

The Caller

October 1, 2013

Although I am not an avid pope watcher, I have been encouraged by the candor and humility of Pope Francis. I was excited when the new pope took the name of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis knew the importance of symbols and had a passion for the needy. Right away Pope Francis moved out of the palatial Vatican quarters into a simple apartment. He let it be known that he prefers inexpensive, nondescript shoes. An immediate breath of fresh air. Like St. Francis he has a human touch.

Like many others, I appreciated his sensitive statement made before journalists on an airplane. He said that if someone is homosexual and has Jesus in his heart "who am I to judge." Last week, in a wide ranging interview with an influential Italian Jesuit journal, Pope Francis continued his extemporaneous encyclical. He warned that the Catholic church had become so focused on abortion, gay marriage, contraception, and other social issues, that it risked overshadowing its pastoral mission, threatening to bring down the church "like a house of cards." The pope said the first thing the church needs is an adjustment in attitude. Pastors "must be people who can warm the hearts of the people, who walk through the dark night with them, who know how to dialogue. The people want pastors, not clergy acting like bureaucrats or government officials." Wow. In one interview he put considerable distance between himself and his two predecessors. He also admitted that he had "been reprimanded "for not speaking more forcefully on divisive issues." Can someone please tell me who reprimands the pope?

The new pontiff said he was not overturning church teaching, but only sharing his personal faith while acknowledging what most Catholic and Protestant pastors already know: That to be effective in the modern world, the church must focus on what Christ taught us. It is good news. This pope realizes the non-churched world increasingly sees the church as little more than a sum of small minded rules. Unless Christians reach out to the hurting, the alienated, and what

the pope referred to as the "socially wounded," the church will become increasingly irrelevant.

Among the wounded in the American Catholic church is its women members. A year ago the United States bishops publically silenced American nuns for supporting portions of the new health care law that mandated coverage for contraceptives. In the interview, Francis suggested a reconsideration of the role of women in the church is long overdue. While not addressing women as priests, he said that "women are asking deep questions that must be addressed."

Skeptics have wondered how much change is really coming. Well, that remains to be seen. Leadership from the top of any hierarchical organization always has an impact. Popes have tremendous influence on the world's one billion Catholics. The pope is viewed by many, including non Catholics, as the public face of Christianity. However, the pope's two predecessors were vocal supporters of a very dogmatic and traditional Catholic structure. Since October 1978, when Pope John Paul II began his papacy, Cardinal Ratzinger (later to become Pope Benedict) has appointed cardinals and bishops that have rigorously defended church dogma and punished those who ventured from established policy. Since cardinals and bishop are essentially appointed for life (they have tenure similar to the Supreme Court) change will be slow. We are already hearing grumbling from two prominent American cardinals who don't like what the new pope is saying.

The pope needs our prayers. He says he is going to shake up the Vatican bureaucracy and clean up its financial scandals. I wish him well. What follower of Christ cannot be impressed with a man, who when asked to describe himself says, "I am a sinner. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner." That must be music to God's heart.

For a much better column on Pope Francis look at Michael Garson's Tuesday, September 24th *Washington Post* column titled, "Francis the Troublemaker." If you want the original source material on how Jesus guides the pope's focus, read the gospel of Luke.

Grace and peace.

James Brassard

Worship Notes

<u>September 29th:</u> In Luke 16:19-31, we hear the familiar and haunting story of the rich man and Lazarus. The point of the story is the huge chasm that divides us from the poor who we don't even see. How do we overlook the people who serve us, who check us out in the market, or push a shopping cart down the street?

October 6th: Worldwide Communion Sunday. Jesus says that "if only we had faith" like a tiny mustard seed we could do wondrous things. How much faith do we really have? How do we know if our faith is up to the tasks God has set before us? We will receive the Peacemaking Offering and hear a Minute for Mission from Jerry and Mary Parks of Little Friends for Peace, who work in violence prevention with children.

