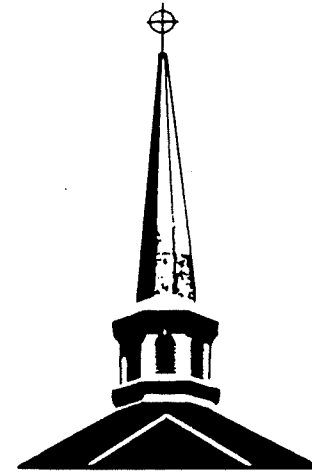


Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

January

1998

Kerry On . . .

Fred Buechner once wrote,

God acts in history, and in your and my brief histories, not as the puppeteer who sets the scenes and works the strings, but as the great director, who no matter what roles we are given, conveys to us somehow from the wings how we can play those roles in a way to enrich and ennoble and hallow the whole vast drama of things, including our own small but crucial parts in it.

Often we don't get to choose our roles; some we like and some we don't. Sometimes we play the roles perfectly, not even knowing we had it in us. Other times we bumble, mix up our lines, get stage fright and generally make fools of ourselves. We have a kindly director and he is always giving us a second chance. It's always a gigantic production with a cast of thousands. We never quite know how the drama is going to turn out, but the director knows where the story is going.

Sometimes we change roles and take on parts we never dreamed we would have. That's part of the excitement of the New Year. Some of us will take parts that we would not have chosen for ourselves. It may be very difficult and even painful but we can have absolute confidence in the director. Others will play parts so filled with joy that our hearts will nearly burst. All of us will have our everyday roles that demand patience and persistence, but they are grace-filled too.

Let's begin the New Year listening carefully to the Director's promptings from the wings and let's play our roles with all our hearts. Remember the One who went before us and showed us how the drama is meant to be. He invites us to be part of it and empowers us to do our best.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Diane Hutchins, *director of Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM



In Our Family



JANUARY calendar

1 New Year's Day — office closed
 2 6:00 PM Unkle/Swisher wedding rehearsal
 3 5:00 PM Unkle/Swisher wedding

4 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM WORSHIP
 5 7:00 AM The Monday Connection
 6 1:00 PM The Lord's Table
 7 9:30 AM Bible study
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 8 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

9
 10 8:30 AM-3 PM Deacons Retreat

11 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM WORSHIP
 Ordination/Installation of officers
 Noon Fellowship
 12 8:00 PM Committee meetings
 13 9:30 AM Christian Living Group
 14 9:30 AM Bible study
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 15 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

16
 17

18 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM WORSHIP
 Noon Fellowship
 3:00 PM Manor Care
 18 6:00 PM Annual
 ★ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
 19 8:00 PM Session meeting
 20
 21 9:30 AM Bible study
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 22 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

23
 24

25 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM WORSHIP
 Noon Fellowship
 26 7:30 PM Deacons meeting
 27
 28 9:30 AM Bible study
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 29 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

30
 31

REACH INTO THE FUTURE!

Reach into 1998! Reach into years far beyond 1998!

Remember your church in your will.

We keep in our prayers . . .

Wally Rowan, recuperating at home;
 Renee Jochum's parents, recovering from surgery.

Congratulations and God's blessing on . . .

Marilyn Welsh and Scott Hotes, married December 27, at PPC;
 Janet Unkle and Rob Swisher, married January 3, at PPC.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of . . .

Kimberly Ann Dean, daughter of Gray and Tommy Dean, and granddaughter of Margie and Bob Bedingfield, December 14.

We give thanks for the lives of . . .

Debbie Leary's father, Frederick Foulds, who died December 11;
 Joy Schwan Best, who died December 16;
 Millie Gimer's aunt and uncle, who died in an automobile accident.

We commend them to the loving care of our Lord.

For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Our prayers are with Debbie and her family; and with Bob, and Glenna, and Joy's family; and with Millie and her family.

NEW MEMBERS *continued*

Stephanie Srour

**11920 Riding Loop Terrace, Gaithersburg 20878
 301-294-2654**

Stephanie has lived most of her life in the Potomac area, where her family still resides. She and her husband David, an emergency physician at Shady Grove Hospital, have a daughter, Allison, who is three years old. Stephanie taught in the Montgomery County School system for three years. She is an active member of a local masters swimming team which she enjoys very much. You will see her often with one of our PPC members, Leslie Wyatt—her sister.

Deacon: Marnel Williams

WELCOME

t o o u r n e w m e m b e r s

The following persons joined the congregation of Potomac Presbyterian Church November 2, 1997.

Pat and David Bell

**11800 Glen Road, Potomac 20854
301-299-9368**

Pat and Dave have lived at the same address in Potomac since 1957. Dave retired in 1992 from the home-building business he and his brother, F. Meade Bell, operated—building homes, mostly in Montgomery County. A native Washingtonian, he attended The Citadel, joined the service, served during the “Bulge” and after being discharged, resumed his studies at The American University. He married “the girl next door” and they are celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary! Pat attended Chevy Chase Junior College and the University of Maryland. The Bells have four children and seven grandchildren which Pat considers her “blessings.” Pat’s interests include “The Little Farms Garden Club” in Potomac, bridge, golf, genealogy, and “The Colonial Dames.”

Deacon: Kent Arnold

Ted Guo

**10618 Tanager Lane, Potomac 20854
301-279-7916**

Ted is a physicist and has his own business, Potomac Research, Inc. His daughter Irene is with the Peace Corps and daughter Mira, 11 years old, entertained us all with her wonderful piano concerto at the Williamsburg Breakfast.

Deacon: Renee Jochum

Nammy and Hyun Lee

**11408 Palatine Drive, Potomac 20854
301-299-3620**

A CPA, Nammy graduated from the University of Maryland and does some consulting work during tax season. Most of her time is spent with her children, Andrew, 5, and Amanda, 3. She joins them taking ice-skating lessons (“just to keep up with the children,” she says!) She enjoys aerobics, golf, and playing the piano. Hyun spent his undergraduate years at the University of Maryland (where he met Nammy) and went on to dental school. He has been in private practice for 10 years and comes from a family of medicine—his father and younger brother are both physicians and his elder brother is a dentist! When at home, he enjoys tinkering with audio/video equipment, but says that his greatest joy is spending time with his wife and children.

Deacon: Jan Cookerly

D I A N E — O — G R A M

READY OR NOT, THEY'RE GROWING UP !!

One aspect of being a parent is being a teacher for our child. We teach our child to walk and to dress himself or herself. We delight in first words and first smiles, and rejoice when bicycles finally stay upright with the precious cargo on board. But when our child begins to ask questions about sex, some of us break into a cold sweat and pray to disappear! That just isn't in the instruction book where we found the answers about when to introduce solid foods and how to treat fevers

“There is something powerful about the need to know. When children ask questions, they have the need to know the answers. If children are old enough to think up the question, they are old enough to have it answered. That is when learning best takes place. Always take advantage of teachable moments.”

That's the preface to the Parent's Guide for *God's Plan for Growing Up*, the new Presbyterian sexuality curriculum for elementary children. In 1990, the General Assembly directed the church to develop some resources to help parents prepare their children to see sexuality as a natural and healthy part of God's plan for their lives, and to help parents gain confidence about their role as primary sex educators and role models for their children. The material was introduced at the educators meeting in Chicago in 1996, and is now available.

There is also a resource book for children in grades 2-3, *Wonderfully Made*, and another book for children in grades 4-5, *Amazing Stuff*. I invite you to stop by my office and take a look at these resources. I have them to lend to you for as long as you need them, or I can order copies for your family to own. Perhaps you would like to borrow an audiotape called “Listening In,” which is an introductory conversation between the two authors about their experience in developing the curriculum and in taking advantage of those teachable moments in their own families. I thought it was very helpful.

I know you don't want to think about this yet! But last month the Christian Living Group was discussing how we deal with Santa Claus, and we moved on to how we have any serious conversation with our children, and before we knew it, we were talking about sexuality. You never know where a good conversation will lead. Did you notice

“Children grow up very fast in our culture. It will be too late for you to have the principle influence on this aspect [sexuality] of their lives, if you wait until you are ready.”

(Continued on page 5)



As usual, I am writing this article on the STP deadline date. It just so happens that this has also been pageant Sunday. Am I excited about writing something creative at the end of this busy day? No, not excited; but yes, exhilarated. What a morning of active Christian participation, cooperation, patience and sincere expression in worship! The band played. The choirs sang. The animals, angels, shepherds, star and kings appeared. Mary and Joseph calmly handled Baby Jesus' first public crying spell. Sounds of violin and flute accompanied the angelic choirs announcing, "Jesus is born, Prince of Peace."

I thank all of you who shared in the preparation and presentation of this memorable event. I especially want to recognize the choir members—young and old—who continue to come weekly to prepare for Sunday services and special events as well.

Regular rehearsal schedules resume as of January 4:

Children's Choir	January 4	9:00 AM	Handbell Choir	January 8	6:30 PM
Primary Choir	January 7	4:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir	January 8	8:00 PM

For clergy! For lay people! For children! For youth!

THE BIG EVENT

Annual conference sponsored by National Capital Presbytery

February 20-21, 1998

● BE EMPOWERED FOR MISSION!

Register now: Friday Night session at Fairlington Presbyterian Church

Guest speaker: civil rights activist The Rev. Dr. Timothy Njoya, famous for his tireless efforts toward democratic reform of a corrupt government in Kenya.

● BE EMPOWERED FOR MINISTRY!

Register now: a full day Saturday at National Presbyterian Church

Guest speaker: poet Ann Weems, whose poetry inspires, comforts, and challenges

Both Friday Night and Saturday registration fees include:
Meals • Worship • Lectures • Workshops! (over 50 available)

Special music by VA duo "Not by Chance"

See you there!



FOR YOUTH

A New Year's resolution . . .

Please help us show our teachers how much we appreciate their hard work!

