January 19, 2014

Tis the season to make predictions about what is going to happen in 2014. Before we allow prognosticators to tell us what they see in their crystal ball, we need to review their picks from 2013 and assess the hits and misses. It is humbling, even humorous, to see how poorly even well-respected experts did. Sportscasters just assumed the Washington Nationals would win the World Series led by MVP Bryce Harper and Cy Young Award winner Steven Strasberg. Not! Expectations for the Redskins were not guite as high, but most expected ten wins instead of the RG III and 13 reality that got Mike Shanahan fired. In the financial markets, the prognosticators were preaching gloom and doom. Another recession was coming! Beware of the return of hyper inflation caused by the Feds unprecedented money printing! Gold was going to hit \$2000 an ounce! Instead the market rewarded investors with 30% gains and housing continued to recover. Even the government shutdown couldn't stop the economy from picking up steam.

Accurate predictions are difficult to make, especially in the short run. I have always believed in some adages, like: "The trend is your friend." It works until it doesn't, usually because others have gotten on the bandwagon and the trend becomes unsustainable. A related adage is that short term trends tend to revert to the long term mean. In other words, several years of over or under performance are usually corrected for in the coming years. It is almost impossible to time when the reversal will come, but you can be pretty sure it will come. So never trust anyone who says we are entering a new paradigm where the old rules no longer apply.

For my sanity, I have never put too much stock in predictions. I am cynical enough to know that prognosticators often have a financial or professional stake in what they are predicting. What person who wants to remain employed predicts the imminent downfall of their company or organization?

The "Post" had a good article on Natwar M Gandhi, the man credited with bringing fiscal sanity and competence to the DC government. Gandhi is a serious student of sacred Indian

The Caller

texts. Classic Hindu thinking teaches the value of disconnecting yourself from expectations and with comparing yourself with others. Gandhi said one of his favorites is: "Your duty is to work, not expect things." He has a history of doing just that — putting good fiscal practices into place and staying the course. Gandhi is one of those relentless grinders who stay on the right course without deviating for 20 years or more. Amen to all the persistent plodders out there who enable the rest of us to sleep easier at night.

The Bible says it is our duty to be faithful, even when it appears we are not being successful. Working long and hard at your calling without seeing apparent success is not easy. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a speech the night before he was assassinated and he acknowledged the emotional and spiritual pain that was caused by the resistance he was facing. He said he still believed the goals of equality and freedom would eventually be reached, but he doubted they would come during his lifetime. In the meantime King said, "I just want to do God's will."

I believe that the key to a faithful life starts with an unwavering commitment to following a clear moral and spiritual compass. It is far more important that one's life is headed in the right direction than how far we have progressed towards the destination. Our incessant need to keep score to see if we are winning or losing is seldom helpful. Regardless of the standard of measurement we choose, each of us will inevitably be ahead of many others on the same journey and lag behind others. While the opinion others have of us can affect our moods, we must always remain the main arbiter of whether we are effectively putting our talents to good purposes.

My only prediction is that God will remain good in 2014. Although many people will reject God and follow the wrong courses in life, I know that those that receive Christ and believe in Him will receive the power to become the blessed children of God (John 1:12). So, stay focused. Remain faithful. Small changes that are followed faithfully can produce dramatic progress. Take care of yourself spiritually, physically, and intellectually.

Grace and peace in the coming year.

Faithfully yours, James Brassard

Sunday Calendar

Sunday, January 19, 2014

Warm Nights Begins 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 India Carnival -- Atrium 1:30 PM Prayer/Study -- Parlor 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room 7:30 PM Sr. High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, January 26, 2014

Warm Nights Ends 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 Confirmation Class – The Pastor's Office 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room 7:30 PM Sr. High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room



Worship Notes

<u>January 19th:</u> Many people have an overly idealistic view of the church, especially the early church, believing that the early Christians all got along and never had disputes. In the text for this Sunday from I Corinthians 1:4-9, the Apostle Paul gives thanks for a church that is incredibly dysfunctional, because for him the focus is on the faithfulness of God rather than the merits of the church. Join us as we commission Andrew and Jessica for their trip to India.

