



The Caller

December 1, 2013

When Andrea and I got married almost 20 years ago (Feb 5, 1994), my brother Paul, who served as best man, offered a simple but powerful toast to “Second Chances.” Do you ever wish you could have a second chance?

A second chance to say something different, to have not said anything at all? A second chance to repair a relationship? A do over so you could have taken advantage of some opportunity? A second chance to chase a dream you deferred or follow through on a responsibility you avoided? If you’re anything like me, you can easily think of several things for which you wouldn’t mind a second chance.

This past Sunday, we read Luke’s depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus. I noticed just how many second chances there are here. The obvious one is that in Luke’s gospel alone Jesus forgives those who crucify him — all of those who crucify him. I take Luke to mean both the active participants and the passive bystanders. And then there’s “The Good Thief” who names his own sins and then asks to be remembered by Jesus. Remarkably, Jesus says to him, “Even today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Jesus gave a lot of people a second chance. We remember that Peter denied Jesus and yet Jesus gave him another chance to lead his church. This is one of the key themes of Jesus’ death and resurrection: not simply that we have a second and *final* chance, but rather that we always have available to us another opportunity for life, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. The gospel is about second chances.

Most of us will be gathering with friends and family for Thanksgiving. It has become a popular practice, even in non-Christian homes, to spend a few mo-

ments before diving into the turkey and fixings to go around the table and share those things and people in life in which we are most thankful for. Maybe you can do something different this year. Invite people to call to mind one of those things for which they long to have a second chance. A do over. Give them a chance to name the missed or bungled opportunity that they are going to try to correct and offer a prayer of encouragement for the second chance and new life Jesus offers us.

We ask for second chances every week as part of our prayers of confession. Each week during the silent confession we are invited to take stock of our hurt and the hurt we have caused, and to accept Jesus’ offer of healing. It is part of my duty and delight to declare that by royal fiat and divine command, Christ the King has granted to us a second chance. Christ sends us out after worship with the freedom to repair those relationships that need repaired, amend our speech or actions, and to live without the burden of regret we have carried for too long.

This thanksgiving season, let us all give thanks for the grace and courage to receive God’s gift of grace, then go out and proclaim it by how we live and serve.

Together in faithfully using second chances,

James Brassard



December Sunday Calendar



Worship Notes

December 1st: The first Sunday of Advent: Communion served at 10 am (No 8:30 am service this week). The text is Matthew 24:36-44. It seems odd to begin the season of preparation for the arrival of the Christ in Bethlehem by hearing the predictions of his second coming. The Biblical authors expected Christ to come again in their lifetime, something that didn't happen. How does one prepare for something that might not happen? Sermon title is "Waiting for the Closer."

December 8th: The second Sunday in Advent: Text Matthew 3:1-12. John the Baptist liked to shake things up. His message was simple and timeless. If you want a new life you must first "Clean Up Your Act."



Sunday, December 1, 2013

Christmas Families Early Gift Drop Off in Library Begins!

- 9:15 AM Choir Practice -- Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship with Communion -- Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
- 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
- 11:00 AM Hanging of the Greens -- Whole Church
- 1:30 PM Prayer/Study Group -- Parlor
- 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room
- 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, December 8, 2013

Christmas Families Early Gift Drop Off in Library

- 8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
- 11:00 AM PWOC Christmas Pot Luck -- Dodds Hall
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Class: Biblical Apocrypha
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class -- Pastor's Office
- 6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor
- 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room
- 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, December 15, 2013

- 8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship with Children's Ministry Pageant and a visit from Santa

12 Noon to 3:00 PM Christmas Families Food Sorting -- Dodds Hall

- 1:30 PM Prayer Study -- Parlor
- 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM Christmas Families Food and Gift Matching -- Dodds Hall**
- 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room
- 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, December 22, 2013

- 8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Music Sunday Worship with Youth Orchestra
- 3:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #1009 Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony -- Dodds Hall
- 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room
- 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, December 29, 2013

- 9:15 AM Celebration Choir Practice -- 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
- 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room
- 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Ricci Rogel Studio Music Recital

Join us on Saturday, December 7th at 3 pm in the Sanctuary to listen to beautiful music and support our CCPC Youth musicians, Alaina Clemence and Rebecca Ilko.