**Sunday School
begins at 9:45
ENDS at 10:45**

The Sunday School hour is way too short. Our learning agenda for your children is packed. Every week teachers don't get finished with all the things they had hoped to do with their classes.

It would help if this time-problem was only a perception, but unfortunately, the "hour" has shrunk to about 45 minutes because no one is here at 9:45!

Please help us by bringing your children to church on time—and also picking them up on time. It really isn't fair to the teachers if you leave your young children after 10:45. Teachers need a

few minutes to pick up the classrooms and get their own families gathered up before worship begins.

Let's resolve to give our teachers our support and appreciation in the New Year.

Learning to Worship

Class for 3rd and 4th graders

January 11 and 18

For two more Sundays in January—the 11th and 18th—we will offer a Learning to Worship class for 3rd and 4th graders at the time when younger children go to Enrichment during the worship hour.

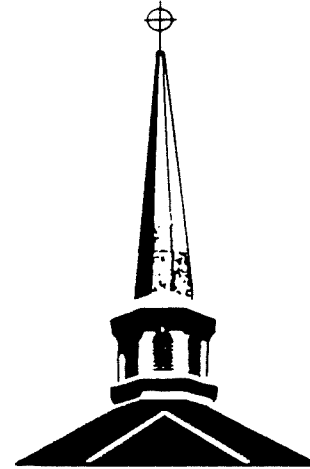
Diane Hutchins will continue helping this group understand the order of worship as it is printed in our bulletin each week and to identify the different elements of our worship service.

(Diane, continued from page 3)

that the first of these books is directed at 2nd graders? If you are going to be ready to discuss sexuality with your children when they bring up the subject, you'd do it more skillfully if you had already read this Parent's Guide. And you will like the pictures and explanations in these children's books a whole lot better than what they may find on their own. Children grow up very fast in our culture. It will be too late for you to have the principle influence on this aspect of their lives, if you wait until you are ready.

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

February

1998

Kerry On . . .

As most of you know, I love to read and I try to read widely and not confine myself to so called "religious books." Gene Peterson reminds me why this is a good practice. He talks about "spiritual reading," which refers not to the content of what is read but the way in which a book is read. It means reading any book in a spiritual way – listening to the Spirit, alert to intimations of God. It is a way of reading that shapes the heart at the same time that it informs the intellect.

I offer a few suggestions for your spiritual reading:

Pete Hamill, *Snow in August* – The story of a young Catholic boy, his friendship with a rabbi, and baseball.

Mitch Albom, *Tuesday's With Morrie* – A young sports writer and his old professor, Morrie, who has Lou Gehrig's disease, meet and talk each Tuesday about life's greatest questions.

Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain* – A National Book Award winner about a soldier returning home at the end of the Civil War.

Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Wait Till Next Year* – Written by the Pulitzer prize-winning author about growing up in the suburbs of New York in the fifties. She weaves a tale of family, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Catholic church.

Thomas Troeger, *Borrowed Light: Hymn Texts, Prayers and Poems*. I met Dr. Troeger last winter at the Stetson Pastor's School and really appreciate his way of articulating profound spiritual truth in creative ways.

The first four books are readily available at the library and you are welcome to borrow my copy of *Borrowed Light*. I would of course be pleased to talk about these books when you read them. As you'll notice, two of the books have to do with baseball—and you thought I was only interested in golf.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Diane Hutchins, *director of Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM

JANUARY calendar

1	9:00 AM	Children's Choir	15	9:00 AM	Children's Choir
	9:45 AM	Sunday School		9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	WORSHIP		11:00 AM	WORSHIP/BLANKET SUNDAY
	Noon	Fellowship		Noon	Fellowship
2	7:00 AM	The Monday Connection		3:00 PM	Manor Care
3	1:00 PM	The Lord's Table	16	6:00 PM	Session
4	9:30 AM	Bible study	17		
	4:00 PM	Primary Choir	18	9:30 AM	Bible study
	7:30 PM	Bible study led by Tom Miles		4:00 PM	NO Primary Choir
5	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir		7:30 PM	Bible study led by Tom Miles
	8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir	19	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir
6				8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir
7			20		
			21		THE BIG EVENT Nat'l Pres. Church
8	9:00 AM	Children's Choir	22	9:00 AM	Children's Choir
	9:45 AM	Sunday School		9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	WORSHIP		11:00 AM	WORSHIP
	Noon	Fellowship		Noon	Fellowship
9	8:00 PM	Committee meetings	23	7:30 PM	Deacons meeting
10	9:30 AM	Christian Living Group	24		
11	9:30 AM	Bible study	25	9:30 AM	Bible study
	4:00 PM	NO Primary Choir		11:00 AM	ASH WEDNESDAY communion
	7:30 PM	Bible study led by Tom Miles		4:00 PM	Primary Choir
12	6:30 PM	NO Handbell Choir		6:30 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY communion
	8:00 PM	NO Sanctuary Choir		7:30 PM	Bible study led by Tom Miles
13			26	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir
14				8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir
			27		
			28		

New This Year!

ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION SERVICES

February 25
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin.



In Our Family

Congratulations to . . .

Kathy and Bob McMahon, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary December 27;

Dawn and Don Thompson, who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary January 19.

Best wishes to . . .

Tom Miles, who retired from HUD in December.

DEACON DOINGS

We've just begun the year with our Deacons' Retreat in early January, during which we welcomed our newest members: **Judy Bernstein, Miriam Conley, Bob Karch, and Kathie McShea**. Also, a *Deacons Doings* newsletter, winter 1998 edition, is going out by way of the deacons — we would like to hear from all of you about your thoughts on it, as well as your thoughts on how to better serve you, the congregation.

Our first collective effort as deacons will be a **DEACONS COFFEE**, Sunday, February 22, after the 11:00 service. We hope you all can attend.

Our next collective effort will be to host several **HOME COMMUNIONS** during March. You will be able to sign up in the narthex for a location and any of 4 different dates.

Meanwhile, please continue to let us know your concerns. If you have any ideas to share, please contact your deacon.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT, AND ARE INTERESTED IN, MEMBERSHIP AT POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, we are offering a three-part Inquirers' Series, Sunday, February 22 through Sunday, March 8.

The 9:45 a.m. classes, held in the church parlor, are taught by Pastor Stoltzfus. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session Sunday, March 15, at 9:45 a.m., and then be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please call Louise Plumb, 301-762-2769, with any questions.

● SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SEMINAR
9:45 a.m., in the library

Please join us for fellowship and growth each Sunday in the library from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. For further information, contact Kathy McPherson, 301-926-2792.

February

- 1 *The Pilgrim's Progress – part 4* Dewey Wallace
- 8 *Suffering and Hope – the Psalms* Louise Winfield
- 15 *Suffering and Hope – Ecclesiastes* Louise Winfield
- 22 *Suffering and Hope – Suffering servants of God* Louise Winfield

Gifts that keep on giving

Income from "gifts that keep on giving" serve to remind all of us that our memorial and general endowment funds can be excellent vehicles through which every church member and family can support some of our "extra ministry."

- Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ladonia, Texas, has its new baptistry as a result of the action of our Session in providing \$1,394 from last year's undesignated income of the general endowment fund, in accordance with previous action that a third of the income be allocated to mission.
- 50 Bibles, at a cost of \$250, have gone to the Mount Zion Church from the income of the Martin William Brill memorial fund.
- Income of \$250 from the Haack Teacher Officers Training memorial fund was used to hire The Rev. George Taylor for the deacon retreat to help us strengthen our ministry with families who are experiencing bereavement and grief.

D I A N E – O – G R A M

As I sat down to share what's on my mind with you this month I realized that there is not much there. I looked at the meetings I have on my calendar for February and I felt a huge cloud of despair wafting over me.

Tomorrow, we have to start over with the Presbytery budget—new structure means new categories and new committees that really don't know what they are going to need. The Massanetta trustees are meeting again next week—we ended

"I don't have the energy to hear one more person say 'No' to me."

up in the black for 1997, but just barely, and how will we be able to do that again?? Why did I ever say I would be on the nominating committee for Presbyterian Women—nobody wants to do anything on the Presbytery level any more??!!—And nobody wants to cook lunch for the Educator's meeting on the 12th, and nobody wants to lead an Enrichment group here at Potomac.—I'm empty and used up—I don't have the energy to hear one more person say "No" to me. And my son is moving out and I am going to be all alone again.

Now that I think about it, this is normal for me at this time of the year. This winter has been warm, but it has been dreary. I need to see the sun again—therefore, I am

on my way to San Antonio to spend a week with my sister and my newlyweds. I need some new ideas—therefore, I am on my way to Boston to spend some time with the Association of Presbyterian Educators—that's bound to put some new ideas in my head and some new books on my reading list. Hmmm, do you think this is why APCE always meets the first week in February?

Do you, too, need some renewing and rejuvenating in February?

Plan to spend the weekend of February 20-21 at Presbytery's Big Event, "Reaching, Receiving, Renewing!" Friday night's keynoter will be Dr. Timothy Njoya—that Presbyterian minister who was in the news last summer when he was beaten for protesting human rights abuses in Kenya. I know he will be a powerful voice from the mission field. Saturday's keynoter is my favorite poet, Ann Weems. Her poetry will be featured during the worship presentation, "Lent: A Challenge for the Unamazed." There are 65 workshops to choose from—including 2 for elementary children led by Bev Bailey's new group, "New Paths." Pick up a brochure in the narthex.

Wait a minute! Pete finally got brave enough to sign a lease! He's found a great apartment in Crystal City only minutes from his office! He is going to take all that old furniture that has been accumulating in my basement for years! I'm going to be alone again! Thanks for listening, I feel better already. Which Sunday did you want to lead that Enrichment group?



Do you ever come home from church and over lunch discuss the worship service? Of course you do! I am a minister's daughter, and as I grew up, we always relived what went right and what went wrong with every-

thing—except, of course, the sermon. We were particularly hard on the music. Why did the organist play so loudly during the prelude? Was she trying to get our attention? What did that anthem have to do with anything? It just seemed to fill the time after the announcements or give someone a chance to sing a long-awaited solo. And the hymns! They were the same standard dozen we sang all year. I loved all the tunes, but had no idea what the words meant or if they were supposed to relate to the scripture lesson or the sermon.