<u>January 26th:</u> The prophet Jonah has always been an interesting study. Many of us never get past the whole issue with a whale swallowing the guy (a whale in the Mediterranean Sea nonetheless!). However the book of Jonah is a great book about missions; it asks questions such as who should go, and who in fact is WORTHY of the message of God? Join us as we discuss these concepts and as we look forward to welcoming our team back from Honduras.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Interfaith Celebration

CCPC will be hosting the City of Bowie's Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Celebration on

Monday, January 20th at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The theme for this year's service is *The Struggle for Justice in Our Time*.

The service will include the reading of sacred texts from the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions. The New Testament text will be James 2:1-7, 12-13, which talks about mercy triumphing over judgment.

The keynote speaker will be State Attorney Angela Alsobrooks.

Please join us for this event.

Thank Mou!

After almost a month stay in the hospital and rehab, I am now home. I do want to thank all of my church family for the most considerate acts of kindness during that time – the visits of many of you, the gifts, the phone calls, the beautiful flowers, and most of all just for your caring and prayers.

My sincere thanks to all, Jane Sumner

Thank You from Knits with Sticks

Many thanks to all the knitters and crocheters who helped with the 2013 Christmas Families Scarf Project from the CCPC Knits with Sticks group.

We had 102 parents to provide for, and happily we had enough to meet that number. We provided mostly scarves, but also some hats, so each parent had a present to unwrap. We have had a few anonymous "silent knitters" who worked on the sidelines and contributed to our 2013 goal, and we are most grateful for your help.

Our group will pick up our regular meeting time, the third Monday in the month. So, the next meeting will be January 20th at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor. We will discuss our plans for the year and look over what we have in our yarn stash of donated yarn. Anyone who is free during the day and who would like to join us is most welcome. If you want to come to learn to knit or crochet that is fine. We will be glad to work with you.

Blessings, Priscilla Bouic

Reflections on Christmas Families 2013

Let me start by thanking everyone for your faithful support of the Christmas Families Program. This program is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when we work together toward a common goal. We collectively provided gifts to 239 children in 80 families and provided 798 bags of groceries.

In a continuing effort to constantly improve the program and its processes, we made some significant changes in the way we accomplish this task, including:

- Initiating a Christmas Families in July offering to help cover the costs of groceries (you donated almost \$4,000!)
- Broadening the outreach for school supplies contributions to the entire congregation and several targeted groups (choirs, book clubs, etc.). Because of your generosity we were able to provide school supply replenishment packets to over 100 children in 2013 AND we have enough supplies left over to cover more than half of what we'll need in 2014!
- Limiting the number of referrals from the Prince George's County Public Schools to one family per Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) (50 families)
- Increasing the number of referrals received from the Bowie Food Pantry from 25 to 30 families
- Moving the sign up table from the Atrium to Dodds Hall (this allowed us plenty of space to make the sign up process easier and more organized)
- Streamlining the family data collection process (this reduced the amount of "bad data" dramatically)
- Modified and expanded the grocery list for each family to provide a well-balanced offering of food and household items (like toilet paper and toothpaste)
- Expanding on the "work team" theme to divide work responsibilities. There are MANY moving parts to this program that provide numerous opportunities for everyone to be involved as little or as much as you desire and your time permits.

While I enjoy the many challenges of organizing such a massive program, one of my favorite parts of Christmas Families is working with the families who are referred. I have the opportunity to talk with someone in every family and get to meet many of them when they come to the church on pick up day to receive their gifts and groceries. I get to hear some of their stories. I have learned so many things about life and people from this program. This year it was very clear to me that these families are more like us than they are different from us. They are parents trying to do the best they can for their families with the resources that are available to them. They are mothers and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers and aunts and uncles and family friends and guardians who are doing the best they know how with the cards life has dealt them. They are always grateful, sometimes frustrated, oftentimes humble, and occasionally difficult. I found myself feeling all those emotions too as I worked through the many facets and challenges of Christmas Families, and I think that gave me a better understanding and appreciation of what it must feel like to be on the receiving end of this program.

Earlier in 2013, I made a personal decision that 2013 would be my last year as coordinator of this program, even going so far as to report that decision to the Mission Council and Reverend James. While I have been blessed in countless ways by organizing Christmas Families for the past six years, I have been feeling the need to devote more time to my own family members. However, as I got deeper and deeper in to the planning process for 2013, I realized that I was not quite ready to walk away from this rewarding calling. Therefore, I am exercising my woman's prerogative to change my mind. I will be happy to continue to serve as Christmas Families coordinator – if you will have me. But (isn't there always a but?) simply put, we need more help. Basically, we need help with every aspect of the program – from managing the database of family information, to sorting and wrapping gifts, to picking up the grocery order at Aldi and sorting the groceries by family, to helping out on pick up day. I invite you to listen closely for that gentle nudge from God to find your role in this worthwhile program. Feel free to contact me to discuss how you can be more involved and/or to share ideas on how to make the program better and more efficient.

