

**How** would persons in our church describe generosity? You might mention support for our various mission activities. Some might mention making special gifts during the Capital Campaign to refurbish the Sanctuary and replace roofs and HVAC units. Others might describe the way they regularly contribute every week through cash, check, or electronic payments. You give so we can provide vibrant children and youth programs, worship God under the inspired leadership of our outstanding musicians and singers, and enthusiastically respond to people in need.

What I would hope is that those who are part of CCPC would say is that generosity is a core value. If asked, we would say we are a blessed community that has been given countless gifts by our God to be used for his glory and the betterment of the world. Each of us would understand generosity as central to what being a follower of Christ is all about. Each person would rejoice at the lives that have been changed by these gifts.

Clif Christopher is a Methodist minister and veteran of the Gulf War. In his book, "God versus Money," he notices there are two different types of ads used by the military branches. One emphasizes service and commitment and honor and the value of that to one's life. The other ad emphasizes how you can get your college paid for, get retirement in twenty years, and have great health insurance.

Christopher says the church should place emphasis on the value to their lives in discovering that greed and money do not bring satisfaction. It does not help you raise a quality family. It does not bring happiness. It does not secure an abundant life. It is a fool's errand!

Generosity, however, builds character. It serves others. It lifts others up. As you lose your life, you gain life. The emphasis is on others, which strangely enough, is the best thing for the self.

In the next few weeks, leading up to the November 17 dedication of our commitments for 2020, we will be having a conversation about generosity. We don't talk about money much in our society. Too many fail to think about how they spend money or how to spend it well. Stewardship time is a chance to invite people into a conversation about our core values.

Here is what to expect as we prepare to make our commitments. In worship, the next three weeks, we will hear testimonies about how and why we give. Studies have shown that people in similar life stages want similar ways to give to the church. We will talk about the three pockets of giving. We will talk of how we need to give as part of our spiritual struggle to focus outward instead of inward.

Our theme is *Giving Out of Grace and Gratitude*. You will be getting a letter, a pledge card, and a return envelope in the mail early in November. We ask you to prayerfully consider how you will live out the core value of generosity. On Sunday, November 17, we will dedicate commitment cards at the conclusion of both services. Between services, at 10AM, we will gather for a CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH in Dodds Hall. The menu will be scrambled eggs and bacon, fruit and other delightful brunch food. You can sit and talk with others and enjoy the fellowship. There will be no Sunday School or Adult Education on November 17.

It is a joy to serve with you and to learn about the joy of being generous.

James Brassard

## *Welcome New Members*

In a luncheon following the 11AM worship service on Sunday, October 27, the Session received 12 adults and their 5 children into membership. We welcome the following people:

**Fidelis and Pauline Atianjoh:** four children, *Peyton, Paphils, Pirela and Peran*; **Annie Assongwe** and daughter, Bethel; **Emmanuel Taboh Assongwe**; **Girlye and George Brooks**; **Harold Gray**; **Sharon Metcalf**; **Matt McGuinness**; **Rick Osborne** (Our Music Director); and **Janice and Terry Summons**.

These new members will be introduced during worship in November.

Paula Hays, Clerk of Session



# *Adult Education!*

## **Overlooked Characters in the Bible**

Join us for a 4-week course on lesser known characters and stories of the Bible. All classes are at 10:00 am in the Adult Education Conference room.

What can we learn about God and faith from these rather obscure names?

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10** - SUE EVANS: 4 COURAGEOUS WOMEN: SHIPHRAH, PUAH, JOCHEBED, AND ZIPPORAH (EXODUS)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24** - GARY COX: BATHSHEBA (2 SAMUEL AND 1 KINGS)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1** - DICK NEFF: PRISCILLA, JUNIA, AND MARY (ACTS)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8** - STEVE WEBB: STEPHEN (ACTS)

## *Feedback Needed!*

We are currently reviewing the church financial records for the years 2016-2019. As a part of this review, we are soliciting your opinion regarding the donation statements you received during this timeframe. Our goal is to provide an accurate, complete, understandable and timely accounting of your donations. We would like to hear about both problems and praises. We are especially interested in your thoughts if you are donating online. Your response will be strictly confidential. All results will be aggregated with any potentially identifying information removed.

Please email your feedback to [ccpcbowie@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcbowie@verizon.net) with subject line saying, "Donor feedback." Thank you!

## *Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner & Worship*

Come and break bread with our friends of all faiths on Sunday, November 24, with a Communal dinner in Dodds Hall at 5:30pm, then a Worship service in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm.



# SCRIP Cards

**November 10 through November 24**

SCRIP fundraising gift cards are the same gift cards you normally purchase from a retailer in your local retail stores, and they work the same way. You'll find cards you can use at grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, movie theaters, home improvement stores, and almost any business that accepts gift cards. CCPC Youth Ministry can earn up to a 15% rebate on each purchased gift card and 100% of the proceeds go to our Youth retreats.

During the fundraiser, the Youth will be in the CCPC Atrium after church at a table distributing the SCRIP order form and list of retailers, and collecting the completed order form and accompanying check. The cards will come in after Thanksgiving and will be distributed between worship services.

**All order forms are due by November 24 at Noon.**

Questions, contact Justin Devine or Jane Mellow at  
[ccpcyouth15@gmail.com](mailto:ccpcyouth15@gmail.com) or 707-344-3325

## Work Day!

**Saturday, November 23 from 8 AM to Noon**

We need people to help with odd jobs around the church: raking leaves, replacing light bulbs, etc. Lunch will be served!