How ironic that 35 years later I should be explaining to you how I attempt to incorporate appropriate music in the worship service.

When I submit musical titles for a service, it is a result of considerable research based on Kerry's worship theme, scriptural references, the liturgical season, the choir's preparation, and the congregation's role as listener and participant in hymn singing. If I suggest a new hymn, I scrutinize it to see if it is singable, if the melody and text are compatible, and if it enhances the intent of the service.

If Kerry agrees the hymn is worthy, I find ways of incorporating it as a prelude arrangement or choral introit to help acquaint the congregation with the new tune. Sometimes a new hymn is a new

text set to an old, familiar tune. Whatever the case, Kerry and I plan these hymns together and are careful about the frequency of adding new hymns.

We have so many wonderful, old hymns to cherish and enjoy. I love them, as you do. I also feel that there are some new hymns being composed which bring profound new texts to light. I continue to look for musical integrity in the setting of theology appropriate to our Christian growth.

So, during your next Sunday lunch discussion of the worship service, analyze the various aspects according to how well they all related to one another and to the theme of the morning. Hopefully you will discover that indeed there was a purpose and a sense of direction.

DCE Search Update

The search committee for our director of Christian education has made the following progress: 1) Filed church information form and position description with PC-USA in Louisville. 2) Placed ads locally and nationally. 3) Will be represented at the job fair at the Annual Educators Conference in Boston in February. 4) Will attend "Face-to-Face" job fair in Richmond in March.

If you have a potential candidate for our position, please refer that person to the Search Committee, Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd., Potomac, Maryland 20854. For further information, call Kathy McPherson, 301-926-2792.



Christian education meeting

February 29

12:30 p.m.

Pack a lunch and drop on by.

Junior High Fellowship PLANNING NIGHT

February 1

6:00 p.m.

You must bring 2 things:

- SPECIFIC IDEAS for activities
- A HUGE APPETITE for pizza

HELP WANTED!

45 minutes on a Sunday morning

No experience necessary

Creative Enrichment leaders needed for all age groups. Call Bridget Newton, 301-762-9388, or Diane Hutchins, 301-299-6007.

*For clergy!
For lay people!
For children!
For youth!*

THE BIG EVENT

Annual conference sponsored by National Capital Presbytery

February 20-21, 1998

● **BE EMPOWERED FOR MISSION!**
Register for Friday Night, at Fairlington Presbyterian Church
Guest speaker: civil rights activist The Rev. Dr. Timothy Njoya, famous for his tireless efforts toward democratic reform of a corrupt government in Kenya.

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Guest speaker: poet Ann Weems, whose poetry inspires, comforts, and challenges

Both Friday Night and Saturday registration fees include:
Meals • Worship • Lectures • Workshops! (over 50 available)

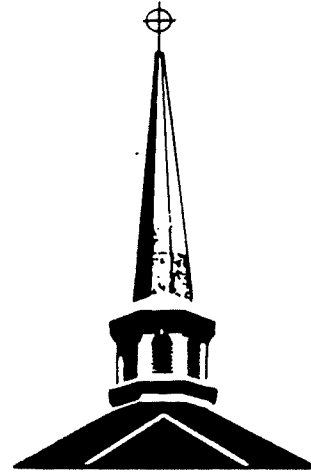
Special music by VA duo "Not by Chance"

See you there!

► **WE'RE ABOUT HALFWAY** to our goal of buying a **WHOLE** Ark for the Heifer Project. Maybe you'd like to give your valentine a flock of chicks!

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

March

1998

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Diane Hutchins, *director of Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM



FACT:

Of the world's
5.2 billion people,
1.5 billion do not
have even the basic
necessities of life.

Open wide your
hearts . . .
and
Give life



Kerry On . . .

Once again we enter the season of Lent and are invited to consider the magnitude of God's love for us expressed in the suffering and death of Jesus. Every time we eat the bread and drink the cup we enter into that love. This year our Lenten journey is marked by special opportunities to respond to the word of Jesus, "Do this remembering me." We begin on Ash Wednesday with Communion, journey to homes for the Lord's Supper, and draw near to the Lord on the night in which he was betrayed (Maundy Thursday). Come and join with your family of faith for as many of these service as you can.

I recently discovered the following prayer which expresses so well the promise and hope which is given to us by the Lord in the meal which he has prepared for us.

Strengthen, O Lord, the hands which have been stretched out to receive thy holy things, that they may daily bring forth fruit to thy divine glory. Grant that the ears which have heard thy songs may be closed to the voice of clamor and dispute; that the eyes which have seen thy great love may also behold thy blessed hope; that the tongues which have uttered thy praise may speak the truth; that the feet which have walked in thy courts may walk in the region of light; that the souls and bodies which have fed upon thy living body may be restored to newness of life.

And with us may thy great love abide forever, that we may abundantly render back praise, praise to thine eternal majesty. Amen.

Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland

Please see Lenten Calendar on page 3.



In Our Family



MARCH calendar

1	9:00 AM <i>Children's Choir</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School Inquirers' class 11:00 AM WORSHIP — Communion Noon Fellowship TBA <i>Jr. Highs — ROLLERBLADING</i>		3:00 PM Manor Care TBA <i>Jr. Highs — LASER TAG</i> 8:00 PM Session	16
	2 7:00 AM The Monday Connection 3 1:00 PM The Lord's Table 4 9:30 AM Bible study 4:00 PM <i>Primary Choir</i> 7:30 PM Bible study led by Diane Hutchins 5 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir		17 18 9:30 AM Bible study 4:00 PM <i>Primary Choir</i> 7:30 PM ★ HOME COMMUNION hosted by Susan Hougen	17 18
	6 7 ★ CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL		19 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 20 21	19 20 21
8	9:00 AM <i>Children's Choir</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School Inquirers' class 11:00 AM WORSHIP Noon Fellowship 4:00 PM ★ HOME COMMUNION hosted by Carolyn Ewels TBA <i>Jr. Highs — MCI Center</i> HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS		22 9:00 AM <i>Children's Choir</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP Noon Fellowship 7:30 PM ★ HOME COMMUNION hosted by Miriam Conley TBA <i>Jr. Highs — BOWLING</i>	22
	9 12:30 PM Christian Ed. committee meeting 8:00 PM Committee meetings 10 9:30 AM Christian Living Group 11 9:30 AM Bible study 4:00 PM <i>Primary Choir</i> 7:30 PM Bible study led by Diane Hutchins 12 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir		23 7:30 PM Deacons meeting 24 6:00 PM NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY MEETING at Berwyn Pres. Church 25 9:30 AM Bible study 4:00 PM <i>Primary Choir</i> 26 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 27 28 ★ Spring Cleanup	23 24 25 26 27 28
	13 14		29 9:00 AM <i>Children's Choir</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP Noon Fellowship 7:30 PM ★ HOME COMMUNION hosted by Bob Best TBA <i>Jr. Highs — MOVIE NIGHT</i>	29
15	9:00 AM <i>Children's Choir</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School Inquirer's class meets Session 11:00 AM WORSHIP — New Members received Noon ★ NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY COFFEE		30 31	30 31

We keep in our prayers . . .

Helen Thuerk, recuperating at home;
 Gerry Collins, recovering from surgery;
 Ken Olsen's cousin, Marilyn Lowe, who is very ill.

We give thanks for the lives of . . .

Rich McMahon's father, John McMahon, who died February 4 in Villas, New Jersey;
 Elaine Skinner's sister-in-law, Marcia Goen, who died in February.

We commend her to the loving care of our Lord.

For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Our prayers are with Rich and his family and with Elaine and her family.

(Diane, continued from page 4)

in the glorious green mountains of North Carolina, is not just for youth conferences. They have a wonderful array of possibilities for adults or whole families—if you choose an **adult conference—music, mission, graceful aging, women, ecology, Bible study**—there is a "**Clubs**" program for children of all ages—and **dancing in the Barn** for everyone every Saturday night. (I was there for July 4 last year and it is Norman Rockwell—you should have this experience! Want to hear some serious Bible study? Don't miss the 75th anniversary of the **Massanetta Bible Conference** August 3-8 with some of the best preachers in the country.

If we truly want our children to confront their faith, we need to be intentional about sending them (or better yet, taking them) to a place where this is likely to happen. If we don't go the mountains, how can we expect to have a Mountain Top Experience???

If your spirit growled like your stomach, you'd feed it more often!

Adult Christian Education

● SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SEMINAR
9:45 a.m., in the library

Please join us for fellowship and growth each Sunday in the library (unless otherwise noted) from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. For further information, contact Kathy McPherson, 301-926-2792.

- 1 **Moving Toward Easter: Exploring the Hymns of Lent and Easter**
Beverly Baily, former PPC DCE—Bev is a consultant with New Paths and is currently serving as Interim Director of SOURCE
Join us in Fellowship Hall
- 8 **Moving Toward Easter: Celebrating the Season with Your Family**
Diane Hutchins
- 15 **TBA**
- 22 **Handel's Messiah—Words of Lent** Kerry Stoltzfus
- 29 **Handel's Messiah—part 2** Kerry Stoltzfus

DEACON DOINGS

Spring is around the corner, and so are the following upcoming events from us and those we work with closely.

Our next collective effort will be to host several HOME COMMUNIONS during March. You will be able to sign up for the date (four different dates) and location of your choice in the narthex.

We will support the Outreach Committee's efforts regarding this year's first NEW MEMBER SUNDAY COFFEE after services on March 15. We hope to see everyone there.

Meanwhile, please continue to let us know your concerns. If you have any ideas to share, please contact your deacon.