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October Sunday Calendar

Sunday, October 6, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary

10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary

10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade

11:15 AM Speaker: Col. Dillard -- Dodds Hall

1:00 PM Crop Walk (Registration at NOON) -- St Matthews

1:30 PM Prayer/Study Group -- Parlor

6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room

Sunday, October 13, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary

9:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect Jr/Sr High

10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary

10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade

11:00 AM Dick Neff's Book Signing -- Atrium

11:00 AM Online Pledge Help -- Dodds Hall

11:15 AM Adult Ed: Origins of the Wizard of Oz

6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor

6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room

7:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale Board Meeting -- Adult Ed Rm

Sunday, October 20, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary

10:00 AM Worship-Reception of New Members -- Sanctuary

10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High

10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade

11:00 AM Stewardship Luncheon -- Dodds Hall

1:30 PM Prayer Study -- Parlor

6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room

7:00 PM One Voice Concert -- Sanctuary

Sunday, October 27, 2013

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary

10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary

10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High

10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade

11:15 AM Adult Ed: Lyme Disease -- Adult Ed Rm

2:30 PM Trunk or Treat -- Parking Lot and Dodds Hall

6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room

SESSION Highlights

- Final arrangements were made for the upcoming CCPC's officers' retreat to be held on the 27th and 28th of September at the United Parish of Bowie. Rev. Henry Brinton, son of CCPC and current pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian church, Fairfax, VA, will lead the retreat, using his book *The Welcoming Congregation* as the theme for discussion.
- James began a New Members class on September 15th with seven prospective members attending.
- The Session endorsed the nomination of Chuck Tanner, CCPC's Representative to the National Capital Presbytery (NCP), to be a commissioner from the NCP to the Presbyterian Church (USA) general assembly that will be held next year. It has been 14 years since CCPC had a commissioner to the general assembly (Marge Miller). Commissioners will be announced at the November NCP meeting.
- Elder Cyd Radden-Le Sage reported that the Regular Offering receipts are approximately \$17 thousand less in August, 2013 from the same time in August, 2012.

World Communion Sunday

We, as a denomination, have celebrated World Communion Sunday as a remembrance not only of Christ's sacrifice for us, but also as a reminder that all Christians are one, brought together by the love of Jesus and his sacrifice for all of us.

Now, as in the past, many of us feel a sense of urgency to work for and pray for peace.

I feel that peacemaking remains central to the gospel and to the mission of the church – that it is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian and that it ought to have priority in the church. The Presbytery has worked to set up a structure so that our desires for peace can be translated into action. They have set up a national peacemaking program and a special offering to coincide with World Communion Sunday to fund the work of peace – making this world a safer place for all of us.

On Sunday, October 6, as we celebrate the unifying work of Christ, let's also work for peace.

Deborah Sell, member of the Mission Council



Raising a Voice

A Concert to Benefit The OneVoice Foundation

October 20th - 7:00 pm

in the Sanctuary of

Christian Community Presbyterian Church

3120 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

All proceeds from this concert will benefit the OneVoice Foundation (www.onevoicecommunity.org)

Suggested donation \$35 per person at the door – Donate as you are able

For additional information, find us on Facebook or email us at RaisingAVoice2013@gmail.com



Trunk or Treat

Boo!

Whoooo, Are you ready? Halloween is almost here!

Join us in the parking lot for some old-fashioned fun on Sunday, October 27th from 2:30 to 4:30 PM.

Fun and games for children in Dodds Hall until about 4 PM, then
the kids will go trunk or treating in the parking lot!

For those who will be decorating the trunks of your car, please be setup and ready to pass out candy to the kids by 3:45 PM.

Best Trunk Decoration Competition — Winner receives THE GOLDEN PUMPKIN!





Crop Walk

October 6th is the annual Crop Walk Registration is at Noon and the walk is at 1 pm at St. Matthews 14900 Annapolis Rd

The proceeds help various countries, and the Bowie Food Pantry receives 25% of the money raised in Bowie.

You can sponsor a walker, walk and obtain a sponsor(s), and/or you can fill a bag with non-perishable food, which can be brought to the church and stored in the library.

Please do not put any groceries for the Crop Walk in the Pantry food basket or on the table in the Atrium.

