

July 15, 2012



# The Caller

The newly formed Men's Reading Group just finished R. C. Sproul's book *Chosen by God*, which is a carefully argued defense of the classic reformed teachings of John Calvin, including pre-destination. These doctrines affirm that Jesus Christ is head of the Church and Lord of the conscience. Christians are to be known by their convictions (beliefs) as well as their actions. Jesus said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Presbyterians have always been persuaded that there is an inseparable connection between faith and practice, truth and duty.

When I was ordained, I promised to serve God and God's people guided by the Bible and by the historic expressions of faith found in the various confessions of faith such as the Apostles' Creed, the Westminster Confession (1648) and the Confession of 1967. These historic statements of beliefs came into being at moments in history when the church believed that the truth about God was at risk.

Although Presbyterians are called to adhere to historical beliefs, they acknowledge that humans, including church councils, can error. The error is often confounded by leaders who claim their interpretation of God's truth is divinely revealed to them. Presbyterians are suspicious of humans overstepping their authority and imposing their beliefs on others. There are several phrases related to freedom. One is "God alone is the Lord of the conscience."

Since there will always be issues that are not clearly expressed in scripture, there will be times when "men (and women) of good character and principles may differ." Since these differences of opinion are not always resolved, it is incumbent on all Christians to "exercise mutual forbearance towards each other."

Recently the *Washington Post* reported that Catholic Diocese of Arlington is now requiring all Sunday school teachers to pledge a loyalty oath which says they will submit "to all the teachings of church leaders (i.e. the all male clergy). Up until now all priests and nuns had to sign loyalty oaths but not lay volunteers. These oaths reflect a churchwide push in American Catholicism to enforce a strict adherence to all church teachings.

What Presbyterians would find alarming of these loyalty oaths is the demand that all teachers publically commit to believing everything the Bishops decide is "divinely revealed to them." The teachings they are trying to enforce orthodoxy upon are not core theological beliefs, nor do they have what the central Christian claims about Jesus or divine sovereignty. The church is demanding that their members and teachers profess obedience to church teachings on sexuality and family planning. Since the arrival of the contraception in the 1960's, the Catholic Church declared that no Catholic can use birth control in family planning. All sexual activity must be between married people and it must be open to the possibility that a child may be conceived. Most Americans (including almost all Catholics) have long ago decided that they want to plan when and how many children (if any) they want to raise. Where in the scriptures is the prohibition against contraceptive use found?

The Gates Foundation funded a Johns Hopkins University study that suggests that fulfilling the unmet contraception needs of women in the developing countries could reduce global maternal mortality by nearly a third. Extending the meager funding for family planning has the potential to protect the most vulnerable female populations in the world as well as control overpopulation and reduce childhood starvation.

I really doubt that this new effort to purge the Catholic church of people who are disagreeing with its teaching on contraception will work. The church is forcing members who disagree with the opposition to the use of contraception to either lie or leave. People will vote with their feet. Thoughtful dialogue about church teaching will be forced outside the church. The only thing that will be accomplished by the imposition of the loyalty oaths is that American Catholics will know the male clerical hierarchy is firmly in control. This ironically was the same type of intransigence that produced the Protestant reformation more than 500 years ago. The more things change the more they stay the same.

Grace and peace,

*James Brassard*

## *Worship Notes*



**July 22**—In 2 Samuel 7:1-14 King David, who has moved the nation's capital to Jerusalem, wants to build a temple to honor God. God tells David, through the prophet Nathan, that David will not build God a temple but that God will promise to establish a permanent, inseparable relationship to the people of Israel through his dynasty. Why does a God that has been moving with the nomadic people of Israel resist becoming domesticated? What does this say about congregations and sanctuaries and our religious institutions?

The Worship Team will lead congregational singing.

**July 29**—In Ephesians 3, Paul prays for God's people to be given an array of gifts, including the riches of God's glory, the ability to comprehend and to know the love of Jesus and to have the spirit of Christ overflow in our hearts. How do these promises made to Christians apply to the non-Christian and to people of other faiths? Are our expectations for God's blessings in our lives too small?



## *Memorial Service*

The Memorial Service for Robert Ross will be on Saturday, July 21st at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by a luncheon hosted by the Board of Deacons.

Expressions of condolence may be sent to his wife Peggy and their family at 13119 Forest Drive, Bowie, 20715.

## *Births*

Paul and Sandy Dorsey welcomed their granddaughter Addison Quinn Demers on July 3rd. She is the daughter of Troy and Katie Demers.