Lent in the year of our Lord 1998

Jesus said, Do this remembering me

We will gather at the Lord's Table as the Lenten season begins. The services will be times of meditation and reflection. Music and a brief meditation will precede the communion. If you are free during the day, come at 11:00 a.m., or on your way home from work at 6:30 p.m. Child care will be provided during the 30 to 40 minute services.

February 25 Ash Wednesday Services, 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

- March 1 **First Sunday of Lent**
Worship and communion, 11:00 a.m.
- March 8 **Home Communion**
Sunday, 4:00 p.m.
Carolyn Ewels, hostess
10405 Bridle Lane, Potomac, 301-983-5303
Co-hosts, Kathie McShea and Kent Arnold
- March 18 **Home Communion**
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Susan Hougen, hostess
11920 Cragwood Way, Potomac, 301-299-8391
Co-hosts, Renee Jochum and Joe Curry
- March 22 **Home Communion**
Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Miriam Conley, hostess
9001 Saunders Lane, Bethesda, 301-469-6316
Co-hosts, Rob Wescott and Judy Bernstein
- March 29 **Home Communion**
Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Bob Best, host
10212 Gary Road, Potomac, 301-469-5458
Co-hosts, Marnel Williams and Bob Karch
- April 9 **Maundy Thursday**
Fellowship Meal, 6:30 p.m.
Communion service, 8:00 p.m.

I never wrote an article that got as many comments as the article I wrote last month confessing that not much was on my mind and I was feeling sort of weary of everything. I had a wonderful visit in sunny San Antonio with my sister and my kids, and an inspiring few days in

“If we truly want our children to confront their faith, we need to be intentional about sending them (or better yet, taking them) to a place where this is likely to happen. If we don’t go the mountains, how can we expect to have a Mountain Top Experience???”

slushy, drizzly Boston with other church educators. My brain is full of new possibilities and I can’t wait for Lent to begin—yes, we are going to move a tree into the sanctuary—come and see!

I wish I could share with each of you the excitement and enthusiasm I feel after spending a few days nourishing my faith in a new and different place. I know that this kind of renewal is possible for you too, but I can’t really share mine. You have to go to the mountains yourself! Most adults tell us their most intense spiritual experience was in a camp setting, but few of them ever consider going

to a church camp as an adult or as a family vacation. My mailbox has at least one new brochure for a camp or conference every day—I want to go to all of them!

**Great Synod Gathering
in Greensboro, North Carolina**

I’m going to the Great Synod Gathering in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 9–12. I’m going to be leading a **workshop for Presbyterian Women**, but **Presbyterian Men**, and **Synod Youth**, and the **Synod business assembly** will be going on at the same time. Want to go with me?

Glenkirk, Chesapeake Center,
Massanetta Springs

I’ve got brochures for **camping** adventures at Glenkirk in our Presbytery, from the Chesapeake Center north of Baltimore and from Massanetta Springs in Virginia. Everything from a **two night introduction to camping** for children finishing 2nd grade, to **week-long canoe adventures** for teenagers. Massanetta is offering a **Night Owl camp** for middle school youth—they will be having breakfast when the younger campers have lunch and have activities planned till the wee hours of the morning.

Ghost Ranch, Montreat

One year I actually took my family to Ghost Ranch in the glorious red rock country of New Mexico. We had a grand vacation that the children still talk about. I’ve got the schedule for this summer’s activities out there. Montreat

(Continued on page 11)

Saturday, March 21

“Of Thee We Zing”

Annual Hexagon show

Join us for the 1998 Hexagon political satire, “Of Thee We Zing,” at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. We will be securing a block of tickets for this annual Washington show. This year’s proceeds will benefit Community Family Life Services, an emergency support center for poor and low income families in the greater Washington area. We are targeting the Saturday, March 21 evening performance. Tickets are \$20 each. Contact Pat King, 301-340-0456, of the fellowship committee, to reserve your spot for this fun event!

DO YOU MISS THE PPC BAZAAR?

If you are interested in helping organize a group to explore the possibility of planning for a 1999 Bazaar, please contact Melanie Mason, fellowship committee chairperson, 301-365-1115.



FROM THE **Worship** COMMITTEE

The worship flowers committee is looking into opportunities for church members to share their flower arranging talents and/or cut seasonal flowers with our church. If you are interested, please call Janet Koonce, 301-469-9795, or Cecie Phair, 301-926-8944.

Mark your calendars!

Friday, May 1

Family Fellowship Evening

Usher in spring with your church family and friends. We’ll meet together in Fellowship Hall for dinner and entertainment! More details to follow in future issues of *Steeple to People* and the Sunday bulletins!

Monday, June 22

We’ll buy some peanuts and Crackerjacks and we won’t care if we never get back!

Take us out to the ballgame! Attention all Orioles fans! We have tickets for Monday evening, June 22, at Camden Yards. Contact Bob Best to secure your tickets! 301-469-5458.

SHARING OUR MISSION

Potomac Presbyterian Church praised in Texas dedication

*"The Lord has brought us to this House!
May His name be praised!"*

"We have been bound for Mt. Zion with the help of many! May the spirit of the Lord bless them as it has helped us turn tragedy into a beautiful building! We are now standing on holy ground! Let all the people say AMEN!"

In this spirit of praise and thankfulness, the Mt. Zion Missionary Church of Ladonia, Texas, about 100 miles north-east of Dallas, was dedicated January 24, 1998. The newly built church replaces a structure destroyed in 1996 in the spate of suspected racially motivated burnings of Black churches in the South.

On this great day, the sun broke through the clouds after months of rain squalls, and the white gabled brick church with its glistening steeple appeared as a shrine to the 300 faithful who gathered with Pastor Cedric Barksdale to celebrate in the still unheated, unplumbed, unfurnished structure rising literally out of a sea of mud.

The worshippers looked beyond the pain of the past and inconvenience of the present in sharing with their pastor, their Elders, the guest churches and their choirs the pastor's belief that "God gave them a vision about His Kingdom and how their church would be used to bring about a change in this Kingdom, as it relates to the area in which the church now stands."

Many voices were raised in tribute to the forebears of this church in its struggle for survival since its founding in 1877 by an ex-slave, the great-grandfather of the present treasurer and building chair, Ms. Wynetta McCoy.

Pastor Barksdale and Ms. McCoy led moving tributes in song and testimony to critical major agencies of support.

Ms. McCoy also pointed out that Mt. Zion was being rebuilt by many far away individuals and benefactors moved by the grace of God, such as the Potomac Presbyterian Church of Potomac, Maryland. Ms. McCoy then read Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus's letter of congratulation on the dedication, and an affirmation of his church's financial support toward Mt. Zion's steeple, baptism, and Bibles. The rapt worshippers raised their voices in praise

— Norman Hummon, Desoto, Texas

Super Souper Bowl

On January 25, worshipers all over the country were asked to drop one dollar in the soup pot to fight hunger in their local community. This project was begun by a Presbyterian youth group in South Carolina a few years ago. This year's collection was over \$1,650,000 from 8700 churches. Potomac Presbyterian's contribution was \$159, which was given through the Community Ministry of Montgomery County.



At worship committee meetings, the subject of alternative worship services is often discussed. There are those who yearn for something different now and then to refresh our expression of faith and praise. I have the answer!

**Our very own children's choir will
participate in the "Celebration in Song"**

Saturday, March 7, at 2:00 p.m., nearly 200 singing children will lead a worship service at the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. Our very own children's choir will participate in the "Celebration in Song" along with 16 other children's choirs from all faiths located around the beltway. The event is sponsored by the Capital Beltway Chapter of Choristers Guild and is held every other year. Our children participated in 1996 with several of our church family in attendance. Kerry was awed by the spiritual and musical impact of these children processing with their church banners, reading the scriptures, and singing in unison and harmony the great musical literature of the church.

Our choir has been diligently practicing the six anthems that the massed chorus will be singing by memory. The guest conductor is Joan Gregoryk, the director of the Children's Chorus of Washington. She will begin rehearsal with them at 10:00 a.m., March 7, and the day will culminate with the worship service at 2:00 p.m. Come and revel in this celebration of music, sung entirely by children and accompanied by a magnificent pipe organ, piano, and handbells.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The Sunday School children will receive a Coin Box for One Great Hour of Sharing on March 1, the first Sunday in Lent. The funds received from OGHHS are used to respond to relief and development around the world. It is divided between Presbyterian World Service, the Self-Development of People Fund, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. This year's goal is over nine million dollars. The need is great, and we hope you will want to give generously.

Please help your children think about the needs of others every day during Lent. We have prepared a calendar to help you remember all the blessings we take so much for granted, and which are not available in all parts of our world. It is on a purple sheet of paper, and we invite you to pick one up the next time you are at church, if you don't already have one. It was designed to go along with the children's boxes, but all families could use it. We hope you will use the calendar every day from now until Easter—perhaps with a word of prayer for the needs of the world and gratitude for all we have. Your children need to see you care. Your children need to hear you pray!

Please return children's boxes to the giant Easter Basket in the narthex on Easter Sunday.

FACT:

Approximately 4 million children under age 12 in the United States are hungry and an additional 9.6 million are at risk of hunger. This means that 29 percent of US children are hungry or at risk of hunger.

Open wide your hearts . . .
and Give hope





FOR YOUTH

Summer already????

Mark your calendar

Bible School

June 22-26

Thanks to all of you who participated in our survey for VBS. After reviewing the results, we set the dates for Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Learning to Worship Class
for 3rd and 4th graders**

... A look at the church year, with emphasis on how we observe Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

March 8, 15, 22, and 29

For four Sundays in March—the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th—we will offer a Learning to Worship Class for 3rd and 4th graders at the time when younger children go to Enrichment Groups during the worship hour. Diane Hutchins will lead this group in a look at the church year, with emphasis on how we observe Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We meet upstairs in Room 3.

Young people (6th—8th grades completed) and their advisors ...

... don't you want to come with us?



