

60 Minutes had a segment this past Sunday on the homeless crisis in Portland, Oregon. Portland is my hometown. Actually, I'm from Vancouver, Washington, the neighbor right across the Columbia River, recently rated "The number one Hipster City" in America. Places always become much cooler when I leave. Anyways, Portland has one of the hottest housing markets in America. This is good news for people who enjoy seeing their net worth soar. This is very bad news for the thousands of people who are just trying to find an affordable place to rent.

The perennial question is what to do about rising homelessness in American cities? Homelessness usually peaks with the top of the real estate cycle. Increasingly, job opportunities are located in popular urban areas where housing need far exceeds supply. This is not the first housing crisis. In the 1980's, New York City had over 50,000 homeless residents. Prohibited by city ordinance to house homeless people in their basement, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church set up cardboard shelters over the heating grates at the entrance to their historic sanctuary. A few dozen folks lived in this makeshift shelter.

One ongoing program to combat homelessness is the shelter program Warm Nights. Warm Nights is a partnership. The county offers grants to an agency that provides professional services and transportation and churches offer space and provide meals. This program has improved in recent years as the county, along with other government agencies around the country, actively seeks permanent housing for families. Hotel Magnate Conrad Hilton funded a study that proved the sooner families are in permanent housing the better they fare and the lower overall cost to the government. Each year I spend time talking to our guests. I am always reminded of how vulnerable folks are in America. A successful worker gets injured and pretty soon they get evicted from their apartment and have their car repossessed. The hole gets deep fast.

I think people care, but that care of often overshadowed by NIMBYism (i.e. Not in My Back Yard). We honestly want the best for others, but just don't do it in my neighborhood. Most affluent communities have strict zoning codes and local ordinances to prohibit groups, including churches, from providing services. An Illinois man named Greg Shiller opened the basement of his suburban home in Elgin, a Chicago suburb, during the recent bitter cold snap. "No way!" said city officials. They immediately shut down Mr. Shiller's "slumber party" because it violated a number of municipal ordinances.

Mr. Shiller, 53, is a man of modest means. A mechanic, who sees his real calling working with the homeless. Shiller was a founding member of a nonprofit group called Matthew 25:40. The group is named after the New Testament passage where Jesus says, "whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for me." It should be noted that Mr. Shiller doesn't open his basement on an ongoing basis; just when the windchill at night goes below -15.

On those bitter cold nights, Shiller provides entertainment. He screens G rated movies like "Lassie." Shiller stays up talking to his guests. By morning, he considers them his friends. Like many things in America, this battle between Shiller and Elgin will probably end up in court. Jeff Rowe, an attorney at the Institute of Justice, in Arlington VA is taking on Shiller as a client. "Fundamentally, you have a right to rescue people unless there is evidence you'll do more harm than good." Rowe calls it, "The right to be a Good Samaritan."

As I read my news feed, I see the Stock Market is attaining another record high. Below this headline is an article that reports still stagnant wage gains. Below this, I read the state of Kentucky is adding more fees to Medicaid recipients, including some who earn as little as \$5200 a year. The cost of being poor is going up.

James Brassard

Dedication Service!

We will honor the long and dedicated service of Music Director Susan Ricci Rogel and Assistant Director Kevin Clemence with a special worship service on January 28th.

Special pre-service music begins at 10:30am and a reception will follow in Dodds Hall.

Please join us; all are welcome!

Adult Education

January 2018 Peace & Global Witness

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near." *Ephesians 2:14-17*

How can we at CCPC be advocates for peace and justice?

Join us in Dodds Hall on:

January 21: Justin Devine leads a wide-ranging discussion of various topics related to Peace and Justice

January 28: Guest Speakers from the University of Maryland/College Park

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please note the time!

CCPC will have our Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 4th at **10:05 AM** in the Sanctuary. No Adult Ed or Sunday school. Childcare is available during the meeting. Copies of the 2017 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 28 in the alcove of the Narthex. Electronic copies are available upon request; please contact Robin in the church office at ccpcbowie@verizon.net or 301-262-6008.

Christmas Families!

Update

We had another successful year with the Christmas Families program. I want to thank everyone who volunteered, sponsored a child, and made donations. The Christmas Families program thrives because of your generosity. This year we helped 102 children and families experience the joy of Christmas. A special thank you to Susan Brutout and Carrie Casto for all your co-coordinating help.

Thank you all, Mikaela Devine

Birth Announcement!

Welcome!

Leah Suzanne McCarty

Born on January 12, 2018 at 6:44pm, 9.7 pounds, 21.25 inches.

Gave us a bit of an eventful evening, but is proving to be a healthy and resilient girl. Everyone is doing well, and big brother and big sister couldn't be more happy!

Kathryn and David McCarty

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to Pastor Emeritus Dr. Dick Neff on his 85th birthday, which will be on January 22. Happy Birthday, Dick!