I ask for your continued prayers for this valuable outreach to the community and for all the hands that play a part in it.

Thanks for listening, and thanks so, so much for all your assistance and generosity.

Roxanne Johnson Christmas Families Coordinator



Offering Statements

The 2013 end of year giving statements are available for pickup. Please help us save on mailing costs by picking up your envelope on Sunday's in the Atrium or throughout the week in the church office.

For anyone that cannot get in to pick up their statement, they will be mailed on February 10th. If you would like your statement mailed before then please call the church office at 301-262-6008.

CCPC's Annual Congregational Meeting

CCPC's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10 a.m. worship service on

February 2nd in the Sanctuary

We will review 2013, prepare for 2014, adopt the Terms of Call for the Pastor, elect at-large members for this year's Nominating Committee, and open the floor for any items raised by attending members.

Questions regarding this meeting should be directed to Jim Woods, Clerk of Session at 410-672-8944 or jpwoodsIII@verizon.net.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS December 2013

- Gary Cox will preach on January 19th and 26th while Rev. Brassard accompanies the Living Waters for the World church group to Honduras.
- The local Martin Luther King, Jr. worship service will be held at CCPC at 11:00 a.m. on January 20th. State's Attorney for Prince George's County, Angela Alsobrooks, will be the featured speaker.
- Session adopted a CCPC budget for 2014 of \$501,000.
- CCPC member Chuck Tanner was elected by the National Capital Presbytery (NCP) at its November 12, 2013 meeting to be an Elder Commissioner to the 2014 General Assembly to be held in Detroit, MI. Chuck has served as CCPC's Elder Commissioner to the NCP for many years.

What Is Per Capita?

Per capita are funds gathered from all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It allows us to connect and participate in the work of the wider church. Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ. Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.

By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to sustain our governance system. The PC (USA), as with other faith traditions and denominations, is but a small part of the one church of Jesus Christ. We affirm that God's call is for the church to be one.

Each member is asked to pay \$36 from National Capital Presbytery for 2014. If you would like to make a contribution toward Per Capita this year, please indicate it on your offering.

Births

Welcome *Bailey Lynn Gurr*, born on November 24, 2013. Congratulations to Bailey's father David Gurr. Congratulations to proud grandmother, Jil Carroll.

Welcome *Leta Kathleen Hostetter*.born on December 7, 2013. Congratulations to her parents Jillian de Seve Hostetter and Michael Hostetter. Congratulations to her proud grandmother, Lynn de Seve.

Welcome Kian Joseph Sopo. born on December 19, 2013.

Kian was born at 1:30 a.m. and weighed in at 7 lbs., 5 oz. Congratulations to his first time parents Erin (Youngdahl) and Craig Sopo. Congratulations to hisproud grandparents Sharon and Jon Youngdahl.

Welcome Emilio Fernandez Luengo, born on December 30, 2013.

Congratulations to his parents Paulina and Emilio Fernandez Luengo. And, Congratulations to his proud grandparents Becky and Mark Pfarrer, and Uncle, Daniel Pfarrer, and Great Grandmother, Janyce Watt.

Welcome Margaret Faith Rice, born on January 10, 2014.

Congratulations to her parents Carrie and James Rice. Congratulations to her proud grandparents Bob and Rose Marie Rice, and Uncle Kevin and Aunt Karin.

<u>College</u> Bound

Rebecca Jonas will be attending Penn State. Thatcher Owen will be attending Duke University Congratulations Rebecca and Thatcher!

Deaths

Jane Mellow's mother, Florence Mae Mellow, died on December 24, 2013.

Family and friends celebrated her life on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 11 a.m. at Falls View Presbyterian Church.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane and her family.

<u>Engagements and Marriages</u>

Margaret Levitan shares the good news of the wedding of her son, Mark and his new bride Olga Flores who were married on December 20, 2013.

Congratulations Mark and Olga!

