

The problem of homelessness is growing in America. Quite simply, wages have lagged far behind the increase in housing costs. Three bedroom apartments rent for \$2400 in Bowie. The problem is worse in urban areas. The January 15 edition of *The Christian Century* carried a story of how one group of congregations in the Silicon Valley responded to the homeless problem.

Saratoga, California is on the outskirts of Silicon Valley, the home of tech giants Google, Facebook and Apple. It is an area where the medium home value is over \$1 million. The area is witnessing rapidly growing homelessness. In response, a dozen local congregations launched a program called Rotating Safe Car Park. It's a program that assists the subset of the regions homeless that lives out of their cars, vans and RV's. Congregations in the Rotating Safe Car Park take turns hosting and providing support for one month of the year.

Each night, the safe lot opens at 8PM. Volunteers greet up to 30 guests. The host congregation provides bathrooms and showers, and a meal cooked by congregation members. A food pantry of nonperishable food is available along with toiletries. The church also provides social space — access to a microwave, a refrigerator and power outlets. In the morning, the hosts provide breakfast, coffee and a bagged lunch. After a month, the program picks up and moves on to another location.

While those who live in their cars are a minority of the areas homeless - about 3600 of nearly 10,000 - it is also a fast growing segment that has ballooned 146% in the past four years. Most guests are working families and seniors who are unable to access shelters. Most local shelters cannot accommodate entire families, so parents often choose to sleep in their cars instead of splitting up from their kids. Most shelters in the area have a strict 5PM check in times, making it difficult for people with jobs to arrive in time to secure a bed.

One of the biggest initial challenges to the program was NIMBY-ism ("not in my backyard"). Local residents feared that sheltering the homeless would bring crime, blight and lower property values. To combat this, the congregations partnered with city officials who got on board and agreed to amend city regulations, which previously prohibited sleeping in cars overnight. In Saratoga, the Sheriff patrols the lots and encourages the guests and volunteers to call the department's hotline if problems arise.

What really changed the minds of critics was when volunteers started getting to know their guests. Several churches started hosting weekly summer barbeques and Safe Car guests were invited to attend.

This provided the opportunity for one on one conversations. Parishioners and neighbors realized that often the only difference between them and their guests - who included college students, Uber drivers and other local employees whose jobs don't pay enough to meet the high cost of living - was one missed paycheck or one medical emergency. Even as the program expands, those involved know it is not a long-term fix. "We're like a Band-Aid until more housing gets built. But sometimes a Band-Aid is what people need," said one pastor.

This week CCPC will host our county's Warm Nights shelter program. Please pray that our guest families will find a safe and secure place to live.

Serving Christ together,

James Brassard



CCPC is mourning the loss of several of our CCPC family members. Our thoughts and prayers are with the congregation, the Arnold's, the Clark's, and the Owen's family and friends.

In Memory of Nancy Arnold

Nancy Arnold, a resident of Arnold, MD and long-time resident of Bowie, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 3rd at the Hospice of the Chesapeake. Born in 1939 in Great Cacapon, West Virginia, and raised in Baltimore, MD, Nancy graduated from Western High School in Baltimore, MD, and went on to receive her Registered Nurse Diploma at the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore, MD. Early in her career, Nancy served as a head nurse in the emergency room at Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, MD. Later, she worked for various physicians in Bowie while focusing on raising her young family. She later returned to Prince George's Hospital outpatient clinic to serve as an RN until her retirement. She loved country music, walking, socializing with her friends, preparing epic holiday meals for her family, all while sharing a gentle sense of humor that could quickly render her crying and laughing simultaneously. She will always be remembered for her quiet, gentle manner and thoughtfulness for others.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years Dick Arnold, children Ricky Arnold (spouse Eloise) of Houston, TX, Kathy Sood (spouse Jim) of Edgewater MD, sister Patricia Dinsmore of Reisterstown, MD, and grandchildren Carrie Arnold, Patrick Sood, Jessica Arnold, and Jack Sood.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the Christian Community Presbyterian Church, [3120 Belair Drive, Bowie MD, 20715](https://www.ccpcc.org/) or Hospice of the Chesapeake, [90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122](https://www.hospiceofthechESAPEAKE.org/).