**Massanetta
Middle School
Conferences 1998**

June 23-26

\$180

YOUTH in mission

**Don't throw it away.
Be good to our youth.
Be good to our planet.
Recycle it.**

We want your old aluminum cans, foil, and pie plates! For several years now, the Potomac youth have asked you to help them with their projects by contributing to our recycling project. We thank Lew Chapin for continuing to faithfully take our collection to the Montgomery Scrap Corporation.

There is a huge can at the bottom of the steps from the Fellowship Hall—by the Coke machine—to receive your offerings. We can't use paper, plastics, or steel cans—just aluminum, please. But lots of aluminum, please.



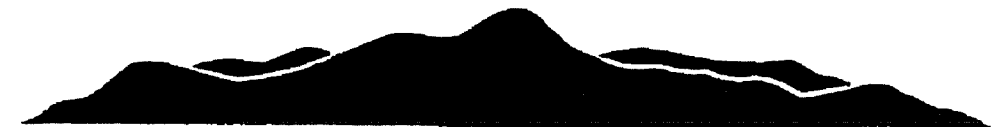
Surely someone you care about needs to get a goat for Easter ...

THANK YOU to all who have purchased animals to help the Sunday School children fill an Ark for

the Heifer Project International. The animals are marching aboard one by one, but we're just over halfway to our goal of \$5,000 and the year is marching away from us even faster. The last accounting showed \$2,729.12 in this fund. **Wouldn't you like to buy a mule or a camel?** We thank Peggy Hawley for the wonderful poster she drew for us, and Wendy Petti who designed the certificates you could send to someone to announce your gift in their honor.

We must register by March 5 — this event is a sell-out every year
See Diane Hutchins for more details and a registration form!

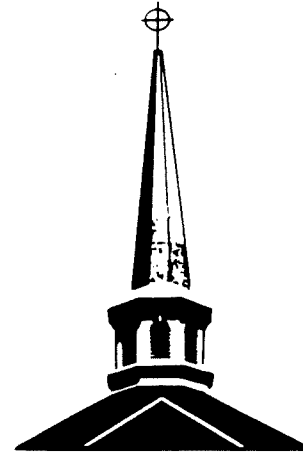
"...don't let anyone put you down because you are young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity." I Timothy 4:12



Massanetta Springs Conference Center • Harrisonburg, Virginia • Internet: <http://home.rica.net/massanetta>

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

May

1998

Kerry On . . .

We give thanks for the promise of peace in Northern Ireland and pray for all who will continue the courageous work of reconciliation. In the midst of so many years of strife there have been those who worked and prayed for peace. Many of them never saw any results. They planted seeds and never saw the harvest. We give thanks for their faithful struggle and they encourage us when our prayers seem to go unanswered.

A few years ago a Presbyterian pastor in Northern Ireland, Thomas A. Patterson, prayed this prayer, but sadly did not live to see it answered.

We are tired, Lord,
weary of the long night without rest.
We grow complaining and bitter.
We sorrow for ourselves
as we grow hardened to the pain of others.
Another death leaves us unmoved.
A widow's tears fall unnoticed.
Our children know only bitterness
already possessing their parents.
Our violent words
explode into violent acts
by the hands of youth
bringing destruction without thought or reason.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lead us to repentance that we may forgive
and be forgiven. Amen.

(From: *A Book of Reformed Prayers*, Howard Rice and Lamar Williamson, Jr., editors)

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Diane Hutchins, *director of Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM

MAY

In Our Family

1 6:30 PM MAY DAY FUN NIGHT
2

3 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM *Worship*
Noon Fellowship

4 7:00 AM The Monday Connection

5 1:00 PM The Lord's Table

6 9:30 AM Bible study

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

7:30 PM Study group led by Tom Miles

7 6:30 PM Handbell Choir

8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

8

9

10 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM *Worship — YOUTH SUNDAY*
Noon Fellowship

11 12:30 PM Christian Ed. committee meeting

8:00 PM Committee meetings

12 9:30 AM Christian Living Group

13 9:30AM Bible study

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

7:30 PM Study group led by Tom Miles

14 6:30 PM Handbell Choir

8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

15

16

17 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
BLOOD DRIVE
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM *Worship*
Noon Fellowship
3:00 PM Manor Care
Steeple to People deadline

18 8:00 PM Session meeting

1920 9:30 AM Bible study

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

7:30 PM Study group led by Tom Miles

21 6:30 PM Handbell Choir

8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

22

23

24 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM *Worship*
Noon Fellowship

25 7:30 PM NO Deacons meeting

26 10:00 AM National Capital Pres. meeting
at Nat'l Presbyterian Church

27 9:30 AM Bible study

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

28 6:30 PM Handbell Choir

8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

29

30 **DEACONS PICNIC**

9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM *Worship*
Noon Fellowship

We keep in our prayers . . .

Lucille Ferrara, who is recuperating at home;

Hal Newell, who is recuperating at home;

Amber Schwan Barry, who is in Floyd Medical Center in Rome, Georgia, after a very serious automobile accident.

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

Colin Chen Jie Ruan, son of Karen and Randy Ruan, and nephew of Olivia Mabeus, born April 11.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of . . .

Andrea Eleanor Zucchi, daughter of Anne and Nando Zucchi, and granddaughter of Peggy and Jon Hawley.

We give thanks for the lives of . . .

Marilyn Sebastian's father, who died in early March;

Taylor Johnson's step-father, Ennis Blair, who died March 21;

Miriam Conley's brother-in-law, who died in April.

We commend them to the loving care of our Lord.

For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Our prayers are with Marilyn and her family, Taylor and his family, Miriam and her family.

New Address: Karen and Randy Ruan
have moved to 2707 Rondo Place, Davis,
California 95616.

May

Adult Christian Education

Sunday Morning Adult Seminar at 9:45 a.m. in the library

Please join us in the church library from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., each Sunday. For further information, please call Kathy McPherson, 301-765-1154.

May

- 3 **"What Presbyterians Believe"** Rev. Ann Philbrick, Associate General
Presbyter for National Capital
- 10 **"How we got to be this way" Presbyterian history** Rev Teri Thomas,
Presbytery Executive for National Capital
- 17 **"Por Cristo"** Dr. Tom Hougen, member of this congregation will tell us about
his experiences in Ecuador working with sick children through "Por Cristo."
See Page 9 for more details.
- 24 **Memorial Day weekend** NO CLASS
- 31 **Pentecost—intergenerational celebration** in the Fellowship Hall

June

- 7 **"The Lord your God is with you, where ever you go!"** Panel will review our
theme for the year.

Presbyterian Foundation Presentation

Sunday, May 17, at 12:15 p.m. in the library, Terry Young, former president and chairman of the Presbyterian Church Foundation, will make a short presentation about the foundation.

All church members are invited to learn more about the foundation and PPC's participation in it at this session with Mr. Young. All members of the Endowment Committee will be present to answer any questions you may have. This is not a sales pitch but is for information only.

Mr. Young is a successful and respected businessman from Charlotte, North Carolina, and has been long involved with the foundation.

D I A N E — O — G R A M

PAINT THE CHURCH RED!

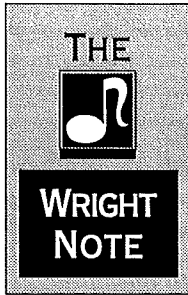
As the rains have washed the chalk from our sidewalk, the joy and excitement of our Easter celebration will soon begin to fade into the routine of "ordinary time." But before it does, the church has one more grand and glorious occasion to celebrate on May 31!

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit!

Acts 2:1-4a

There are not just two "don't miss!" days in the Christian year. There are three — Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Our culture has overwhelmed the church's celebration of Christmas. It cooperates — if a little reluctantly — to help us with Easter. But for Pentecost, the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit that empowered those few believers in the upper room in Jerusalem to become the Church of Jesus Christ transforming the world; we are left completely on our own. Hallmark will not print Pentecost cards for you to send. Teleflora will not have a special tongues-of-fire bouquet to decorate your dining table or send to your mother. The Mars folk will not wrap your favorite chocolates in red and gold papers to give to your children. What will we do? What will we do?

There will be a Birthday Party for the Church during the Sunday School hour, with balloons and party games for everyone. (The birthday cake will be served during Fellowship Hour after worship, but there will be coffee, juice, and breakfast nibbles at 9:45.) We hope your whole family will join us for these activities and for worship on May 31. It's the only Sunday of the year when our red paraments will hang from the pulpit. I don't think they will let us paint the church red, but be sure to be here to see how we celebrate the Spirit, and invite it to "blow us away!"



Some of you have noticed that my answering machine says, "You have reached the right (Wright) number, but no one is here now to receive your call. "The other day Tom Miles called and left this message: "I may have reached the right number, but I guess I've picked the wrong time to call."

Is there a right or wrong time to join one of our church choirs? Of course not! You are always welcome. Is there a right time to recruit new members? More and more I am thinking that in the month of May, when the choir programs are climaxing a year of growth and enjoyable service to the church, we are more likely to commit to choir membership in the fall. Don't wait until your fall calendars are full and then see if there is any time left for an activity that may be one of the most meaningful and satisfying of your life. For those of you who are planning your own or your children's calendars, here is a reminder of our choir program schedule:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Primary Choir
<i>Grades K-2</i> | 4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Wednesdays
Starts September 16 |
| Children's Choir
<i>Grades 3-6</i> | 9:00 a.m.-9:40 a.m., Sundays
Starts September 20 |
| Handbell Choir
<i>Any age, with music reading skills</i> | 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursdays
Starts September 17 |
| Sanctuary Choir
<i>Age is not a factor. Come and enjoy good singing in a friendly setting.</i> | 8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Thursdays
Starts September 10 |

Any questions? Call the Wright number, 301-926-7015.

CHRISTIAN LIVING LUNCHEON

The final meeting of the Christian Living Group for this year will be a luncheon on May 12. We will meet at 10:30 (note the change of time) at Vivian Teet's home (note the change of place), 11118 Cripplegate Road, in Potomac Falls. We will discuss the last two chapters of Jim Moore's book, *Yes Lord I Have Sinned*. Copies of the study questions are in Diane's office.

