



Our new Director of Christian Education, Justin Devine, will be driving across the country next week. He plans to leave California on January 19<sup>th</sup> and arrive around the 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope the long drive will help him get over his disappointment from his Oregon Ducks loss in the National Championship game. When Justin gets to Bowie, he will settle into his short term housing. He will start work on Monday January 26<sup>th</sup>. Right away Justin will start getting acquainted with the CCPC Way and our great people. He will have meetings with Session members and other volunteers. You are invited to stop by during the day to get acquainted. We will introduce Justin on Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> at both worship services and at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Justin's wife, Makeala, will be coming out once their California home is sold.

Welcome Justin!

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On Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, the Post ran a long story about Boston Rabbi Jonah Pesner becoming the new leader of the DC Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism. Pesner will replace Rabbi David Saperstein who headed the religious lobby group since the 1970's. The article detailed the changes in advocacy by religious groups that has taken place since the 1970's when most of the major dominations, including the Presbyterians, had advocacy groups in Washington. Back in the 1970's there were fewer religious groups and they had a larger presence. The Civil Rights movement had brought energy and unity to Jewish and Christian groups and they all wanted public policy to reflect the values of the Old and New Testament. Today, there are literally hundreds of faith groups in Washington, often advocating on only a single issue. Sadly, the issues are often not those that affect the most vulnerable citizens.

Interfaith groups are frustrated, as everyone is, by the extreme partisanship in Washington. When asked about what they think on almost any issue, people increasingly answer based on their partisan affiliation. If a Republican and a Democrat agree on a topic you are convinced one must be mistaken. Have they misplaced their talking points? But, in contrast to the partisan divide there is great unity among religiously minded American when it comes to caring for the poor and showing compassion for the stranger.

Thankfully the partisan bickering has not diminished Jesus' call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, and provide hospitality to the stranger. While programs like food stamps are facing dramatic cuts, Christians are digging deep to help fill some of the gap. If you travel abroad, you will be amazed at how many Christian groups are doing great work around the world. I am reminded of this when I commissioned our Living Waters for the World mission team as they head to Honduras this week to install another water filtration system.

A recent poll by the Public Religion Research Institute measured the religious response to President Obama's Executive action allowing five million undocumented immigrants to remain in the United States for three years without being subject to deportation. Although there is some of the usual difference of opinion based on race and denomination affiliation, an overwhelmingly 75 % of religiously engaged Americans support the changes.

Support among White Evangelical Protestants is 60% in favor and 36% in opposition. White Catholics poll 63% for and 34% against. White mainline Protestants run 66-32. All Catholics are 73-26 in favor. Minority protestants are 76-23 in favor and the religiously unaffiliated (the None's) are in favor by an 80-19. Increasingly, the partisan noise that is covered 24/7 by the news media does not reflect the values of Americans. Turning off the noise will improve your spiritual and emotional health.

Grace and peace,  
James Brassard

## *Worship Notes*

**January 18th:** The great prophet Samuel was called by God during a time when “The word of god was rare in those day; visions were not widespread.” (1 Samuel 3:1) The cause of the divine silence was the “blasphemy” of the priesthood and the corruption of the political leadership. What is blasphemy and how does it affect us spiritually?

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The community Martin Luther King Jr. worship service will be held on Monday, January 19th at St Matthews United Methodist Church at 11 AM. Chief of Police John Pesky will speak on “Community Policing and its Challenges in Bowie.”

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**January 25th:** When Jesus begins his public ministry, he boldly declares that “the kingdom of god has come near.” What does this mean? How does believing this cause us to live differently?



## **Are you interested in becoming a Member of CCPC?**

Rev. Brassard will be holding a membership seminar for those individuals who are interested in becoming members of the church. The gatherings will be held on March 1st, 8th, and 15th during the Education hour (9:30-10:15AM). We will meet in the Pastors study. On March 15<sup>th</sup> the Session will join us as we welcome you to the ministry of the church.

Please let Rev. Brassard know of your interest at [ccpcpastor@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcpastor@verizon.net) or by making a notation on the pew pads during worship.

The Chesapeake Chorale Presents

The  
*Fabulous*  
**'80s**  
Concert

**Saturday**  
**February 28, 2015**  
**8:00 PM**

**Christian Community Presbyterian Church**  
3120 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Too soon to get nostalgic about the '80s? Of course not! So *Jump, Sweet Child O' Mine*, into those shoulder pads and leg warmers, pouf up that hair, and enjoy the music of the '80s with the Chesapeake Chorale! *With Every Breath You Take* experience a *Total Eclipse of the Heart*.

What fun! It will all add up to *Endless Love*!

