



It is hard to believe that Christmas is just a week away. Without children in the house and no grandchildren to shop for and fuss over, I have had trouble getting my heart into Christmas. It doesn't help that I am overly familiar with the Advent texts. A couple of weeks on the prophets' warnings, two weeks on John the Baptist, then, two sermons on Mary. What have I not already said about John and Mary in 30 years? Although my heart isn't in it, my hands are.

If you haven't noticed, we keep people busy around here. It starts with the Christmas Market on the first Sunday in November. Instead of shopping for family and friends who have more than enough stuff, we walk around Dodds Hall and listen to the pitches from mission groups that are meeting the critical, sometimes dire, needs of people. You just want to give. After that, the Christmas Families program starts, and gives several more opportunities to get busy helping people in need. Roxanne Johnson noticed that some of this year's families were also on last year's list. This is no real surprise. America has a steadily increasing population of working poor. We were accustomed to the stories of job losses in the rust belt or in small towns, but even in the DC area with its abundance of government jobs, there are a growing number of working poor. The Washington Post is doing a five part series on the causes of inequality in our country. So many are trapped in poverty. Rising out of the lower income bracket is much more difficult than any time in the last 50 years. A few have so much; and so many are barely getting by.

Writer and pastor Lillian Daniels writes about the first time she went with a colleague to a maximum security prison to teach. Most of the students would be in prison for decades and some even for life. Her first thought was, "Why are they training for ministry when they will never leave the prison?" Then it hit her, these men were preparing for a ministry that happened right where they lived, right there in prison. Their lives were not frozen while they were in incarcerated; they were trying to figure out God's call on their lives right where they were. God had touched their hearts and they were rolling up their sleeves and getting to work.

The good news of Christ coming into the world is this: No matter how trapped you feel, your freedom in Christ is more powerful. No matter how futureless you feel, your future in God is limitless. And no matter how big the dead-end sign is at the end of the street, with Christ all things are possible. The watching and waiting and working is almost over. I guess I am ready now.

See you Christmas Eve!

James Brassard

## Remember . . .

**Santa will be here on Sunday, December 21st!**



As the 10 AM worship service concludes, the white bearded jolly man from the north will take up residence in Dodds Hall.

*Don't forget your cameras!*

And, there will be a holiday reception following the service too!

## *Worship Notes*

**December 21:** Fourth Sunday of Advent Special music starts at 9:45AM. Luke 1:46-55 reports Mary's song of praise. This is a protest song about what is wrong with the world and how the child she was carrying would make things right. The Sermon is, "An Advent Sort of Mind."

**Christmas Eve:** Two services—one at 6 PM and one at 8:30 PM. We will read the familiar Christmas Story out of Luke. The Homily is "All Roads Lead to Bethlehem."

**December 28:** One Service only with Rev. Hal Pease. Isaiah's image has cows and bears grazing together. Why?



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church and supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and college. Follow in the tradition of the wise men, and give this Advent season.

### **Quick Facts**

1. Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.
2. There are five schools and colleges eligible to receive funds from the Christmas Joy Offering.
3. The offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's

Presbyterians who contribute should know that no matter how big or small the donation, they are doing something good. It's more than an opportunity for education, it's an opportunity to expose a child to the Christian faith.

**You may contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering on either of the two Christmas Eve services:**

**6:00 PM Service:** Family Worship Service with special music from our children and youth 5:45 PM. Following the Children's Message, the children will go to Dodds Hall for a special Christmas lesson.

**8:30 PM Service:** a candlelight communion service.

**Wishing you and your family much Christmas Joy!**

## *Christmas Market Thank You*

Thank you very, very much to the congregation of CCPC for your generous donations to the 2014 Christmas Market. As James mentioned before, \$22,000 was raised for various mission projects here in Bowie and all around the world.

Thank you to those that helped set up, those who helped Debbie Sell in the kitchen, and Debbie Sell for her delicious soup that she prepared and as she manned the kitchen. A special thank you to those who helped at the various mission tables as well as the money counters for all their hard work.

Below is a list of the missions and an itemized list of what they received.

Thank you all so much, Kris Ross and Sharon McNamara

<b>2014 Christmas Market</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>FY 2014 Market</b>
Church World Service		\$ 920
Medical Benevolence Foundation		\$ 1,605
Habitat for Humanity		\$ 875
Heifer International		\$ 2,390
Bowie Volunteer Fire		\$ 331
Chikumbuso		\$ 700
African Team Ministries		\$ 276
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance		\$ 1,335
Christmas Families Project		\$ 2,671
Honduras Water Project		\$ 7,558
Honduras Mission Workers		\$ 30
Salt and Light Educational Program		\$ 75
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 285.39	\$ 399
CLAW		\$ 575
Lost Boys Rebuilding South Sudan		\$ 1,169
Community Crisis Services		\$ 100
Hospice of Chesapeake Fd		\$ 102
CCPC Warm Nights		\$ 196
CCPC Shelter		\$ 103
	<b>\$ 285.39</b>	<b>\$ 21,410</b>

# *Financial Peace University Classes*

## **Imagine Yourself Debt Free!**

Beginning at 10 AM on Saturday, January 24th, through Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, CCPC will offer classes from Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.

