



If you are like me, you have been watching some of the programs that are part of the month-long remembrance of President John F. Kennedy. As everyone has been endlessly reminded, this November 22 will mark the 50th anniversary of his assigation in Dallas. Being 56, my recollection of President Kennedy was limited as a child. I was too young to remember him successfully confronting the anti-Catholic bias of the time in his speech in West Virginia. I missed the Berlin Airlift and the "I am a Berliner speech." Thankfully, I was too young to worry during those dangerous 12 October days of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

My main memory of Kennedy was that tragic day when my second grade teacher called all of us up to the front of the room to tell us we were being sent home early because President Kennedy had been killed. She gave few details, but I spotted her weeping as we put on our coats to head home. I walked home not knowing what to think. We now know that this was the day television news came of age. I became part of a shocked nation glued to the TV anticipating new developments in Dallas. I was among the millions who saw Jack Ruby step from the crowd and shoot Oswald in the stomach. Such powerful memories from childhood.

Although I have few memories of our most glamorous President ever, I was raised on the popular retelling of our fallen leader's speeches. Who can forget the Inaugural address when he famously challenged Americans to: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." If only public service were held in such high esteem today.

Kennedy's vigor and optimism inspired the youth pastor who guided our very large church youth group. We sang songs that expressed our commitment to love our brothers and sisters and help to bring greater justice to our society. But, by the time I got to college that optimism Kennedy uniquely inspired was fading. One of my favorite musical groups while in college was Chicago. The chorus of their hit song, "Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is," contains the persistent cynicism that took over my generation. "Does anyone really know what time it is/does anyone really care? If so, I can't imagine why/we all have time enough to die." Thinking back, I wonder how a twenty- year- old could write such a thing. But, by that time JFK's brother Bobby was also assassinated and the other great leader of the era, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, was shot down as he stood on a hotel balcony later than same fateful year of 1968. Soon college students were protesting the draft for the Vietnam War that never seemed to end although General Westmoreland kept predicting light at the end of the tunnel.

History has diminished Kennedy's reputation as President. His legislative record was spotty. What I hope this trip down memory lane does is awaken a sense of optimism and hope. The challenges we face today are not near as dire to those Kennedy faced. We have the wherewithal. What is missing is the courage and bipartisan spirit to address those challenges.

Have a great Thanksgiving,

James Brassard





Worship Notes

November 17: I get grouchy when I have to put on a coat. So, when the weather changes I think of the Apostle Paul's letter to his coworker Timothy telling him to "Come Before Winter." We will examine the lessons of a faith formed during the winter months.

November 24: On this last Sunday before Thanksgiving we will be blessed with the music of the Youth Orchestra. The Communion table will be dressed with the Horn of Plenty. The sermon will focus on the famous conversation between Jesus and the two condemned men on his left and right. The title is "Which Way to the New Frontier," with some references to the tragic events in Dallas 50 years ago.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

The Interfaith Council of Suburban Maryland will sponsor a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:30 pm at Temple Solel at 2901 Mitchellville Rd.

The theme for this year's service, which takes place on Thanksgiving Eve and the first night of Hannukah, is "Dedication through Education." The guest speaker is Dr. Kevin Maxwell, CEO of the Prince George's County School system.

Come at 6:30 pm to sing in the interfaith choir.

An offering of monies and staple goods will be taken for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry.



DEACON'S CORNER

This is the 34th in a series of articles about living well by considering the host of things we can change in our lives, our homes and our surroundings that can make our lives healthier, happier, and safer. Special thanks to Joy Bible, former Moderator of the Board of Deacons, for sharing her wisdom and expertise through the Deacon's Corner. We will be preparing a complete set of Deacon's Corner articles to share with CCPC.