Lynn de Seve shares the good news of her son, Christian, who is engaged to Dina Alega and will be married on August 15, 2014.

Congratulations Christian and Dina!

Barry and Linda Miller happily announce the engagement of Rhia Miller to David Brown, who proposed in December while vacationing in Cancun. The date is set for October 4, 2014 in Emerald Isle, NC.

Congratulations Rhia and David!



Warm Nights

We still need volunteers for Wednesday, January 22 overnight hosts!

During our Warm Nights program, we will provide a warm place to stay from 7 PM until about 6 AM for 30-35 homeless people and we'll provide them with three meals a day. When the shelter clients arrive, they are greeted with a hot hearty dinner. In the morning they get breakfast and we hand them a bagged lunch as they walk out the door. This is not possible without a lot of help and hard work from our CCPC family.

Thank you to the volunteers who signed up to set up the cots and tables on Sunday morning, and to the volunteers who signed up to make the breakfasts, lunches, and dinners each day. Thank you to the overnight hosts for staying at church and being available to answer any questions from the Shelter Director.

Even if you can't participate in any of the Warm Nights duties, we encourage you to stop by the church during our Warms Nights week. You will have an opportunity to meet the shelter clients, hear their stories, and see how our giving and caring are impacting their lives.

Warm Nights Coordinators:

Irene and Ray Remley (Irene: irene.cencich@yahoo.com, 970-682 -8378; Ray: airremley@yahoo.com, 970-682-8379) and

Barry and Audrey Bahler (babahler@verizon.net, 301-352-0786)

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Women's Retreat -— "Prayer Fitness'

This year's retreat is lead by Roxanne Johnson & Mary Brock

We are here to provide a unique environment where everyone, and we mean everyone, can be comfortable in a diverse, JUDGEMENT FREE ZONE, where a lasting, active lifestyle of prayer can be built. PRAYER is a tool, a means to better connect with God, a tool that can be used by anyone. In the end it's all about YOU and GOD. As we evolve and educate ourselves, we will seek to grow and strengthen our prayer lives in an energetic and creative environment, where everyone feels accepted and respected. We need you and your prayer because, face it, our planet wouldn't be the same without you. YOU BELONG.

Dates: Location: Registration: Friday afternoon - February 28, 2014 to Sunday afternoon - March 2, 2014 Rhodes Grove Conference Center in Chambersburg, PA (same as last year) **Need to register by Jan 26th**, you may pay half the fee at the time of registration, with the remaining payment due by February 16. **PAY IN FULL BY JAN 26th and receive a \$15 DISCOUNT!**

Register on line at http://ccpcpw.wikispaces.com

or

Look for the registration forms in the Atrium

Fees: Single person - \$256 / Double person \$219 / Triple-person \$189 / Quad-person \$177

Contact: Peggy Oates - peggyoates@hotmail.com, 301-262-6959

And ... Women's Retreat Call for Pictures

We need your help! We are in the process of collecting digital pictures – of vacations, scenes from nature, with or without people in them – from church members and friends to



use as background photos for the presentation at the 2014 Women's Retreat.

Your photos will be used similarly to the way you see pictures displayed on Sunday mornings for the music that is projected on the big screen in the Sanctuary.

Please email your photos to Carrie Casto at <u>carrie.casto28@gmail.com</u>.

Questions: Contact Roxanne Johnson at 240-731-0683 or roglojo@gmail.com.

CCPC Theatre Trip

Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre

presents



Come join us on Thursday, July 24th for a charter bus trip to Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre in Strasburg, PA to see the new Biblical production *Moses*. Moses comes to life in this all-new adventurous production. Travel with him on his quest, witness his personal transformation, and see the course of history change.

Don't miss this show – it will play one incredible season only!

After the show, you can relax and enjoy the fellowship of friends old & new while dining on a delicious smorgasbord lunch at the Bird-in-Hand Family Inn & Restaurant.

Cost: \$100 per person. (If fewer than 52 participants, the cost will be slightly higher.) This price includes transportation, cold drinks & snacks on the bus, reserved seats for the show, smorgasbord lunch, all taxes & tips including the driver.

A deposit of \$40 per person is due when you make your reservation and the balance of \$60 is due no later than June 15, 2014. All checks should be made payable to Marge Clark. Contact Marge at 410-451-0833 or at mhclark@verizon.net, as soon as possible to make your reservations. Checks may be left in her mail slot in the church office or mailed to her home: 1732 Tedbury St., Crofton, MD 21114.