Please join her family and friends as we celebrate her life and send this faithful and loving servant home on February 8, 2020 at Christian Community Presbyterian Church at 11:00 am.

In Memory of Marge Clark

Margaret (Marge) Clark, a long-time member of CCPC, passed away on December 21, 2019 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Marge joined CCPC on May 16, 1982 and was involved in many areas of the church like serving as an usher, taking care of the church finances and leading the Gadabouts on many adventures. Marge was a kind-hearted person and gave generously of her time. She will be missed by her CCPC friends and family. A memorial service will be held sometime in the spring. Details will be shared as spring nears.

In Memory of Anne (Rusty) Owens

Anne Russell (Rusty) Owens, 72, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2019.

Mrs. Owens was preceded in death by her parents Walter and Louise Boswell and a brother Robert Boswell. She was born in Richmond, Virginia and resided in Maryland and the last few years in Virginia Beach. She was a former Advertising Manager for The Capitol Gazette and was a member of Salem United Methodist Church. Survivors include her loving husband of 30 years Richard L. Owens, 2 children Sharley Wimpy and Matthew Wade and wife Melissa; 4 grandchildren Emily, Julie, Aiden and Bradley, a sister Betty Fulk and husband George; 3 nephews Bill, Bob and Chris McKown; a sister-in-law Linda Boswell.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2:00 p.m. at Salem United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the church. Friends may offer condolences at www.smithandwilliamskempville.com

Congregational Meeting!

Our Annual Congregational meeting is on Sunday,
February 2 at 10:05 AM in the Sanctuary.

No Adult Ed or Sunday school. Childcare is available during the meeting.

Copies of the 2019 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 26 in the alcove of the Narthex. Electronic copies are available upon request; please contact Robin in the church office.

Barbara Weaver

I wanted to send an update on Barbara Weaver to share with any of her friends from the church. She is in an assisted living facility near me in Woodbridge, VA. She is doing quite well in her new environment playing games and making new friends. When we first moved her from the rehab center in Severna Park, her mind and body were quite weak. I wasn't sure she was going to be able to come back. She really wasn't able to use her phone for outgoing calls. Now she calls me or her other children a few times a week. We are very happy with how she is doing. I am generally able to visit her twice a week as my job is pretty flexible. It feels we end up in the hospital most winters so prayers to make it through this one without a visit.

Below is her address if anyone wants to send cards as well as her phone number.

Jim Weaver

Tribute at the Glen

Attn: Barbara Weaver

4151 Old Bridge Rd, Rm 427, Woodbridge, VA 22192

571-589-8448

Caffeinated Christians

Our team of coffee hosts could use a few new volunteers. If you are willing to join our rotation, you would only be committing to about once every other month. Ann Fleming is putting together the 2020 coffee service line-up, and will be happy to show you the ropes. Please let her know if you have questions or can help with this beloved hospitality opportunity:

ann@annspeacefulpractices.com or 301-233-1694.

Congenial-Collegial-Collaboration

Sharon Youngdahl

Defined as a pleasant group of colleagues
working to create something.

Thirty-six years ago when I was first getting involved here at CCPC, Dave Loomis approached me and asked that I take over directing the children's Sunday School Christmas Pageants. With the help of a former director, Sunday school teachers, pianists, etc., I would need to gather assistance in a team that lasted for 6 years. Later I started putting musical reviews together and needed lots of church talent willing to give free time. Then several youth ministers asked me for help with their youth projects. I never "took over" but simply gave help in the ways that I could.