Past Chesapeake Chorale pop concerts have been great audience favorites, including last year's sold-out *Bacharach to Broadway*. This season will be just as much fun: a real nostalgia trip!



# CCPC's *Women's* RETREAT

*“Laughter, Love, & Gratitude ”*

Leaders: Peggy Oates & Trisha Jacob (Peggy's girlfriend)  
Contact: Peggy Oates - peggyoates@hotmail.com or 301-262-6959

**Friday, April 10, 2015 through Sunday, April 12, 2015**

**Location:** Rhodes Grove Conference Center, Chambersburg, PA

**Registration: Please register by March 15, 2015**

You may pay half the fee at the time of registration,  
with the remaining payment due by **March 29, 2015**

**\*\*\*\* PAY IN FULL BY MAR 15th and Get a \$15 DISCOUNT \*\*\*\***

Registration forms are in the atrium or right here in the Caller!

5 Meals - Friday dinner (6 pm) thru Sunday Breakfast  
4 Meals – Saturday Breakfast thru Sunday Breakfast

Single room – 5 meals/4 meals-\$258/\$241

Double room – 5 meals/4 meals-\$222/\$208

Triple room – 5 meals/4meals-\$192/\$182

Quad room – 5 meals/4 meals-\$177/\$167

Prices are Per Person

*Laugh* out loud



*Love* without measure



*Give Thanks* everyday





## **WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION**

**April 10 – 12, 1915**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person & Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPOSIT OF 1/2 DUE MAR 15th / BALANCE DUE MAR 29th**

**\*\*\*\*\* PAY IN FULL BY MAR 15 - \$10 DISCOUNT \*\*\*\*\***

**(5 meals Fri din – Sun Bkfst \*\*\* 4 meals Sat Bkfst – Sun Bkfst)**

**CIRCLE ONE:**

Single room - 5 meals/4 meals - \$258/\$241

Double room - 5 meals/4 meals - \$222/\$208

Triple room - 5 meals/4meals - \$192/\$182

Quad room - 5 meals/4 meals - \$177/\$167

Roommate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Other information we need to know - (ex. Food allergies):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you drive, if yes how many passengers ? \_\_\_\_\_

*There is scholarship money available to all - please let us know -  
We also accept donations to our scholarship fund.*

# Mission Connections

A Program of PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION • [pcusa.org/missionconnections](http://pcusa.org/missionconnections)

**Brian & Sandi Thompson-Royer | Mission Co-workers Serving in Guatemala**

## Walking Together

Today I did some Christmas shopping at UPAVIM (Unidas para Vivir Mejor—United for a Better Life—a Guatemalan nonprofit women’s organization). Before I shopped, I heard the story of a community of displaced people who are survivors of the civil war and had the courage to begin to build a new community. They were not welcomed, had no access to water—only vacant land in an area where every day their lives were confronted with violence, filth, and unimaginable poverty. Today, 30 years later, it is still in an area wrought with violence and poverty, yet there is hope and programs that support the community. UPAVIM’s building hosts a medical clinic, bakery, day care, Montessori school, scholarships for students, jobs for women, and a large Fair Trade craft business that helps support all of these programs. The fourth floor of their building was funded by a Self Development of People grant, which comes out of the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing offering. We had children sing to us in both English and Spanish. Women shared their stories of how their lives are different because of UPAVIM. One woman had worked there for only a month but for eight years she had prayed for the job because the working conditions and benefits are so good. After the tour and hearing the stories, of course I wanted to shop! I bought a little Christmas tree, butterfly-shaped earrings, and heart garlands all made from recycled pop cans. Also, “angels of hope” ornaments sewn from traditional Guatemalan fabric. There is much more to this story and there have been many unimaginable struggles to get to where they are today, and the struggles continue. These



Sandy & Brian Thompson-Royer

are women with vision and hope to continue to transform their community. I left lifted by their stories and knowing I had helped in a very small way to be part of this by listening and purchasing my gifts.



Annual Gathering of the Presbyterian Women  
Annual gathering of the Presbyterian Women

Feliz Navidad is upon us, and like many of you I enjoy giving gifts to my family and close friends. Over the years Brian and I have lessened our giving and consumerism, but we still enjoy giving in other ways. Fair Trade is a way to support artisans in developing countries who are working for a better life. Often we support an organization whose mission aligns with our values and make a donation in a family member’s name. Our gifts show our love to the person who will receive our gifts and in this different way of giving it also helps transform communities and the lives of those in them.