In Memory of Mark Eugene Bujac

March 4, 1950 — January 13, 2018

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mark Bujac, who passed away on January 13. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Mark's life. Family and Friends can send flowers and condolences in memory of the loved one.

You may leave a sympathy message to the family on his memorial page on the Robert E. Evans Funeral Home website.

The viewing will be on Friday, January 19th from 2-4pm & 6-8pm

The funeral service will be Saturday, January 20th at 11:00am.

The viewing and the funeral service will both be held at the Robert E. Evans Funeral Home at 16000 Annapolis Rd.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Bujac family.

Lady Tigers

Lady Tigers chose another list of books to carry us from February forward. If you are inclined to want to read any of the ones listed below and have the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10:30am free, please consider joining us in the church Parlor.

The Color of Water by James McBride

The Undoing Project by Michael Lewis

A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea by Melissa Fleming

If I Understood You, Would I have this look on my Face? by Alan Alda

For the meeting on January 23rd, we will be finishing the Hillary Clinton book, "What Happened."

Hope to see you there!

Any questions, call either Bea Uehling at 410-741-1882 or email at buehling@verizon.net OR Anne Shelby at 301-262-1412 or email at amshelby@earthlink.net.

Mexico Informational Meeting

When: January 21, 2018 5:30pm in Dodds Hall

Who: All ages 6th grade and up; that means Adults too!

Why: *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

James 2:14-17

Per Capita

Per capita are funds gathered from all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and mid-councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It allows us to connect and participate in the work of the wider church. Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ. Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to sustain our governance system. The PC (USA), as with other faith traditions and denominations, is but a small part of the one church of Jesus Christ. We affirm that God's call is for the church to be one.

Each member is asked to pay \$39.91 from the National Capital Presbytery for 2018. We appreciate your contribution toward Per Capita this year. Please indicate it on your offering.

Souper Bowl Sunday!

On February 4th, be part of this national movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. The children will compete against the youth to see who can raise more money for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry. Bring your cash and coins so you can give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

Wednesday Night Live!

Join us on January 31st at 5:55pm in Dodds Hall for dinner and an all ages event.



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

**W
O
M
E
N'
S
C
O
R
N
E
R**

Women's Retreat

MARCH 9 – 11, 2018

LOCATION:

Potomac Park Retreat Center, 11 Tabernacle Way, Falling Water, WV
(very close to the Maryland border)
Christian Conference Center for 80 years. Where I-70 & I-81 meet.
Coffee Shop on-site and walking distance to town.

INCLUDED:

Two nights stay with 5 meals, beginning Friday night. All materials, except your bibles.

LEADER: Tara Spuhler McCabe (she lead Women's Sunday in June)

THEME: "This I Believe" – a personal Faith journey.

COST:

Double Room \$150. per person / Triple+ Room \$140. per person / Single Room \$175.
Pay in full by Feb. 11 for a \$10 discount. Need 4 meals – another \$10 discount.
Rooms have 2 beds and are located on the 2nd floor without an elevator.
Please indicate if you need a GROUND FLOOR ROOM, these are available.
Scholarship money is also available. We want everyone to attend.

**Place completed form with check(s) in the church office box labeled
"Presbyterian Women"
Checks payable to: Presbyterian Women – CCPC**

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS: _____

1ST FLOOR: _____

NEED A RIDE: _____

I CAN DRIVE: _____

MY ROOMMATE: _____

NEED A ROOMMATE: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____



Living Waters for the World Trip

Update



The CCPC LWW team was scheduled to travel to Honduras in January 2018 to help install a water purification system, but we've postponed that trip due to political unrest in the country. Although the situation has not been widely reported in the US media, it is very serious and disrupting normal activities in Honduras. Not only is the US State Department recommending that US citizens not make any unnecessary trips to Honduras, but our Honduran LWW staff is recommending that we not come in January.

We are postponing our trip until April 13 – 21, 2018.

Our sincere thanks to all who came to our workshop last Saturday and helped us prepare for the trip. We encourage you to pray for our LWW staff in Honduras, for the people of Agua Zarca who are expecting us to provide a water purification system, and for all who are affected by the unrest in Honduras.

Your CCPC LWW team

Sue Cobb Memorial Scholarship Pancake Dinner

**Shrove Tuesday, February 13th
at 6 pm in Dodds Hall**



The purpose of the Pancake Supper is to raise money for the Sue Cobb Scholarship Memorial Fund, which is awarded annually to a high school graduate of CCPC.

Sue Cobb was an active member of CCPC. She served on the Session and was very involved in Mission. Sue loved, and lived for, serving others. She fought a courageous seven-year battle against ovarian cancer.

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to come have pancakes to support the Sue Cobb Scholarship Fund!

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
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.