For several years now I have been helping with special worship dramas, readings, etc. all requiring coordination with other people. Then 5 years ago, Justin Devine asked me if I would help rewrite a script for a Children's Christmas Pageant as he felt that presenting the traditional manger story wasn't his strong suit. However, what I found in Justin was a true congenial-collegial-collaborator. We wrote together, thought out ideas together, and he would make my ideas better and I would adjust some of his. We tried to change it up each year but true to the manger story. With the help of musical directors, Sunday school teachers, costume specialists, and set designers, the "creative something" always came together even when we had little time to accomplish it.

Then Rick Osborne, with his long background working with children and youth music, became another wheel in this CCC operation. Even if he had no idea what I might be asking of him he helped to make it smooth, easy – and better.

So this is my way of thanking people over the years, some long gone, some still here who became congenial, collegial, collaborators. It just seems so right for people to work for the very best result when creating something, especially in a Christian Church environment. May the CCC ideal always be there in all our efforts to tell the Christian story in its many forms.

Warm Nights **Shelter Program**

January 19, 2020 through January 26, 2020

Signup sheets and instructions are available in the Atrium

Can't volunteer? Stop by and meet our clients, hear their stories,
and you will see how our caring and giving impacts their lives.

Contact: Paul Sell at psell6@verizon.net

CCPC's

Women's Retreat

2020

It's About Time!

March 27-29, 2020
(Rhodes Grove)

Make sure that weekend is still available!

Shani McIlwain will be our leader for a retreat that will focus on how we spend the precious God-given gift of time. This topic applies in all of our lives, whether we're stay-at-home moms, working women, or over-volunteered retired women! Come on retreat - you'll laugh, relax, focus, and eat! On Sunday afternoon, you'll return home refreshed!

Sign up forms are available in the Atrium. See Carrie Bence or Marty Sippel on Sundays, or leave completed forms in the "Presbyterian Women" box in the Office.

Looking forward to seeing you on retreat!

Marty Sippel and Carrie Bence

Fill out this form and mail to CCPC—Attn: PW CCPC Retreat or put completed form in the Presbyterian Women box in the church office. Make Checks payable to 'PW CCPC'

Date: _____

Name _____ Phone: (h) _____ (c) _____

Address _____ Email: _____

Room/meal option: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: (h) _____ (c) _____

Roommate Request(s): _____

Any Special Needs: _____

I am able to drive: ____ I can accommodate ____ (#) passengers

Adult Education

New Beginnings: Reboot Your Life

Want to make some positive changes in the New Year?

Join us for a 4-week course to discuss ideas to establish a strong foundation for spiritual and personal growth. Each Sunday, discussion will be based on one of the following scriptural themes:

**January 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM in the Adult Education Conference Room
New Life in Christ (Resilience) - Leader: Stanley Dixon**

**January 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM in the Adult Education Conference Room
Revelation (Discernment of God's Call) - Leader: Rick Snyder**



All Aboard!

The new year is an *excellent* time to consider joining the various ensembles within the music ministry at CCPC! As we “change gears” and begin preparations for Lent, Eastertide and beyond, we invite to come join us!

Clinquant, our adult and teen handbell choir, rehearses on Thursday evenings. We have three vacant positions which we hope to fill in the coming year.

Our **Celebration Choir** rehearses on Wednesday evenings and is open to all who enjoy good fellowship and singing God's praises.

Our **Children's Bell Choir** rehearses in the choir room on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:00 a.m.

Our **Children's Choir** rehearses in the choir room on Sunday mornings, 10:00-10:15 a.m., immediately following the Children's Bell Choir.

Our **Recorder Ensemble** rehearses for fifteen minutes in the choir room on Sundays immediately following the 11:00 worship service.

If interested, please contact Rick Osborne in person or call 301-262-6008 or send an email to ccpcm@verizon.net.



ZUMBA[®]

fitness
classes

JOIN THE
party™

Dance into the New Year!!!

January 12 January 19

January 26

2:30pm to 3:30pm

INSTRUCTOR:

BRIDGET PETERS



Christian Community Presbyterian Church
3120 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
ccpc.bowiemd.org

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.

Please remember CCPC in your will.



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.