Our regular baby-sitter will be at Vivian's to play with the children – please pack a sack lunch for them.

Everyone who has met with this group this year, or who always meant to come but never quite made it, is cordially invited to bring a salad and join us for good conversation and good food and good fellowship!

SHARING OUR MISSION

Sunday, May 17, the Sunday Morning Adult Seminar will hear Tom Hougen discuss *Por Cristo* medical work in Ecuador.

Por Cristo is a Boston-based medical missionary organization founded in 1980. Since then, over 1,000 *Por Cristo* medical volunteers have travelled to Ecuador to serve the health and educational needs of the poorest of the poor children. Medical workers of all faiths have participated in the effort to teach local Ecuadorian physicians and nurses how to improve care for a wide range of childhood problems; nutrition, burn care, orthopedics, maxillofacial defects, and cardiology are some of the topics emphasized by the visiting medical teams.

The mission committee of Potomac Presbyterian Church has contributed to this work, helping to support on-going health education and direct patient care to many poor children in Ecuador. Tom will show slides and videos of recent mission trips to Ecuador.

A Thank You to PPC . . .

"On behalf of the board, staff and clients we serve, I thank you so very much for your donation of \$2,663 to Sophia House of Community Ministries of Rockville (CMR). It is generous and committed people like you who allow our ministries to endure in the face of constantly increasing needs and dwindling funds to meet them.

Sophia House is a women-only emergency overnight shelter where vulnerable homeless women can sleep in safety. It will house 24 vulnerable homeless women who cannot meet the requirements to stay in the county shelters. This program opened April 1, 1997, and we ask for your prayers and support to make this dream become a reality and provide these women with some stability and hope for the future.

Again, I thank you for your support in gift and prayer to CMR, our clients, and our mission.

Faithfully,

Christine Tetrault
Managing Director"

DEACON DOINGS

Summer break is now around the corner, and so is the summer worship schedule. Until the end of summer, these are the next events to watch for:

We will be helping to support the upcoming "YOUTH SUNDAY," which will be held on Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 10**. This should prove to be a very special worship service, and we hope you can join us.

We also hope to see you at the **CHURCH PICNIC**, to be held immediately following services on the first Sunday of the summer schedule, **June 14**.

Meanwhile, enjoy your summer! And please continue to let us know your concerns. If you have any ideas to share, contact your deacon.

In sincere appreciation for use of your Fellowship Hall for our rehearsals

The Potomac Theatre Company

invites all of Potomac Presbyterian Church
to a free dress rehearsal of our new spring performance of

Fiddler on the Roof

Wednesday, May 13, 1998
8:00 pm
at the Bullis School's Founders' Hall
through Falls Road entrance drive

*Please RSVP to Gail Cannon (301) 365-8632 so chairs can be set up for you

ICE

FOR YOUTH

May 10 is YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 10. Some of the high school seniors will be sharing some of their thoughts about how the church has been a part of their education. Many of the junior and senior high students will also be participating in the service.

If you missed the planning meeting April 26, but would still like to participate in some way, please call Diane Hutchins in the church office to volunteer. I'm sure there will still be something you could contribute — Call us!

Summer already?????

Mark your calendars! BIBLE SCHOOL June 22-26

Kathie McShea has agreed to coordinate this year's Bible School adventure. It is now time for you to tell her how you might be able to help.

Bible School is a very labor intensive undertaking. Usually we have almost as many adults as we have children in the building that week. It's the only time of the year when we can share our enthusiasm for the wonderful stories of the Bible with our children in an extended time frame.

Your pre-school children will have a wonderful time with us. Your elementary school children need to spend this time with us. We hope your whole family will put Bible School on their summer calendar!

Parenting in the pew

Guiding your children into the joy of worship

Don't you hate it when your little one wriggles in church? It can get so bad that we spend so much time "shushing" the children that we forget to teach them what they're really in church for!

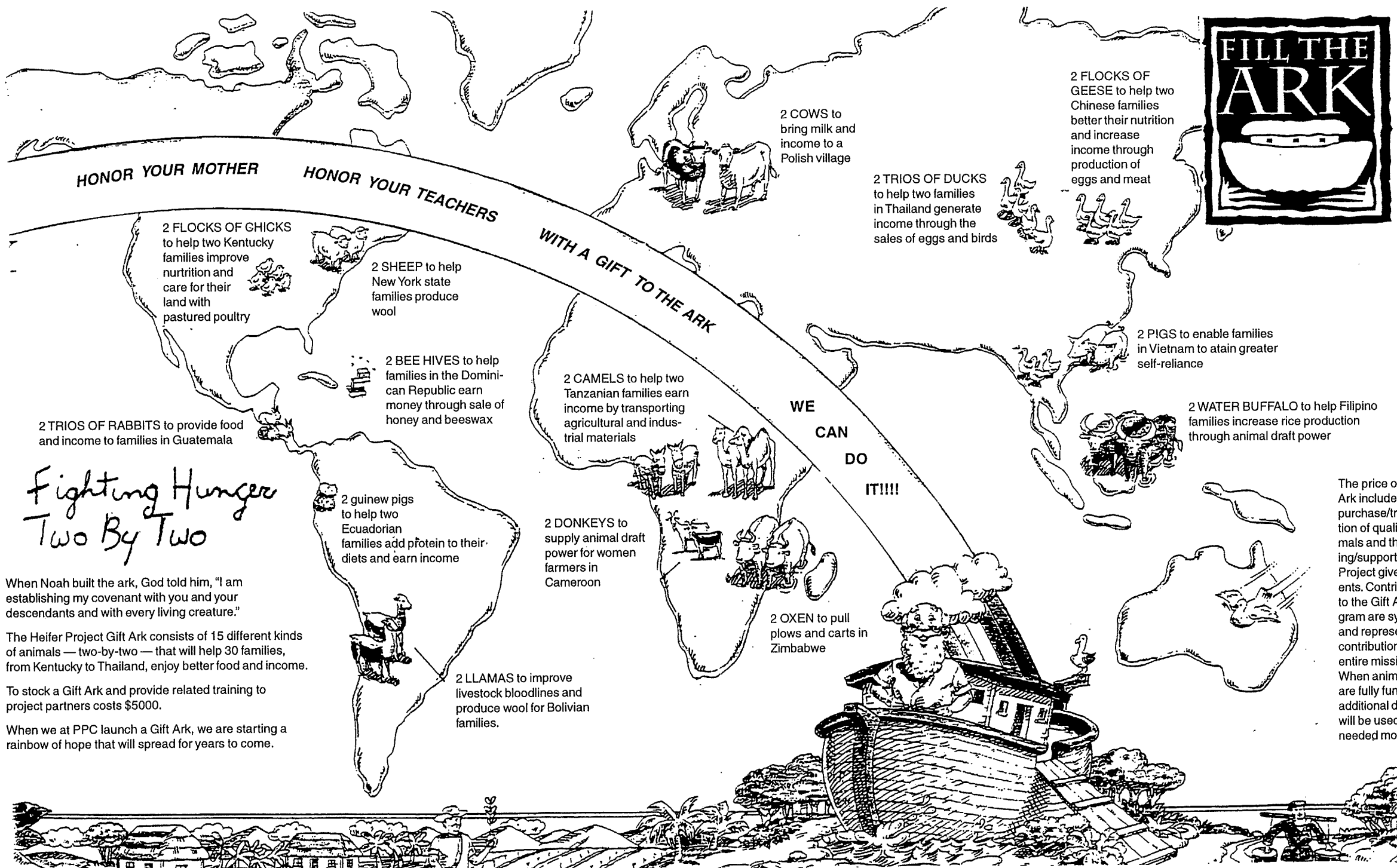
Diane Hutchins bought a new book, *Parenting in the Pew*, by Robbie Castleman, that helps parents learn how to tutor their children in worship. It would be helpful for parents of children from 3 to 18!

After reading it, Elder Beth Rudnic discovered that she's been going about it all wrong!

Beth was so eager to share with all of you what she learned, that the Christian education committee has asked Diane to lead us in a workshop based on this book.

We have chosen Sunday morning, May 3, during the Sunday school hour. We hope you will bring your children to Sunday School at 9:45, even if they don't ordinarily attend, and spend an hour with us in Fellowship Hall thinking seriously about worshipping with our children.

If you'd like Diane to order a copy of the book for you, please let her know. If you would like to borrow her copy, after May 3, you are welcome to!



HONOR YOUR MOTHER

HONOR YOUR TEACHERS

WITH A GIFT TO THE ARK

WE CAN DO IT!!!!

2 COWS to bring milk and income to a Polish village

2 FLOCKS OF GEESE to help two Chinese families better their nutrition and increase income through production of eggs and meat

2 TRIOS OF DUCKS to help two families in Thailand generate income through the sales of eggs and birds

2 FLOCKS OF CHICKS to help two Kentucky families improve nutrition and care for their land with pastured poultry

2 SHEEP to help New York state families produce wool

2 BEE HIVES to help families in the Dominican Republic earn money through sale of honey and beeswax

2 TRIOS OF RABBITS to provide food and income to families in Guatemala

2 CAMELS to help two Tanzanian families earn income by transporting agricultural and industrial materials

2 PIGS to enable families in Vietnam to attain greater self-reliance

2 WATER BUFFALO to help Filipino families increase rice production through animal draft power

Fighting Hunger Two By Two

2 guiney pigs to help two Ecuadorian families add protein to their diets and earn income

2 DONKEYS to supply animal draft power for women farmers in Cameroon

2 OXEN to pull plows and carts in Zimbabwe

2 LLAMAS to improve livestock bloodlines and produce wool for Bolivian families.

When Noah built the ark, God told him, "I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants and with every living creature."

The Heifer Project Gift Ark consists of 15 different kinds of animals — two-by-two — that will help 30 families, from Kentucky to Thailand, enjoy better food and income.