Peggy Oates and Joy Bible have agreed to walk dressed in a bikini if the church raises \$5,000 and 150 bags of groceries!

Contact for this event is Frances Rocha.

Hope to see you there!

Time to Get Ready for the

Fall Share Shop!

Our fall Share Shop will be Saturday morning, October 12 from 7:30 until 10:30 in Dodds Hall

This is a good time to clean out your closets! If you no longer want clothing, household items, books, records, toys, etc, <u>AND</u> they are in good enough shape to give to a friend, then bring them to the church during the week of October 6 and leave them in the corner of Dodds Hall.

On Saturday morning, come and see if there are any items you'd like to take home. We open the doors to the general public at 9:00 so come early for the best selections.

Questions? Ask Margaret.

Health and Healing

Health and Healing will start regular weekly meetings again at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, October 1st in the Parlor. This group is focused on helping us maximize our health.

YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE A HEALTH PROBLEM TO JOIN US.

This year, we will be using two books during our study time (10:30 to 11:55). The first book, *God Will See You Through,* teaches us how to claim the promises of scripture to see us through difficult times (grief, financial hardships, family crisis, or bad world news). The second book helps us learn about building richer relationships. You do not need to purchase either book unless you want your own copy. There is no homework.

We open with a fellowship half hour and close with a half hour worship service.

Hope to see you there.

Contact is Doris Kobe at 301-464-2097.



CCPC 2014 Stewardship Celebration Giving that makes a *difference*

Upcoming events

September 29 Special Speaker Kristen Zacheis

October 6 Special Speaker Bill Radden-Lesage

October 13 Special Speaker Lynn de Seve October 20 Faith Expression Sunday Worship

Stewardship Potluck Luncheon

Prayer Study Group

The Prayer/Study group has been meeting for about 30 years. This group is focused on learning more about praying effectively and also on praying for special needs.

This year, we are expanding those interests to include praying for world peace. There are groups around the world dedicated to this mission. We want to learn more about them and perhaps learn how to join our prayers with theirs.

We will be changing our time and meeting place to facilitate having additional people join us. We will now meet at 1:30 PM on the first and third Sundays of the month in the Parlor.

We welcome new members at any time.

For more information call Doris Kobe at 301-464-2097.



ADULT EDUCATION

Coming Attractions

OCTOBER 6th: DODD'S HALL 11:15 AM

FORUM SPEAKER: COL. DOUG DILLARD

Col. Dillard is a much-decorated veteran of three wars and a resident of Bowie (Audrey Scott's neighbor). He participated in the battle of the bulge in World War II and also served in Korea and Vietnam. He will speak of his experiences and how he continues to work with relatives of the victims of the Holocaust. See his biography posted on the kiosk in the Atrium.

OCTOBER 13th: CONFERENCE ROOM 11:15 AM

FORUM SPEAKER: DR. WAYNE SMITH, retired Professor of History

Wayne will lecture on the origins of the "Wizard of Oz". Jesus used parables to help convey his message to his followers. Historians have argued that the famous children's story, "The Wizard of Oz", is a parable of American social and economic history. Wayne will develop this proposition.

OCTOBER 27th
NOVEMBER 3rd and

NOVEMBER 10th: CONFERENCE ROOM 11:15 AM

Marilee Neff will present three sessions on Lyme disease, featuring the award-winning documentary "Under Our Skin". She will also describe her personal experience and address what is happening now with efforts to deal with this debilitating disease.

Christmas Jamilies School Supplies Update

We hit our target for the glue – Thank You! We still need your help:

We need 137 boxes of 12 count Color Pencils, 38 packages of Wide Rule <u>Loose</u> <u>Leaf Notebook Paper</u> (Please no spiral notebooks), 37 boxes of 24 count Crayons

We appreciate your donations and hope they keep coming so we can meet our goal of 200 replenishment packs by October 31st. Donated items can be placed in the box labeled "Christmas Families School Supplies" in the church Atrium.

For more details, contact Roxanne Johnson.

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.



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.lmagineThePlace.com, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail Ann@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.