

Lively, energetic, infinitely positive, dynamic, larger-than-life. These are some of the words and phrases that I have heard from you in the past few weeks as you described Pastor James Brassard. Now that James has passed in the eternal arms of grace, I invite you to meditate on those words and on any other words that describe him to you.

A few years ago, when my youngest son Carter was a senior in high school, one of his very best friends died by suicide. Luke and Carter had been best buddies in kindergarten and elementary school, had played sports together, spent endless summer days in our backyard and at the local pool, celebrated Birthdays together, and grew up together. Luke's death sent a shockwave through my family that will forever be a part of us.

Carter received help from a very gifted grief counselor. He shared with me one of her suggestions to him. She invited him to think deeply about Luke, about his nature, the things he said, the things he did, the way he was in the world, the way he treated people. Then she suggested that Carter choose one trait that stood out to him as being Luke's most marked way of being. The trait Carter chose was "sweetness." It was the very same trait that came instantly to my mind when Carter told me about this exercise. Sweetness was how I would describe this young man who was such a rich part of my son's childhood. His smile, his helpfulness, the way he always referred to me as "Carter's mom." I can picture him now in my kitchen, panting and sweaty on a hot summer day, asking for a cup of cold water after spent hours on our trampoline with my sons and a gaggle of neighborhood boys. The counselor suggested to Carter that he focus on that trait in his own life, as a way to honor Luke. I know, without a shadow of a doubt that Carter is a sweeter young man for having known Luke and for having lost Luke.

It is nearly impossible to make sense of death, especially untimely death. Many of you have talked of how James looked forward to retirement as a way to spend time with grandchildren, travel with his beloved Andrea, do more of the things that he enjoyed. That dream is not to be. However, I do believe that God gives us the gift of finding meaning. As you struggle to find meaning in his death, I encourage you to find meaning in his life. Just as the counselor suggested to Carter, think deeply about James, about his nature, the things he said, the things he did, the way he was in the world, the way he treated people. See if you can arrive at one word or phrase that, in your mind, was his most marked way of being in the world. And then, friends, take that trait as a gift unto yourself, and in James' honor and in celebration of his life, live into that trait in your own life.

May the peace of our savior Jesus Christ be with you all in this time of deep loss. Please know that I am available for conversation, counseling, crying, praying, and anything else that you may need. God is with us.

Peace,
Pastor Susan

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant



Reverend James Brassard died peacefully at home on the evening of November 4. He served CCPC faithfully, from 2004 until his abrupt May 2020 retirement due to a stage IV malignant brain tumor (glioblastoma). The Brassard family is grateful for the past cards, meals, gifts, thoughts and prayers and asks that your prayers continue.

James' mother, Mrs. Mary E. Brassard, is accepting sympathy cards (large print) on behalf of the family. Her address is: 2889 San Pasquale St., Pasadena, California 91107. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes any memorial donations be made to the CCPC memorial fund. The Brassard family is not yet ready to plan a memorial service at this time.

QR Code to Donate



Or go to our website at <http://ccpc.bowiemd.org/> and click the **DONATE button.**

Advent Festival!

Every Sunday morning of Advent at 11am, via zoom, we will gather for an Intergenerational Celebration of the wonder and anticipation that fills the season of waiting. Come for the music, crafts, stories, ornaments, and more!

A Celebration of Poetry!

Friday, November 20, at 7:30pm via Zoom, "A Celebration of Poetry," with Stanley Dixon.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22, at 7:00pm, via Zoom, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

Prayer Chain!

The Bible tells us to "Pray without ceasing," but it's hard to know who to contact when you have a concern or celebration that you would like to share with your church family. CCPC's new Prayer Chain will help! Our own Patti Cable will coordinate the Prayer Chain by email and telephone. Simply email Patti at CCPCPrayers@AOL.Com if you have a prayer request that you would like her to share with the congregation, or if you simply want to participate in the Prayer Chain by receiving regular prayer request notifications from Patti. Prayers are not limited to CCPC members and friends -- all prayers are welcome!

Staff Meetings

CCPC staff meetings occur every Tuesday at 1pm. Please do not disturb the staff on Tuesdays from 1pm to 2:30pm, which includes phone calls and coming to the church.

Straight from the Source!

Please note that the Zoom link to our Straight from the Source Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm has changed to: <https://us02webzoom.us/j/83257508911>

Thank You!

Doris Kobe and family want to thank all of those who supported them with thoughts, prayers, kind words, cards and flowers during their time of sorrow. May each of you be blessed.