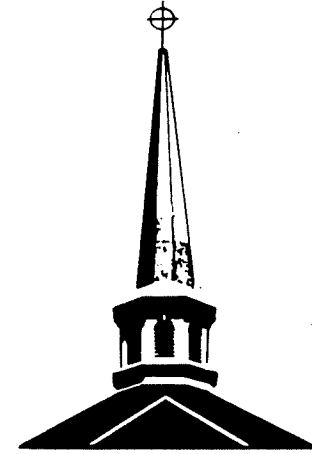
To stock a Gift Ark and provide related training to project partners costs \$5000.

When we at PPC launch a Gift Ark, we are starting a rainbow of hope that will spread for years to come.

The price of a Gift Ark includes the purchase/transportation of quality animals and the training/support Heifer Project gives recipients. Contributions to the Gift Ark program are symbolic and represent a contribution to the entire mission of HP. When animal groups are fully funded, additional donations will be used where needed most.

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301-299-6007

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Rockville, MD
Permit No. 200



STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

June

1998

Kerry On . . .

The assumption of spirituality is that God is always doing something before I know it. So the task is not to get God to do something I think needs to be done, but to become aware of what God is doing so that I can respond to it and participate and take delight in it.

I saved this thought from one of Eugene Peterson's books and it helps me to think about consciously looking for God's activity in our lives. As pastor I am not called to bring God to people—that's far too presumptuous—but to help you become more aware of what God is doing in your life. It's easy to talk about "luck" and "coincidence," but a more faithful response is to say "God." You tell me stories about incredible circumstances sometimes and together we can say "God."

I try to remember this when I go to the hospital or the home of a grieving family. God's Spirit is already there and perhaps together we can discern what God is doing in the midst of illness and even death. Sometimes we may not be able to discover what God is

(Kerry On ... continued on page 10)

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Diane Hutchins, *director of Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

Summer Worship schedule begins June 14

**No Sunday School
Worship at 10:00 a.m.**

Join us June 14 at 11:00 for a picnic sponsored by our youth.

JUNE

1	7:00 AM	The Monday Connection	17
2	1:00 PM	The Lord's Table	18
3	10:00 AM	Wednesday Bible study luncheon	19
4	8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir	20
5			
6			
<hr/>			
7	9:00 AM	Children's Choir	21
	9:45 AM	Sunday School	
	11:00 AM	Worship	
		TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY	
	Noon	Fellowship	
8	8:00 PM	Committee meetings	23
9			24
10			25
11	8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir	26
12			27
13		General Assembly convenes	
<hr/>			
14	10:00 AM	Worship	28
	11:00 AM	Fellowship	
15	8:00 PM	Session	29
16			30

21	9:00 AM	Men's Chorus rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Fellowship
	3:00 PM	Manor Care
22	9:30 AM	Vacation Bible School
		PPC Orioles
23	9:30 AM	Vacation Bible School
	6:00 PM	National Capital Presbytery meeting
24	9:30 AM	Vacation Bible School
25	9:30 AM	Vacation Bible School
26	9:30 AM	Vacation Bible School

28	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Fellowship

Your WILL

Create a lasting legacy



In Our Family



We keep in our prayers . . .

Amber Schwan Barry, who is recovering at home;
 Sally O'Neal, who is recovering from surgery at home;
 Hal Newell, who is in George Washington Hospital.

Congratulations and God's blessing on . . .

Kristina Norvell and Patrick Bowen, who were married in Duke University Chapel, May 2.

Congratulations and best wishes to . . .

Wilma and George Boddiger, who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary May 23.

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

Jackson Thomas, son of Judy and Joel Miller, and grandson of Nancy and Charlie Miller, born May 12.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of . . .

Collette Stiles Block, daughter of Margaret and Christopher Block, and granddaughter of Kay and Jim McClaine.

We give thanks for the life of . . .

Fred Sass, who died May 5.

We commend him to the loving care of our Lord.

For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Our prayers are with Miriam and her family.

Potomac Presbyterian Church has a fledgling web page. Check it out!
<http://www.radix.net/~ncpby/8461/home.html>

Also an e-mail address: flo@potomacpresbyterian.org

June

Adult Christian Education

Sunday Morning Adult Seminar

Join us June 7 in the church library at 9:45 a.m. for our last Sunday School seminar before the summer break. Join us again in the fall when we resume our regular schedule.

June 7 "The Lord your God is with you, wherever you go!"
Panel will review our theme for the year.

(Kerry On, *continued*)

doing and saying, and in those moments we really do have to rely on our faith in a gracious God. We are promised God's presence no matter what—we are not assured that we will always be aware of that presence. Maybe our times of deep and joyful awareness will help sustain us in the other times.

One of our hymns expresses this sense that God is already active in our lives and when we come together in worship we are invited to become aware of and delight in what God has done, is doing and will do.

"God is Here!" By Fred Pratt Green, No 461

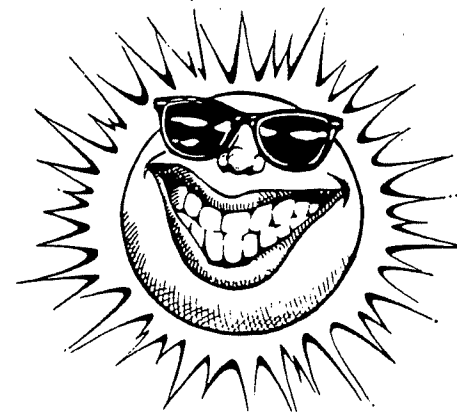
*God is here! As we your people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.*

• FELLOWSHIP • FELLOWSHIP • FELLOWSHIP • FELLOWSHIP • FELLOWSHIP •

Thank you to all who attended the May Day Family Fun Night Event featuring a scrumptuous spaghetti dinner and a performance by the Blue Sky Puppet Theatre! We hope you all enjoyed the evening. Kudos of praise and thanks, in particular, to the ladies of the Fellowship Committee who cooked the fabulous dinner: **Miriam Conley, Mildred Rowan, Gail Cannon, and Pat King!**

Proceeds from the sale of PPC Cookbooks have been very strong, and very few books are still available for sale. As designated by the Fellowship Committee, a donation of \$750 has been forwarded to The Lord's Table to support their efforts in feeding the homeless. The remainder of the sales will be retained for an internal church need in the future. We hope all of you are enjoying the PPC Cookbook!

Celebrate the beginning
of our Summer Schedule



2nd ANNUAL ALL CHURCH PICNIC

11 AM JUNE 14

HOGIE SANDWICHES ONLY \$5



YOUR LAST CHANCE TO
HELP US FILL THE ARK FOR
THE HEIFER PROJECT

SPONSORED BY
OUR YOUTH GROUPS

Thank you

The Christian education committee invites you to join committee members in prayer as we celebrate the commitment, creativity, and love that has been extended to us by our dedicated Sunday School teaching staff. Our thanks to:

Mary Ling and Leslie Wyatt for teaching our 4-year olds and kindergartners;

Julie McMahon and Pam Self for teaching our 1st and 2nd graders;

Ruthanne Stoltzfus and Marthy Boxhoorn for teaching our 3rd and 4th graders;

Olivia Mabeus and Sonia Russo for teaching our 5th and 6th graders;

Mary Margaret Smith and Susan Hougen for teaching our 7th and 8th graders;

Kay Mitchel and Joe Curry for teaching our Senior Highs.

Don't forget!

This Sunday, May 31 is



INTERGENERATIONAL
CELEBRATION

9:45 a.m.

WORSHIP

11:00 a.m.

Birthday cake for the church
12:00 noon

THE JOY OF WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN! Is that possible????

Last month I chatted with a few parents about worshiping with their children. We looked at a book by Robbie Castleman called *Parenting in the Pew*. The parents were concerned that their own children are too squirmy and too noisy in the sanctuary—but they rarely notice anyone else’s children being too squirmy or noisy. This book insists that the only rule for children is that they can’t disturb other people’s worship. The author reminds us that learning to worship requires participation, practice, and patience. Both yours and theirs!

Most important is to worship with your children gladly

The most important thing you can do for your children is to worship with them gladly. Let them know it is important to you for them to be there with you. Smile at them. Hug them. Hold their hands. (My own kids always hated that—I would reach out and take their little hands whenever their pew activity exceeded my tolerance level—I think I did it last Christmas Eve.)

Sit where your children can see—probably in a front pew

Sit where they can see. Yes, that probably means a front pew, but you know how hard it is to pay attention when you can’t see. Try to be early so they can choose where to sit, and you have time to answer their questions before they need to be quiet. Remember that quiet isn’t the end, it’s just the means for helping them learn to worship with us.

Children should have bulletins

Children need bulletins of their very own—wait for the usher to offer one to your child. The bulletin contains both the liturgy for the day and other announcements for the congregation. Help your child know one from the other. Remember that the word liturgy means, “the work of the people.” Preschoolers can find the numbers, or find the letters of their name. Check off things for them until we get to the Children’s Message. Early readers can mark the words they know. They can find the hymns. Ask them to underline all the names for God they see. Later, ask them to mark the words they don’t know, and take time to explain them after church or look them up together when you get home. Use the children’s bulletins with care. The yellow ones are for very young children to color on before worship begins or to take home with them. The green ones are designed for children who can read well—you might want to give them to your children at a later point in the service. Don’t let them learn to ignore everything that is going on around them in the sanctuary. The children’s bulletin is an emergency supply for when your child just can’t stay with us for one more moment.

Sing!

And yes, you do have to sing! The Psalms tell us over and over to sing to the Lord. It doesn’t say, if you have a lovely voice and can read music. It just says, “Sing!” I al-

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

Cheer for the Orioles on Monday, June 22 at Camden Yards in Baltimore when the “Birds” take on the New York Mets, 7:30p.m.

Tickets are \$16 each. Please contact Bob Best at 301-469-5458 to reserve your seat.

First come, first served until we sell out! Don’t delay!