## *Memorial Garden Bricks* **Order Deadline**

The Memorial Garden Brick Dedication will be held at Noon on Sunday, September 16th. The deadline for brick orders is Friday, July 27th.

Bricks are \$50.00 each.

For more information, please contact Robin in the church office.

## *July Cluster Meetings*

**July 22—Brunch at Nancy's home with food provided by the Deacons after church service:**

- Cluster 1 with Deacon Nancy Honeyford
- Cluster 6 with Deacon Peggy Oates
- Cluster 7 with Deacon Melodie Dziduch

**July 29—Pot Luck after church in Dodds Hall:**

- Cluster 8 with Deacon Beth Janeczek
- Cluster 13 with Deacon John Butler
- Cluster 14 with Deacon Shirley Cooke
- Cluster 15 with Deacon Miriam Salisbury

**August Cluster information will be posted soon**

### **CCPC Ladies Weekend Getaway**

**Attention Ladies!**

From Friday through Sunday on October 5th through the 7th we will be going to Dunes Manor in Ocean City, Maryland for a *Ladies Getaway* for friends & family for a relaxing weekend by the sea.

**Call 1-800-523-2888 by Sept 5th  
for reservations**

Check in time is 3 PM. Afternoon tea will be served from 3 to 4 PM.

**COST:**

- \$120.45 (includes tax) per night - double
- \$126.00 (includes tax) per night - triple
- \$131.50 (includes tax) per night – quad

Two double beds per room with a small fridge & microwave. All rooms are ocean front with balcony. Heated indoor pool. Sing-a-longs Friday and Saturday evening in the lobby.

- ♦ We will have breakfast together Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the Victorian Dining room - individual ordering off menu
- ♦ Sunday worship 8 a.m.

Any questions, call Peggy Oates at 301-262-6959 or email [peggyoates@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyoates@hotmail.com).

# DEACON'S CORNER

This is the eighteenth 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.

The most important and crucial aspect of our health is the ability to LISTEN to our own bodies. The body is the most beautiful, complex creation ever. "God saw everything that He made, and indeed it was very good." (Gen.1:31) What is so sad is the fact that we tend not to care for or care about the most precious gift of all, our own bodies. We tend to ignore or neglect this precious vessel until we get a pain or an ache or we are hurt in some way. We need to be more in tune with our bodies to help prevent or slow down any problems that might arise. Like listening to an instrument that is out of tune, we too can tell when our body is out of tune. Honoring your own body and taking care of it is honoring the gift that God has given you.

Our lives become so busy and complex that we listen to the noise of the world around us but often do NOT take time to listen to our own body. How often have you heard someone say, "I had no idea what was going on in my body." Be aware of your body rhythms. ANY change in the body should be looked into. We worry so much about our loved one's health and more often or not are quick to seek medical attention for our child or spouse or friend, but neglect ourselves. Caregivers are very vulnerable to this neglect. Over and over we hear stories of caregivers who end up very ill after they have devoted all their time and energy caring for a loved one.

There are many things you can do to promote your own good health. Of course the most obvious of these are eating healthy foods, exercising, remaining positive, staying active and involved. But beyond that is taking time to listen to yourself. Do not ignore even the slightest persistent pain or ache. Have a physical at least once a year. Review your list of medications periodically with your doctor. Follow the protocol for mammograms, pap smears, PSAs, blood work, bone density, eye sight, hearing, and other preventative screenings.

Today's technology is awesome. Daily we are finding answers and cures for diseases. BUT if you do not take the time to check out what your body is telling you, this science is for nothing. Medical science is not psychic, nor is it exact. When you go to the doctor, you must describe in detail what is going on. Doctors can only base their findings on your DETAILED description of what is happening in your body. Every detail you share will help the doctor make a more accurate diagnosis. If you are not satisfied with the findings, get a second opinion or be persistent in researching every avenue.

Self-diagnosis can be dangerous and costly. So often in this day we think the Internet will have the answer. Self-medicating can also be dangerous because it may mask the real symptoms or make them worse. Ignoring the symptoms is the **worst**. When you keep telling yourself it will go away, or fear of what it might be holds you back from seeing a doctor, you may be decreasing your chances of a good medical outcome. Many people wait too long until they are forced to see a doctor and then discover if they had tackled the problem early on they would have been in a better place.

Critical to your good health is your doctor. When you choose a doctor, take time to plan and make the decision with care. The best time to choose a doctor is when you don't need one. Don't wait until you or a loved one is faced with an illness or emergency to begin looking for a doctor. Many people often seek advice from family, friends, or coworkers about the right choice for a doctor. These are good places to start, but ultimately there must be a relationship with your doctor that you can value, a bond of trust, openness, and compassion. Choosing a doctor is one of the most important decisions you will make.