After a recent experience with a hospital and that feeling of losing control of one's own health care, it became apparent to me that in this ever-changing and chaotic world of health care, we have to **be very pro-active** in our own health. Things are changing so rapidly in the medical community and the insurance community that you cannot let down your guard or make the assumption all will be taken care of, including areas ranging from payment of bills, taking medicine or receiving any treatment. The cost and rules are changing daily. What your insurance may have paid for yesterday may no longer be covered. Now more than ever, we MUST all be very diligent in every aspect of our health care.

There are some very important guidelines you can follow to help in this process. If you are one who has sadly lost your insurance coverage and have to now find new insurance, be aware not only of the cost of premiums but also the cost of deductibles, since most insurers have now raised the price of their deductibles substantially. You may be able to afford the premium but the deductible may be beyond you. A good resource for checking out plans that are available is the "Checkbook Guide to Health Insurance." Many are also getting letters from their doctors informing them that the office will no longer be taking a particular insurance. Please check with your doctor or any person you are seeking medical care from to be sure that they take your insurance.

You must question everything that is happening with every aspect of your health care. After I returned home from the hospital and pulled up my records from there, I discovered many things from the tests that were never told to me. Why? I don't know. But, that information could be very vital for future problems or treatments. Question every medicine given to you. You need to know the why, objective and possible result of taking the medication. Remember your health records are just that, yours. You have a right to all your tests, records and x-ray results.

Today, many hospitals have hired doctors who are called "hospitalists." They now control, co-ordinate and manage all treatment you will undergo while in the hospital. This is a job that used to be done by doctors with offices in the community. Today, doctors in the community may or may not even know that their patients are in the hospital. If you are hospitalized, it is imperative that you have a patient advocate with you at all times, especially if you are unable to make some decisions yourself. Your advocate (family member, spouse, or caregiver) can be there to ask the questions: Why this medicine? What are you looking for with this test? What did that test show? You cannot surrender your health to anyone without having a say in what is happening to you. If you routinely take medication, it is imperative that you have a list of your medications so that they can be continued while you are hospitalized. Hospitals can not administer medications brought in from outside the hospital.

One of the scariest things happening in hospitals is that patients are being "observed" in the hospital and not being admitted. Thus, Medicare will NOT pay for your hospital stay and you then become responsible for the bill. Make sure you ask if you have been admitted or your status is classified as observation.

Navigating the ever changing and convoluted medical jungle today is confusing at best and troubling because you and your health are so very important. Holding on to control of your health is becoming more difficult daily. Today, you can **NEVER assume anything** when it comes to your own healthcare. "One of the greatest pieces of economic wisdom is to know what you do not know." (John Kenneth Galbraith). When it comes to your health, be wise, research and be the master of your health. You know what you know, find out what you don't know!



CCPC Welcomes New Members

Fall 2013

CCPC's newest members were recently introduced to the congregation. The information below will help you to welcome them and invite them to be part of our life and ministry.



Dodji Komlan and Kemi Osho
Elie and Eyrum

170 Greenmeadow Way, Apt. B
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
kemi.osho@aol.com
301-798-7816

Dodji is a native of Togo (West Africa) where he attended Presbyterian school through the twelfth grade. He was a student teacher in a Presbyterian elementary school before moving to the United States. He has lived in Maryland since 1999 and had been teaching in the area for 14 years. Currently, he is a French teacher at Broune Academy in Alexandria, Virginia. He holds a Master's in Education from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. He met his wife Kemi at Trinity. They have two children: Elie, who is two and Eyrum, who is 11 months. He likes to read Francophone literature and play soccer in his spare time.

Kemi grew up in Maryland and attended Trinity University, where she met her husband Dodji (Komi). They have been blessed with two wonderful children, Elie and Eyrum. She graduated from Trinity with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a Master's in Business Administration. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, shopping, cooking, and spending time with her family.



Joseph Hancock.