The 9-week program is a biblically-based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before.

Weekly classes are approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours in length and will be facilitated by Michelle Jones. Feel free to call her 301-809-1121 or e-mail her [fireangell@msn.com](mailto:fireangell@msn.com) with any questions.

### **Interested, but not sure?**

***Join Michelle for a Preview of the Program at CCPC  
on January 10th at 10:00 AM***

***or***

***on January 14th at 7:00 PM***

*Dave Ramsey's*  
**Financial**  
*Peace*  
**University**



# *Warm Nights*

## **CCPC will be participating in the Warm Nights Shelter Program from January 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.**

The program is a collaborative effort of numerous committed church congregations throughout Prince George's County that provide a rotating emergency shelter from mid-November through the end of March each year. It has been in operation since the early 1990s and CCPC was the first church in Bowie to participate in the program.

During our week, we will provide a warm place to stay from 7:00 PM until about 6:00 AM for 25 to 30 homeless people. We also will 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.

Successful participation in this program requires CCPC volunteers to perform a variety of duties. There are still many ways you can get involved. You can sign up to prepare a meal, serve as an overnight host, or help setup Dodds Hall on January 18<sup>th</sup> before the shelter clients arrive. The Mission Committee will purchase the food for the lunches, as they did last year. We ask that volunteers sign up to prepare the lunches. Sign-up sheets and instructions will be available in the atrium starting on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Even if you cannot participate in any of the Warm Nights duties, I encourage you to stop by the church during our Warm 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.

Paul Sell, Warm Nights Coordinator



# *Clare & Robert Moore*

## **Scholarship Fund**

A yearly \$1,000.00 scholarship to a student who is majoring in English and attending the Notre Dame of Maryland University. The scholarship is open to students at the Woman's College at Notre dame. Applicants must currently be English majors or be planning to major in English. For more information, please visit their website at <http://crmoorescholarship.org>.

Questions may be sent to the Scholarship Committee via email [apinfo@crmoorescholarship.org](mailto:apinfo@crmoorescholarship.org).

**Applications must be received  
no later than April 15, 2015**



## *Adult Education*

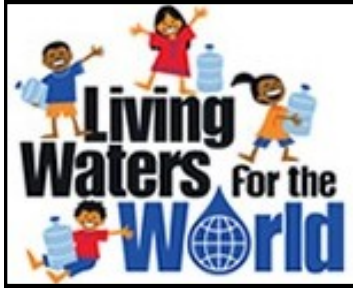
Join us after the 10 AM worship service on January 11th in Dodds Hall where Dr. Terry Yosie, CEO of the World Environment Center (WEC), will speak about his organization and its attempts to maintain a sustainable environment.

The WEC oversees a range of capacity building initiatives that advance sustainability, including: improving energy efficiency; reducing the use of water and other natural resources; enhancing environmental performance; health, and safety; reducing chemical risks; investing in social capital; and promoting global citizenship activities. Capacity building is the process of solving problems that impact the quality of life for current and future generations and protect the earth's ecological support system.



The WEC headquarters is in Washington, but it has offices in German, El Salvador, and China. Its outreach program extends into many countries in Asia,





## **HELP US PREPARE FOR THE HONDURAS**

# *Living Waters for the World*

## **TRIP**

The education members of the Honduras Living Waters for the World (LWW) team need your help!

On Saturday, January 3, 2015, at 9:00 AM, we will be gathering in the Adult Education Conference room to prepare materials for our classes in Honduras for adults and children. This year, we will be installing a water purification system in the village of Nueva Esperanza, which translates to "New Hope", and we hope the site is as appropriate as its name!

We will be assembling folders, preparing nametags, lettering sheets, and various other tasks to help prepare for the classes and VBS in Honduras. It's lots of fun, and we would appreciate your help, so put it on your calendar now.  
Thank you!

Questions, contact Marjorie Tanner at 301-464-2667 or  
[m.b.tanner@verizon.net](mailto:m.b.tanner@verizon.net)





*Imagine*

**Yoga & Wellness Center**

Invites you to join their **free**

*Winter Solstice Concert*

**Sunday, December 21 at 6:30pm**

Join friends and members of CCPC in the church sanctuary for holiday music, both festive and meditative, bringing Light to the darkest night of the year. Doors open at 6:00pm for Meditative Crystal Bowl Sounding.

For more information, visit [www.ImagineThePlace.com](http://www.ImagineThePlace.com), or call Ann Fleming at 301-233-1694





# 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](mailto:info@belaircoop.org)

[www.belaircoop.org](http://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](http://www.ImagineThePlace.com), call 443-510-6308, or e-mail [Ann@ImagineThePlace.com](mailto:Ann@ImagineThePlace.com). Scholarships available.