Brian and I have been invited to serve in Guatemala with the women because those before us have worked hard through their love and care to develop deep relationships and partnerships. We walk very slowly to get to know our partners. We are not here to look for the “needs” of the communities we work in. Instead, we focus on their assets, their own gifts, and engage and walk together in ways that we are asked. Our call to be here is more about being and learning than doing. As a result, we are all transformed.

Wherever we might live, this is a season where we take time to connect with our communities. We celebrate together, share our special traditional foods, hospitality, and our love for one another. It is our first Christmas in Guatemala and we will miss our family, especially our grandchildren. Already we have been invited to share with our new friends. By

being here during this time we will also deepen our community and friendships through sharing these special times together. As you consider your gifts to those you love and also your year-end giving, we hope you will consider financially supporting our mission in partnership with the women of the Sinódica (Presbyterian Women in Guatemala). The women are proud to be supporting nutrition classes in areas of the country where malnutrition is nearly 50 percent. “Four in 10 children (43.4 percent) under 5 are chronically malnourished (as measured by height relative to age), a condition that causes them to drop out of school, lowers their productivity, makes them susceptible to illness and even loss of intellectual quotient, which are irreversible effects that last a lifetime. Chronic malnutrition affects 8 in 10 (80 percent) indigenous children” (UNICEF). This next year the goal is to increase these workshops and collaborate with other groups to decrease the levels of malnutrition.



Just another travel day for the Sinodica



After the nutrition workshop for soy bread, pan de soya, I got a gift of a giant loaf with my name en espanol with dough, Bryllan. This is Angel, an elder in the church, with Jesus, a Catholic worker that the Presbyterians are doing the soy project with. — in Santo Domingo, Suchitepequez, Guatemala.

Brian has been spending time working and supporting growth in another community where the local government, nonprofits, schools and churches are partnering on a variety of levels to create healthier families, diminish malnutrition, and improve education in the schools. This November Suchitepeque and Sur Occidente presbyteries in Guatemala and Western North Carolina Presbytery in the U.S. celebrated together a 20-year partnership working together on these issues. In November we were also able to attend a micro-loan training with women. These efforts are another way to empower women and strengthen their capacity for earning.

We hope you will “make love your aim” (1 Corinthians 14.1, New Jerusalem Bible) as you give. We are grateful for your support and prayers. Also your emails and cards help us through our days. We now can receive mail here at Sexta Calle 15-48, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala 9001.

We send our thanks and blessings to each of you in this season of hope.

Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer

## Connect and Support to the Mission Work of Brian & Sandi Thompson-Royer

*Serving in Guatemala at the invitation of the  
National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala*

You are invited to continue supporting Brian & Sandi’s work through prayer and encouraged to get to know them through updates like this, personal letters and emails. If you are able, please support this ministry through financial gifts. Individual donations may be made online at [pcusa.org/give](http://pcusa.org/give), or mailed to the address below. Churches are asked to send donations through your congregation’s normal receiving site (this is usually your presbytery).

### **SUPPORT:**

**Presbyterian World Mission, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**

**On the memo line, please write:**

“Thompson-Royer - E200334” (individual giving)

“Thompson-Royer - D507581” (congregational giving)

For questions about supporting Brian & Sandi, please email: [mission.support@pcusa.org](mailto:mission.support@pcusa.org)

### **CONNECT:**

**Brian’s Email:** [brian.royer@pcusa.org](mailto:brian.royer@pcusa.org) / **Sandy’s Email:** [sandi.thompson-royer@pcusa.org](mailto:sandi.thompson-royer@pcusa.org)

***Thank you for reading about Brian & Sandi’s ministry***

**Read more online:** [pcusa.org/thompson-royer-brian-and-sandi](http://pcusa.org/thompson-royer-brian-and-sandi)



# *Friendly Reminders*

## **Financial Peace University**

January 24, 2015 through March 28, 2015  
10 AM to Noon in the Adult Ed Conference Room

**(PLEASE NOTE: Room Change)**

Contact: Michelle Jones at  
301-809-1121 or [fireangel@msn.com](mailto:fireangel@msn.com)

## **Warm Nights Shelter Program**

January 18, 2015 through January 21, 2015

Signup sheets and instructions  
are available in the Atrium

Can't volunteer? Stop by and meet our clients, hear their stories, and you  
will see how our caring and giving impacts their lives.

Contact: Paul Sell at [psell6@verizon.net](mailto:psell6@verizon.net)

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

February 1, 2015 at 11:15 AM in the Sanctuary

# Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive  
Bowie, MD 20715  
Phone (301) 262-6008  
Fax (301) 262-5177  
Web: <http://ccpc.bowiemd.org>  
E-mail: [ccpcbowie@verizon.net](mailto: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](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.

