available.