Itinerary: 8:00 AM Depart CCPC (Bowie, MD)

10:15 AM Arrive Strasburg, PA at Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre
11:00 AM Showtime, "Moses"
1:45 PM Depart Strasburg, PA
2:00 PM Arrive Bird-in-Hand, PA at Bird –in-Hand Restaurant
2:15 PM Smorgasbord Lunch
4:00 PM Depart Bird-in-Hand, PA
6:00 PM Arrive CCPC (Bowie, MD)

Let's try to fill the bus. Invite your friends and family members to experience with us the humanity of Moses and the children of Israel as they struggle for faith, freedom, and belonging. This incredible adventure is when God breaks history and reveals who He is and that He has come to heal the brokenhearted and set the captives free.



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 will be offered three more times in Bowie: 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 5/2/2014 from 6 to 10 pm at PG's Community Federal Credit Union.

Healing Journey

For those who have friends who are newly widowed and want to direct people to the widow/widower support group, Healing Journey meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Crofton.

Call Rita at the Changing Focus office (410 -721-0992) for more information or visit their website at changingfocus.org.

If you have any questions regarding this article, contact Sharon McNamara at 301-262-7060 or smcnamara1942@verizon.net.

Belair Cooperative

Nursery School

Join us for our Open House on February 4th (3-year-olds) and February 5th (4 and 5-year-olds) at 9:30 am

We will be accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year at that time. BCNS is a cooperative program where families become actively involved in their child's education. We offer classes for 3-,4-, and 5-year-olds, and boast low monthly tuitions: \$110 for the 3's class (T/TH 9am - 12) and \$130 for the 4s and 4/5s classes (M/W/F 9am-12). We are now also offering a five-morning -a-week program for 4-and 5-year olds.

Our program offers an enjoyable age appropriate curriculum, as well as instruction in music, Spanish, and even yoga. For more information, visit www.belaircoop.org.



The next Caller will be sent out around February 1st. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, January 28th. Any questions, please call the office.



Sunday, January 19, 2014 Warm Nights Begins 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 India Carnival -- Atrium 1:30 PM Prayer/Study -- Parlor 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room 7:30 PM Sr. High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room Monday, January 20, 2014 Warm Nights 1:00 PM Knits with Sticks -- Parlor 7:30 PM Tiger Lilies -- Parlor Tuesday, January 21, 2014 Warm Nights 10:00 AM Health and Healing -- Parlor 6:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale -- Dodds Hall 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training -- Adult Ed Conference Room Wednesday. January 22, 2014 Warm Nights 8:00 AM Paper Tigers -- Dodds Hall Classroom 7:00 PM Celebration Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary Thursday, January 23, 2014 Warm Nights 10:00 AM Lady Tigers -- Parlor 7:00 PM Clinquant Rehearsal -- Choir Room Friday, January 24, 2014 Warm Nights Saturday, January 25, 2014 Warm Nights Sunday, January 26, 2014 Warm Nights Ends 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 Confirmation Class -- James' Office 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group -- Jr. High Room 7:30 PM Sr. High Youth Group -- Sr. High Room Monday, January 27, 2014 11:00 AM Monday Morning Lectionary -- Adult Ed Conf Rm 7:00 PM Grace and Glory Circle -- Members' Homes 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision -- Members' Home Tuesday, January 28, 2014 10:00 AM Health and Healing -- Parlor 6:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale -- Dodds Hall 7:00 PM Outreach & Parish Life Council -- Conference Room Wednesday, January 29, 2014 8:00 AM Paper Tigers -- Dodds Hall Classroom 6:00 PM Southern Comforters Quilters Guild -- Dodds Hall 7:00 PM Celebration Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary Thursday, January 30, 2014 7:00 PM Clinguant Rehearsal -- Choir Room 7:00 PM Mission Council Meeting -- Adult Ed Conference Room

Friday, January 31, 2014

No Events Scheduled

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive Bowie, MD 20715 Phone (301) 262-6008 Fax (301) 262-5177 Web: 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.



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

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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 <u>www.ImagineThePlace.com</u>, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail <u>Ann@ImagineThePlace.com</u>. Scholarships available.