200 Terrapin Grove, Apt. 307
Stevensville, MD 21666
410-703-4704 (home) 410-643-3536 (cell)

Joe grew up in Baltimore County, the youngest of eight children. His mother was a housewife and his father a part time minister who worked in the steel mills. He served in the Air Force for four years, three of them in England, where he met his wife. He has degrees from the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University and attended Syracuse University. He lives in Stevensville on the Eastern Shore. Upon his retirement as a hospital manager, he decided to become a substitute teacher in Queen Anne's county for elementary and middle school students, with a focus on special education. When his wife died, he decided to improve his cooking skills (so he didn't have to eat microwave dinners each night) and currently loves to cook. His daughter Beth lives in Bowie and his son Andrew (A.J.) in Athens, Georgia. He adores his granddaughters Lilly Ann (7) and Ally Jean (3) and wishes he could see them more often. He loves reading and traveling and is a fair history buff, especially the Civil War and War World II. He remembers wrapping bandages as a child after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He offers a thank you to Susan Mather for introducing him to CCPC, which he has found to be a warm and welcoming place.

**Brian Love**

1220 Mackell Lane
Bowie MD 20715
301-805-2864 (home)
301-980-1998 (cell)

Brian is reconnecting with CCPC, having been a member here previously. (His parents are Joe and Iris Love.) He lives in Bowie with his wife Sandy and their three children. With his children actively involved in sports and with his soccer coaching duties, he can usually be found at games or practice during his spare time. He is a long time employee of Capital Cadillac and is interested in the CCPC softball team.

**Russ and Elizabeth Owen
Thatcher and Olivia**

9431 Old Jones Lane
Dunkirk, MD 20754
445-964-4063
casadelowen@yahoo.com

Russ was born in Missouri, but his father was in the Army and he grew up all over the place. However, he considers Leavenworth, Kansas home because it was where he graduated from high school and where his parents retired. He attended Northwestern University. He met his lovely wife, Elizabeth, in Heidelberg, Germany while our parents were assigned there. They've been married 23 years and have two wonderful children, Thatcher and Olivia. Russ is an Air Force officer presently assigned to Joint Base Andrews. They live in Dunkirk, Maryland. In his spare time, he volunteers with his son's Boy Scout troop and helps out where he can with their children's activities.

Elizabeth was born in Las Vegas, but growing up home was where the Army sent them. After saying she would never marry anyone in the military, Elizabeth met Russ and now home is where the Air Force sends them. She particularly enjoyed living in Arizona and Europe, but reached her capacity for learning languages. Previously, she worked in health care public relations and marketing but currently is commander-in-chief of their house and stay-at-home mom of Thatcher and Olivia. She enjoys reading, cooking, and volunteering in her kids' activities; and exploring the area of each new duty station, even Civil War battlefields with Russ.

Thatcher is a senior at Northern High School and interested in going to Duke University on an ROTC scholarship next year to study engineering. He is involved in the Boy Scouts, Naval Junior ROTC, and cross country. His biggest hobby is road cycling and he enjoys racing with the Annapolis Bicycle Racing Team. He also plays trumpet for his school's jazz band.

Olivia was born in Tucson, Arizona and has moved four times since. She is currently attending Northern Middle School in Owings, Maryland, where she is in all honors classes and a member of the robotics team. She enjoys writing, horseback riding, reading and spending time with friends. In the future, she wants to be a large animal vet.



Merry Christmas, CCPC Family!

Children's Ministry has a wonderful variety of traditional family activities this year and we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ together.

- ❄ **Christmas Pageant** — our pageant this year is called "Letters from Santa," and every child who wishes to be part of it is welcome to join in! Rehearsals will be every week between now and December 8, during the Sunday School hour. Most parts do not involve memorization which will make this a fun, meaningful, and stress-free experience for the children. Please let me know if your child would like to participate! We will have an important rehearsal during the Hanging of the Greens on December 1, and the pageant itself will be during the service on December 15.
- ❄ **Visit from Santa** — Santa Claus will pay us a special visit on December 15, after the pageant, in the Atrium. Each child will receive a little gift and have the opportunity to talk to Santa and get a photo. Santa's visit is a beloved CCPC tradition I look forward to every year!
- ❄ **Music Sunday** — December 22, and children will stay in the service with their families this week. It will be kid-friendly and give the kids a chance to be part of the amazing Christmas music experience at CCPC!
- ❄ **The Christmas Eve Service** — December 24 at 6 PM will feature our traditional birthday cake for Jesus and Bob Schrott's cake-centered Children's Message (always a favorite with the kids!). Following the Children's Message, children will be dismissed to Dodds Hall for cake and a craft. If you would prefer for your child to stay with your family, they are welcome to get a piece of cake after the service. We wouldn't let them miss out!