There will be a small reception after the recital. All are welcome!



Christmas Joy Offering

Good News of Great Joy!

**Celebrating on Sunday, December 22
during worship services**

As we celebrate the good news of great joy and open our hearts to God's love in Jesus, may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love.

The Christmas Joy Offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy Offering!



Poinsettia Honor and Memory Tree

Each year, we have a lovely poinsettia tree in the Sanctuary with poinsettias given by the congregation in honor or in memory of family and friends.

The tree will be up on Sunday, December 22 and the list of contributors will be in the Christmas Eve program. This year, the tree will stay up until December 29 and after the tree comes down, you can take your poinsettia home with you!

The cost is \$12.50 for a 7 inch poinsettia. Order forms will be available December 1st. You may place your order in the box in the Atrium or in the Flower Committee mailbox in the office.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

There will be two worship services on Christmas eve
6:00 pm and 8:30 pm

Dramatic Reading — *What Child Is This?*

Homily — *Beyond Coziness*

Scriptures:

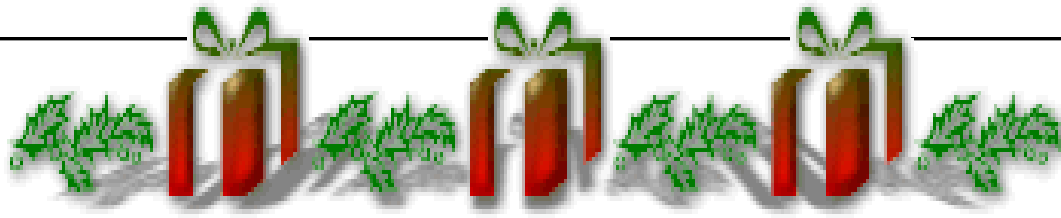
Matthew 1:18—25 The Birth of Jesus

Matthew 2:1—6 The Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2:7—12 Home by Another Way

6 PM — Program for children after the children's message

8:30 PM — Candlelight Communion



Christmas Gift Market

It was a wonderful time at our *Ninth Annual Christmas Gift Market* on November 3rd. Our homemade soup brought warmth and fellowship to the event with our famous Andrea's Pea Soup, Grandma Sue's Potato Soup, and Margaret's Pizza Soup.

The donations for our honorary gifts totaled ...
HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS ... over \$19,000!

We had fellow nurses contributing to training midwives and nursing schools (could have bought a school by now) — A Mom buying Heifer's *"Knitter & Gift Basket"* for her family, and one special lady donated \$5,000 for Honduras Project & Workers and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Kudos goes to many, many volunteers who help make this day of giving so very special. So many helping hands make all the tasks easier, but add tremendous JOY to our event.

This will be my last year heading up *Our Christmas Gift Market*. It's time to pass the baton. If you feel the Lord calling you to add new excitement to this Christmas event please let me know. After nine years, I have everything down pat — All you need to do is send out emails and call people — they ALWAYS say yes (honest!), and add your NEW ideas.

Blessings, Peggy Oates



Following worship on December 1st, the Parish Life committee will host the Hanging of the Greens.

We invite folks to gather informally in small groups and decorate a tree.

A soup and corn bread luncheon will be provided for workers.

During this time the Sunday school children will hold rehearsal for the December 15th children's pageant.



Ladies Christmas Luncheon

All ladies of the church are invited to a simple, catered lunch in Dodds Hall after the 10 am church service on December 8th. Cost is \$2.00.

This is a great time to take a break from holiday tasks and enjoy each other's company. Invite a friend to join in the fellowship.

Christmas Families

Christmas Families is our annual community outreach where we receive referrals from the Prince George's County Public Schools and the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry of children in need of a little help at Christmas time. We "adopt" the children (ages infant through grade 12) and provide them with an outfit of clothing (top and pair of pants) and a toy or fun gift. We also provide a replenishment of school supplies for the elementary school age children, and groceries to provide a traditional Christmas dinner and some extras to carry the family through about one week.