Virtual Concert

On Sunday, December 6th at 4pm, the Capital Ringers will perform via Facebook: ccpc.bowiemd.org/calendar--events/concert-series.html

Warm Nights Update!

You may be wondering how *Warm Nights* is operating during COVID-19 with churches closed and the difficulty following CDC guidelines in a shelter situation. CCSi, who manages Warm Nights, acquired HUD funding and housing the shelter clients in a Beltsville hotel. The funding is good through Dec 2020 and CCSi is optimistic that it will be extended through Mar 2021.

The hotel provides breakfast and CCSi has received a grant to provide dinners. CCSi is asking churches to help with lunches. They are not asking for a church to provide 200 lunches — just whatever they can. During a church's scheduled Warm Nights week (CCPC's is in Jan.) they are asking if the church could provide some of the lunches.

When we get closer to January the Mission Committee will work with Session to see if we can make arrangements to prepare lunches in Dodds Hall in a safe way with social distancing.

Paul Sell, Warm Nights Coordinator

October Session Update

Session approved a motion by the Worship Committee to hold outdoor services on Wednesday evenings in the church parking lot. Safety precautions include wearing a mask, social distancing, and no use of singing. Members are encouraged to attend the all-church check-in to express thoughts, feelings, prayer requests and joys.

Pastor Susan will be holding “Healthy Boundaries” training from National Capital Presbytery for all church officers, staff, & volunteers. This will provide education about sexual misconduct issues. Sexual Misconduct policies will be signed by all.

Limits on the drawdown of church endowment funds suggested by the Finance Committee were approved. Emergency access will still be permitted. The budget for 2021 is being developed with awareness of financial limits the pandemic has placed on the congregation. Please remember to keep giving and to honor your pledges as is possible for you and your families.

Watch for information from the Mission Committee about two drive-by contribution events in the church parking lot, one for the Food Pantry, November 17, in conjunction with the Chesapeake Chorale, and one for Warm Nights.

Sara Huey has developed a free podcast for the Race and Diversity Task Force. Session voted that the church sign a letter from Maryland Faith Leaders in support of abolishing life without the possibility of parole for children. Race and Diversity also encouraged members to attend a Criminal Justice Forum via Zoom on October 17.

Personnel Committee is negotiating a contract with Sam Guillermo to make him a full-time employee of the church. Sam will work as Contemporary Worship Leader and communications director, helping us improve our online presence and streamlining our internal communications. Sam will work as Contemporary Worship Leader and communications director, helping us improve our online presence and streamlining our internal communications.

The Youth Group is looking for volunteers to assist with the Sunday fire pit meetings. Contact Jane Mellow if you'd like to help. Masks and social distancing are required.

Please read and respond to the survey from the worship committee that you have received in your mail or email. Your answers will help shape the church's ministry as we continue to provide meaningful and safe worship experiences.

Committee Chairs for 2020-2021: Adult Ed: Kevin Maxwell; B&G: Skip Oates; Children's Ministry: Melodie Dzikuch; Finance: Evonne Tang; Mission/Social Justice: Debbie Sell; Nominating: Susan Mather; Outreach & Parish Life: Judyann Glazener; Personnel: Ann Fleming; Stewardship: Stanley Dixon; Worship: Astrid Jonas; Youth: Jane Mellow.

Paula Hays
Clerk of Session

CEPC Work Day!

Join us on

Saturday, November 14

8 AM to Noon

We need people to help with odd jobs around the church:

- ◆ Raking leaves
- ◆ Trimming shrubs and bushes

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

Hope to see you there!



Come and Join Us!

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men”

~ Colossians 3:23 ~

Food Pantry

Christmas

November 1-14, 2020

<http://ccpc.bowiemd.org/calendar--events/events/food-pantry-christmas.html>

Click here for a video from Kris Ross!

<https://youtu.be/lbOyPpBLibA>

November will be CCPC's giving month. **We will start the month with our Food Pantry Christmas (Nov 1-14)**, and finish with the (Virtual) Alternative Christmas Gift Market (Nov 15-29).

Because of the pandemic, many people are food insecure. Fortunately, the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry has been able to keep up with the greater demand, but they do need help with what was once Christmas Baskets.

This year we will be doing virtual Christmas Baskets: food gift cards, and Target gift cards for presents. The Food Pantry needs the cards in increments of \$25, but you can give whatever amount you can. We'll purchase, through Script, as many food and gift cards as we can. This will be in place of Christmas Families.