*HONOR* this incredible gift that God has given you, *LISTEN* carefully to what your body is telling you and *CARE* for yourself. You are a gift of God!



## **Saturday Morning Men's Book Group**

The Saturday morning men's book group has just completed its first selection, "Chosen by God," by R.C. Sproul. The book is a defense and explanation of the historic five points of Calvinism and is the source or inspiration for Pastor James' recent challenge to the confirmand to define "double predestination". In the spirit of open-mindedness (some more than others James), the group has elected to read, "Why I Am Not a Calvinist," by Jerry Walls and Joseph Dongell.

Currently, there are six men in the group and we meet bi-monthly at Panera's at 7:30 A.M. The group has "elected" to focus on books of a spiritual nature and to complete some type of service project at the conclusion of each.

Any men interested in joining us for the next book are invited to contact the pastor to let him know. We will have the first meeting on August 25th. We all enjoy the reading and fellowship and you do not by any means have to be a scholar to participate.

## ***CCPC's Golden Weekend!***

September 7-9, 2012 our congregation will celebrate with a Golden Weekend! Our Golden Anniversary Team has a weekend of fellowship and worship planned, and we hope you and your family will join us. At this point our planned weekend events are:

### **Friday, September 7th**

Evening Ice Cream Social & Youth Group Reunions (Dodds Hall)  
Rainbow Room & Folk Group Reunions (Old Bowie Towne Grille)

### **Saturday, September 8th**

Brunch Honoring Ministers – Past & Present (off site)  
Golden Anniversary Dinner (Ticketed Event in Dodds Hall)

### **Friday, September 7th**

Golden Worship Celebration



# CCPC Annual Crab Feast



## Save the Date

for the Annual CCPC Crab Feast

**Date: Sunday, August 26, 2012**

**Time: 1-4pm**

**Place: Whitemarsh Park  
(large pavilion) Bowie Md.**



All-you-can-eat steamed crabs (or you can request a crab cake instead), chicken, corn, and watermelon. Bring your own drinks.

\$25 for adults; \$10 for children under 12 (free under 6) or anyone not eating the crabs!

Tickets will go on sale starting on Sunday, August 5 after church, then every Sunday until August 26.

For an alternative way to get tickets, have any questions or to volunteer to help?

Contact Barbara Engh at [bengh1@verizon.net](mailto:bengh1@verizon.net)

## *Christmas Families* **School Supplies**

No, it's not that time of year yet, but it is the season for great savings on school supplies!

Stores are having great back to school sales, so now is a great time to buy supplies for the 2012 Christmas Families program.

The following supplies are needed:

1. Three-ring binders
2. Wide rule note paper
3. #2 lead pencils

Supplies can be dropped off in the church office.

**Thank you for your support!**



# Summer Fun for the Youth Group

## Sunday, July 22

Pool party at the Brassards at 5 p.m.

## Sunday, July 29

Annapolis Mall Scavenger hunt from 5 to 7 p.m. Please let Kristen know if you can chaperone and drive.

## Sunday, August 12

Heavenly Cookbook Potluck after church service in Dodds Hall  
Water games party during Youth Group

## Heavenly Creations

### ***Cookbook Potluck!***

As a summer fellowship and fundraising opportunity for CCPC's Youth Ministry, the 50th Anniversary committee and Youth Ministry have decided to hold a potluck that features only items from the Youth's recently debuted *Heavenly Creations Cookbook*!

Bring one of your favorite dishes from the cookbook and enjoy dishes you haven't had the chance to make yet. So, put on your chef hat and join us!



**When: August 12th after church**

**Where: Dodds Hall**

**Who: Everyone!**

The youth will sell cookbooks during the event to raise funds for future retreats and conferences. The cookbooks are \$12 each.

It's going to be a delicious event!

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# Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive  
Bowie, MD 20715  
Phone (301) 262-6008  
Fax (301) 262-5177  
Web: [ccpc.bowiemd.org](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.*



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## ***Bowie Interfaith Pantry***

We are open for distribution and service 9 AM-11 AM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

We are closed on holidays.

Located at: Christian Community Presbyterian Church  
(in the Education Building at the rear of the parking lot)

3120 Belair Drive — Bowie MD 20715

Visit our website: [www.bowiefoodpantry.org](http://www.bowiefoodpantry.org)

E-mail us: [BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com](mailto:BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com) Phone: 301-262-6765

***Thank you for your continued support!***

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