Christmas Families sign up is in Dodds Hall beginning at 9:00 am and continuing after the 10 am service. There are about 60 children still needing to be adopted. Sign up sheets for other volunteer opportunities are also available.

The schedule and important dates to remember are:

Date	Time	Event
Nov 10		Child Adoptions Signups Begin
Dec 1 – 12		Early Gift Drop Off in Library (ID # and Name on All Gifts Please)
Dec 11	9 pm to 10 pm	Setup Dodds Hall for Gift Sorting and Wrapping
Dec 12	9 am to 5 pm	Sort and Check Gifts
	By 6 pm	Gifts Due – Final Deadline for Gift Drop Off
	6 pm to 9 pm	Sort and Check Gifts continued
Dec 13	9 am to 3 pm	Gift Wrapping (Bring your own scissors, tape, and pen)
	2 pm	Pickup Non-perishable Food Order at Aldi's
	4 pm to 10 pm	Gift Wrapping continued (Bring your own scissors, tape, and pen)
Dec 14	9 am to 5 pm	Gift Wrapping continued (Bring your own scissors, tape, and pen)
	7 pm to 9 pm	Reset Dodds Hall for Food Sorting (Time is approximate)
Dec 15	Noon to 3 pm	Food Sorting
	3 pm to 6 pm	Food and Gift Matching
Dec 16	7 am to 8 am	Pickup Perishable Food Order at Aldi's
	9 am to 1 pm	Family Pickup/Delivery
	6 pm to 9 pm	Family Pickup/Delivery

If you're interested in helping, but still not sure how you fit in, please see me on Sunday or give me a call at 240-731-0683 or email at roglojo@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support of Christmas Families 2013!

Roxanne Johnson, Christmas Families Coordinator





Merry Christmas, CCPC Family!

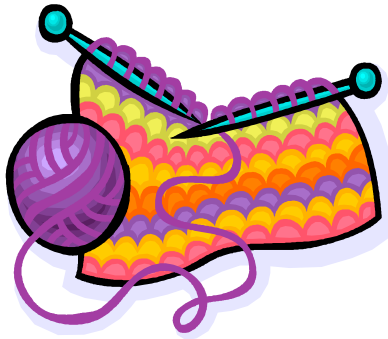
Children's Ministry has a wonderful variety of traditional family activities this year and we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ together.

- ❄ **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 8th, 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 1st, and the pageant itself will be during the service on December 15th.
- ❄ **Visit from Santa** — Santa Claus will pay us a special visit on December 15th, 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 22nd, 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 24th 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!



Knits with Sticks



Knits with Sticks will be meeting on Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 pm to package the scarves for the Christmas Families. Anyone knitting scarves needs to deliver them to the box in the church office by Tuesday, December 10. We currently have about 60 scarves and 60 boxes. Any box donations are welcome. Last year, we packed 123 scarves or hats.

Many thanks to all who help with this project.

For more information, please contact
Priscilla Bouic at 301-262-4906

Thank You!

Dear CCPC Family,

Thank you all for your loving support, gifts,
food, and other assistance.

We pray that God will touch your lives and
bless you all as you have
blessed our family.

Amen,

Queen and Christian Onwuteaka
(and the twins!)

Covenant Circle

The Covenant Circle is a group of seniors that
have a strong network of caring relationships.
They enjoy time together, sharing and growing,
and welcoming new members.

The circle meets the second Monday of each
month at 10 AM in the Parlor.

But, December has a change:

The December 9th meeting will be held at Sylvia
Dunlap's home at 2417 Kelford Lane in Bowie.
Her phone number is 301-262-6126.

All are welcome to join this circle!

If you are interested, please contact
Sarah Hyde at 301-262-6819.

Adult Education Class

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 the class on this subject on Sunday, December 8th at
11:15 am in the Adult Ed Conference Room.



The next Caller will be sent out around December 13th. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, December 10th.
Any questions, please call the office.

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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.