Wishing all of you a wonderful and meaningful Christmas season!



Fall Clean Up!

It's that time of year again!

Will you help us in this effort?

We could really use as many people as
are able to join us on

**Saturday, November 23 from 9 AM to
Noon.**

Bring rakes, blowers, and tarps.



Under Our Skin

Under Our Skin is an award
winning documentary about Lyme disease.
The video is available for church members to borrow.
It will be kept in the church library.

For information regarding the CCPC library, please
contact Deborah Hoppe at djmhoppe@comcast.net,
301-805-1337 or Priscilla Bouic at
pbouic@juno.com, 301-262-4906.



Beauty and the Beast

The Bowie High School Musical Theatre presents
Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Amanda Rogel will be playing the oboe/English
horn in the orchestra pit and Gera Ebot and Lexie
Evankovich will be performing in the shows. So,
come on out to the Bowie Center for the Perform-
ing Arts on November 10 and 17 at 2:30 pm and
November 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for seniors,
students, and children under 18 years of age.

For more information, please visit their website at www.bowiecenter.org or
call 301-805-6880.



Adult Education

The Biblical Apocrypha (from the Greek word meaning "hidden") denotes the collection of ancient books found, in some editions of the Bible, in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments or as an appendix after the New Testament.

Gary Cox will lead a two-session class on this subject to begin November 17 at 11:15 in the Adult Ed Conference Room.

Bowie Family Caregiver for Seniors Program

The Family Restoration and Healing Center is sponsoring a multi-topic program to help families navigate the journey of caregiving and help the aging remain in the community as long as feasible.

Cost is free, but seating is limited, so RSVP now at www.360wholeness.org or 240-667-1849.

The program is offered four times in Bowie:

11/16/2013 and 1/18/2014 from 10 am to 2 pm at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Parish Hall; 3/7/2014 from 6 to 10 pm at Calvary Baptist Church; and 5/2/2014 from 6 to 10 pm at PG's Community Federal Credit Union.





Typhoon Haiyan

Super Typhoon Haiyan left monumental devastation when it struck the central Philippines on November 8. The storm, known as Yolanda in the Philippines, has been identified as one of the worst storms in recorded history.

Reports indicate severe destruction, with damaged roads and buildings, downed power lines and telecommunications, and flooded villages. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced. The areas hit cover in already-poverty-stricken communities, which have suffered from successive and simultaneous emergencies.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working in collaboration with our mission partner, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), and other members of ACT Alliance to respond to this crisis. Initial response includes the provision of nonfood items, material resources, drinking water, emergency-shelter kits and cash-for-work-programs.

Will your congregation stand in the GAP (Give/Act/Pray) to help survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan?

GIVE. Share your financial blessings by designating gifts to DR000012-Philippines. Give through your Presbyterian congregation online at www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/make-a-gift/DR000012/ or by mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. You can also text PDA to 20222 to donate \$10 for disaster response.

ACT. Sign up to receive PDA RIN (Rapid Information Network) emails to stay aware of current responses and urgent needs that you can share with your congregation. Visit PDA on Facebook.

PRAY. Please pray that through the response of the faith community, the people and communities affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan and those offering assistance will be strengthened, have their needs met, and be reminded of the hope and compassion that are found in Christ. Join the PC(USA) in prayer at <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2013/11/11/call-prayer-philippines/>

Thank you for your support!

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.

*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 Ann@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