If you are available, we sure could use your help!



Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men  
~ Colossians 3:23 ~

## Friendly Reminders!

**Christmas Market — Sunday, November 3  
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Dodds Hall**

Go table to table and see if you would like to donate to any of the charities, then pick up a free Christmas card and tell the person you shopped for the item you bought them. Enjoy a bowl of soup for lunch and visit with guests. It's a great way to start off the giving season.

**Bayfield Brass Quintet — Sunday, November 3 at 4:00 pm in  
the Sanctuary**

The Splendor of Venice! The quintet and organist Rick Osborne will present music of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque. In observance of Veterans Day, the second half of the program will feature a mix of Armed Forces selections, patriotic music and popular marches. A reception will follow.

# *2019 Christmas Poinsettia Orders*



Christmas poinsettias will be here soon.  
We will have 7" pots with 30 reds, 6 whites, 6 pinks, and 12 marble.  
The price is \$14.50 each.

**Orders must be in by  
Monday, December 16th**

Any questions, please contact Judyann Feinstein at  
judith.a.glazener@gmail.com or 240-351-4121.

Thank you!

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in **memory/honor** of (please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7" Poinsettia - Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14.50 each, for a **TOTAL** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Specify color)

\_\_\_\_\_ red \_\_\_\_\_ white \_\_\_\_\_ pink \_\_\_\_\_ marble

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**Monday, December 16th is the  
deadline date to place orders.**

Thank you so much for your generous contribution.

The Flower Committee.

# *What Is Christmas Families?*

Christmas Families is CCPC's annual program to help children and families in the PG County area with gifts and groceries for the Christmas holiday. Many of the families served have no money to purchase gifts for the kids or extra holiday food to make Christmas special. Many of us are abundantly blessed at Christmas and the heart behind Christmas Families is giving as many kids as possible the opportunity to experience the magic and wonder of Christmas no matter what their family situation is.

Teaming up with counselors in the PG County school system we receive family and student referrals, identifying kids in need. Each child in the family is entered into the program from newborn to 18 years old. Working with the counselors and parents a wish list for each child is compiled.

Once we have all the information we rely on you, CCPC members, to help make everything happen. Starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in November, members can select a child they wish to sponsor and shop for. When you sign up as a sponsor, we provide you with all the information you need to shop for your child. We request that each child get 1 shirt or sweatshirt/jacket and one pair of pants and one wish list item around \$25 dollars – however – it is up to you what you do in addition to this.

We team up with Giant to provide each family with a \$50 gift card, bags of unperishable groceries, a laundry basket with laundry supplies and last year we added CCPC reusable grocery bags to the mix. This not only reminds the families we helped to visit CCPC again, but gives them something they can continue to use.

A few other things we add to each child's gift options are school supplies and age appropriate books. On the day families pick up their items we also set up a table of donated clothing and hygiene items that families can pick from when they pick up their gifts and groceries. When each family arrives to pick up their items we give them a letter wishing them a Merry Christmas and providing them information about CCPC's services.

## *How Can You Help:*

Volunteering for one of the following

### **Dec 7 (Sat) 8PM**

Set Up Dodd's Hall after Kid's Movie Night

### **Dec 8 (Sun) 9-12pm**

Wrapped Gift Drop Off (Dodd's Hall)

**FIRM DROP OFF DAY**

### **Dec 11 (Wed) After 2pm**

-Pick up food order from Giant (non-perishables)

-Re Set Dodd's Hall for Food Sorting

-Baked Goods Due (can be dropped off in kitchen)

### **Dec 12 (Thurs) 5 pm – 7 pm**

Food Sorting & Consolidation

### **Dec 13 (Friday) 9 am – 8 pm**

Family Pick Up/Delivery

2. Sponsor a child.

3. Donate school supplies or books.

4. If you don't have time to shop you can donate money to the program.

5. Buy a CCPC reusable shopping bag for \$3 each.

6. Consider investing in a permanent role on the team next year. Especially if you are google savvy!

## *Changes This Year:*

We are constantly trying and finding new ways to make the program efficient and current with the technology. Over the past 3 years, we have changed a lot of things on the backend with the counselors and families, including building a website for the referral process. This year we are changing several aspects for CCPC and its volunteers. Many of these changes are due to the limited number of volunteers we have had and much of the work falling on a few people who give up the whole week to make sure everything gets done. This year we are asking that ALL gifts be returned wrapped and in a large black garbage bag. When you sign up for a child we will give you a roll of wrapping paper and a black trash bag to aide in this process. When you return your gifts on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, you will take them to Dodd's Hall, where a volunteer will help you place them directly on the chair that corresponds with your child. We appreciate your help in making this a smooth transition. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Mikaela (707-344-3321).

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Families program & helping make Christmas wishes come true.

**Mikaela, Susan, & Carrie**





# *Christmas Families*

## **Calendar of Events**

**NOTE: This schedule has been updated!**

Sunday, November 10—Christmas Family Program Kick Off

Sunday, November 17—Sign Ups Continue

Sunday, November 24—Last Sign Ups

Saturday, December 7—Setup Dodds Hall after movie night

Sunday, December 8—Wrapped Gift Drop Off (Dodds Hall)

Wednesday, December 11—Giant food pickup

TBD

Reset Dodd's Hall for Food Sorting

Baked Goods Due (drop off in kitchen)

Thursday, December 12—Food Sorting & Consolidation

5pm—7pm

Friday, December 13—Family Pick Up/Delivery

9 am – 8 pm



# Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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