You can contribute via **DONATE** (on CCPC's homepage) on the "*Food Pantry Christmas*" line or by check with "Food Pantry Christmas" on the Memo line. If you don't pay online, you may mail the check or put your sealed envelope in the mailbox in front of the church on days when Robin is in the Office: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Every little bit helps, and collectively, we can make a big difference for families in need. We give thanks to God for all our blessings, happy to share what we can with others less fortunate.

The Food Pantry Christmas funds will be collected until Nov. 14. We will take the cards to the Food Pantry the week after Thanksgiving. *Anything arriving after the 14th will be put toward the Christmas Families project in the Alternative Christmas Market.*

Thank you for your support!

Alternative *Christmas Gift Market* **2020 Virtual Edition!**

The Alternative Christmas Market was started several years ago by Doris Kobe. Its purpose is to make it easier for you to buy a gift for that hard-to-shop-for person in your life during the Christmas holiday; a relative, a friend, a co-worker, a neighbor, etc. It's an alternative way to shop, instead of for a material gift at Christmas. At the same time, you are helping people in need, and those who have lived through disasters, hurricanes, wildfires, hunger, illness. We help people locally (Bowie), throughout our country, and around the world.

Normally, there are tables set up in Dodds Hall with information displayed and someone showing and explaining what each mission or organization is about. However, we all know this has not been a normal year. So, absolutely **everything** is different this year.

A **HUGE** thank you to Marty Sippel and Bill Radden-LeSage for completely revamping this year's price sheet to fit in the Caller. You will find that price sheet in this Caller. You can use that version or you can access and print a copy from the "**Alternative Christmas Market**" web page, **starting November 15**.

It is hidden right now, but **starting November 15, will be located via this path:**

ccpc.bowiemd.org→Cal&Events→Events→Alternative Christmas Market.

You will see this year's organizations listed on that page. You can also view videos about each organization there. Kris Ross and her granddaughter, Georgia, have filmed members explaining each organization. Other videos came directly from the organizations. Picture these videos as the people normally at tables in Dodds Hall!

The Market will start on November 15th, and run through the 29th. You can mail your sheets back, drop them off in the mailbox outside CCPC's front door or *pay online*. Paying online via CCPC's "**DONATE**" button is easy. Bill Radden-LeSage has arranged the online donation site's payment lines to correspond with the organizations on the price sheet. Instructions are also on the lower part of the Alternative Christmas Market web page.

If you have any questions, please contact Kris Ross, Marty Sippel, or Sharon McNamara. Bill and Cyd will be tallying up the donation sheets and online donations in December. **The one part in all of this that does stay the same is that CCPC does not get a penny. 100% of every donation will go to each mission organization listed on the sheet.**

Thank you for helping this market continue!
Kris Ross, Sharon McNamara, Marty Sippel and Bill Radden-LeSage

Alternative Christmas Gift Market

Donation Sheet

November 15 — 29, 2020

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PAYMENT ONLINE: _____ PAYMENT CHECK TO OFFICE—CHECK #: _____

Church World Services hygiene, school kit or nourishment	\$	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hurricanes, wildfires	\$
Medical Benevolence Foundation medicine, malaria or TB, meds	\$	Champ House—Addiction Recovery Pillow, sox, hats, comforter, underwear	\$
CCPC Mission Housing Project Nails, shingles, toilets	\$	CCPC Honduras Water Project (LWW) Tubing, filter wrench, sediment filter	\$
Heifer International Chicks, rabbits, honeybees, goats	\$	Honduras Educational Program Elementary, secondary scholarships	\$
Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Seat belt cutter, PPE	\$	Citizens for Local Animal Welfare (CLAW) Rabies shots, spaying, neutering, food	\$
United Campus Ministry Office expenses, lunch groups	\$	CCPC Youth Group Mission, Montreat, other activities	\$
CCIS Warm nights, homeless, suicide	\$	Christmas Families—Pandemic Version Money to rebuild Christmas Families fund	\$
Back Packs of Love Diapers, most needed	\$	Bowie Lions Club—Humanitarian People in need: Glasses, hearing aids	\$
TOTAL			\$

INSTRUCTIONS: Mark and tally your form; put a check to CCPC and a copy of this form in a sealed envelope or pay online via DONATE on our homepage; mark outside of envelope with Christmas Gift Market; and mail to CCPC or put in the CCPC mailbox in the front of the church.

NOTE: Videos online at: [ccpcbowiemd.org/Cal&Events/Events/Alternative Christmas Market](http://ccpcbowiemd.org/Cal&Events/Events/Alternative%20Christmas%20Market)

Thank you for your support of the Alternative Christmas Market!

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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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.