Christmas House Tour plans

The Fellowship Committee hopes to hold a Christmas House Tour event during the month of December this year. We are actively seeking any church member who would be willing to open up their home as a “stop” on the House Tour. Do you have any special decorations or collections you would be willing to share with our church family? We are looking for 3 host homes. Please contact Gail Cannon, 365-8632, or Melanie Mason, 365-1115, if you would like more information or to express your interest. Thank you.

OUR GRADUATES

... from high school

- Jonathan Berger
Walt Whitman High School
Will be attending University of Arizona
- Shay Bemius
Walt Whitman High School
Will be attending Wesleyan University

Leah Cannon
Churchill High School
Will be attending Indiana University

Melissa Dorman
Walt Whitman High School
Will be attending University of Delaware

Anne Lee
Walt Whitman High School
Will be attending Hamilton College

Allison Lyons
Walt Whitman High School
Will be attending Swarthmore College

John Simpson
Bullis
Will be attending McGill University

Erik Toerge
Churchill High School

... from college

Jim Bamard
Southern Methodist University

Nick Propps
Georgia Southern

Edward Tennent
N.C. State University

Kara Farrell, M.Ed.
Western Maryland College

Tricia Skinner Gerard
M.Ed., Florida Atlantic University

Amelia Hougen
George Washington University Law School

Mark Shalaby
Georgetown University Law School

Emily Stoltzfus Shook
M.Ed., Ashland University

Melissa Smith
George Washington University Law School

Child's name _____

DR.'s name _____

DR.'s telephone (____) _____

ALLERGIES, MEDICATION, OR OTHER
INFORMATION WE SHOULD HAVE ABOUT THIS
CHILD:

SHOULD I BE UNAVAILABLE IN THE EVENT OF
AN EMERGENCY, I GIVE PERMISSION FOR THE
STAFF OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT
POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO SEEK
MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR MY CHILD .

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

ways sing loudly, and quite badly. Please join me. Help the children to follow the words from verse to verse even if they can't read fast enough. They can catch up for the Alleluias at least. They need to know that you have favorites you know well, and that there are some hymns you are still learning. Sit and hold the book at their level, or let them stand on the pew to be at your level.

Put something in the offering plate

Always put something in an offering plate! I know that you probably write a check once a month, but put a dollar in those pew envelopes and put it in every week. The offering is a symbol of our intention to return to God a portion of all that God has given us, the financial transaction is secondary. Children should have something to put in the plate too, or to take with them to their Enrichment group. If you give a child a quarter in the narthex before church, when the plate comes down your pew, that child owns the quarter and it is a sacrifice to give it away. That's the lesson.

Children hear everything!

Parents always tell me that their children never listen to them. I think the problem is that they hear EVERYTHING. They hear your own reluctance and your own doubts, even if you didn't mean to mention it. They hear your body language as well as your words. They hear what you don't mention just as loudly as they hear what you say. They hear when you say Sunday School is important, but you don't take them every week. They hear when you insist that they pray at bedtime, but they never hear you pray. They hear you say that we need to go to church every week, and then let any excuse keep you home. Be careful—the children are always listening.



With summer approaching, we all think of vacations, relaxing, taking stock of what we have accomplished and what we plan to do after our R & R. Our choirs will take a short break from regular rehearsals and give individuals a chance to worship on the lower level

of the sanctuary and also to share their musical talents in solo or ensemble capacities from the loft. This all happens after June 21 when the men of the church participate in our seventh annual men's chorus. This event has occurred on Fathers' Day since my first summer at PPC in 1992.

Each year our men's chorus has grown. Last year we had 22 fine singers who gathered an hour before worship and amazed themselves—and thoroughly delighted the congregation—with their stirring rendition of a hymn medley incorporating some of everyone's favorites. This year we will invite all men, regardless of musical reading skills, to come to Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 21, to discover the joy of choral singing. Coffee and rehearsal will be followed by the presentation of yet another fine hymn medley in the 10:00 a.m. worship service. There will be a sign-up chart in the narthex on June 7 and 14. I want to make sure I have enough chairs set up for the throngs of male singers who have been waiting all year for this event to happen again. I look forward to greeting you all.

Cindy



FOR YOUTH

YOUR BOOKS ARE IN . . .

The books you ordered from Diane last month have arrived. You may pick them up in her office the next time you are at church. Please write your check to Potomac Presbyterian Church and leave it with Diane so she can get the money credited to the correct account. There is one extra copy of *A Child's Guide to Worship* (\$7) and three copies of *Parenting in the Pew* (\$9), if you would like to own these books yourself. You are also invited to borrow either of these books if you would just like to read it!

PRESCHOOL PARENTS

The Christian education committee is considering some changes in the pre-school Sunday School schedule for next yet year. We want to offer your children the very best possibilities for Christian education, but we are not quite sure what form you want that to take. You will be receiving a survey form in the mail shortly. Please take a minute to think about your intention for your children next year, and fill out the form carefully—and prayerfully.

Very few children have participated in Sunday School at 9:45 this past season, although we have many children in this age group on the rolls. The Enrichment Groups at 11 a.m. have not been designed

to be a child's only Christian education. It is very difficult to find teachers who can put the kind of preparation and continuity into a program that takes place during the worship hour, that teachers have been giving during the Sunday School hour.

We will be trying to continue the Enrichment group for pre-school children during worship at 10 a.m. over the summer. Please check your schedule and sign up to lead this group one Sunday when you will be in town.

Dear PPC Youth,

I am writing to express the appreciation of the Session to all who participated in the Youth Sunday Service on May 10.

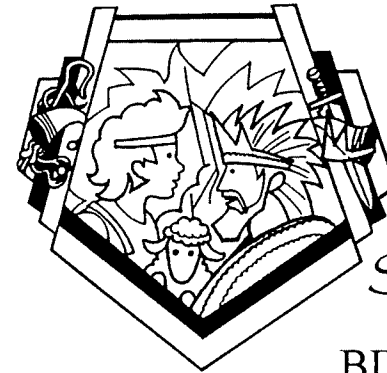
Impressive is the only way to describe it. Each year we are amazed at the poise and talents of the participants, and think that that particular group must be unusually gifted. Then, the following year, we have an equally outstanding service. It's as if PPC is like Lake Wobegon, with all young people well above average.

Particular thanks to Allison Lyons and John Simpson for sharing your thoughts with us from the pulpit. It is very useful to have input from your perspective, and you continued the tradition of providing thoughtful messages.

Again, thanks to all for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McMahon
Clerk of Session



**Shepherd
King**

Stories of David

BIBLE SCHOOL
POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 22-26

Classes for 4 year olds through 5th graders

child's name _____

address _____

Zip code

home phone _____

child's age _____ birthday _____

Month, day, and year

school year just completed _____

registration fee is \$10 per child/ \$25 max per family if paid by June 14
\$15 per child for late registration

Bible School is a very labor intensive undertaking for any congregation. We need everyone to be ready to help with some of the tasks required to make it a great week for the children. Please let us know what you are willing to do to help.

Teach a class _____

Plan an art project _____

Help with a class _____

Help with projects _____

Help set up Sun. June 22 _____

Special talent to contribute _____

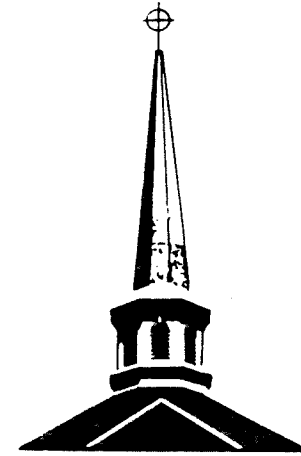
Help clean up Fri. June 26 _____

Child Care for teachers and helpers _____

Call me with specific needs _____

Potomac Presbyterian Church
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301-299-6007

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Rockville, MD
Permit No. 200



STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

Summer

1998

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Diane Hutchins, *director of Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM

Kerry On . . .

Last evening at our Session meeting we went around the table and told about a blessing we had experienced recently in our congregation. I wish all of you could have been in on the conversation. We heard about loving support in time of sickness and grieving, a baptism and new members received. Another blessing Cindy talks about in her article - a visit to Manor Care with the Children's Choir.

The thing about blessings is that they generally come from God and are delivered by a person with a name and a face. It's as if God says, "I've got all these blessings to distribute, but I need some help with the deliveries." God likes to be thanked I imagine, but a good word to the one who brought the blessing to us is in order as well.

Worship has to do with counting our blessings and giving thanks to God. As the old Gospel song says,

Count your blessings, name them one by one,

Count your blessings, see what God has done,

And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Then at the coffee hour, maybe there is a delivery person you want to thank.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt for Children at 10:25 AM

APRIL

1	9:30 AM	Bible study	13	8:00 PM	Committee meetings
	4:00 PM	Primary choir	14	11:30 AM	Christian Living Group
2	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir	15	9:30AM	Bible study
	8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir	16		
3			17		
4			18		
<hr/>					
5	PALM SUNDAY				
	9:00 AM	Children's Choir	19	9:00 AM	Children's Choir
	9:45 AM	Sunday School		9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Worship		11:00 AM	Worship
	Noon	Fellowship		Noon	Fellowship
	6-8:30 PM	Middle School Fellowship		3:00 PM	Manor Care
		VIDEO NIGHT and		Spring Break	No Middle School Fellowship
		Easter egg stuffing for the hunt	20	8:00 PM	Session meeting
6	9:30 AM	Christian education meeting	21		
	7:00 AM	The Monday Connection	22	9:30 AM	Bible study
	8:00 PM	Facilities committee		4:00 PM	Primary Choir
7	1:00 PM	The Lord's Table	23	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir
8	4:00 PM	Primary Choir		8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir
9	6:30 PM	Maunday Thursday dinner and communion	24		
		Sanctuary Choir	25	8 AM-5 PM	★ CHRISTMAS IN APRIL
10					Middle School details to follow)
11			<hr/>		
12	EASTER SUNDAY				
	9:00 AM	Worship	26	9:00 AM	Children's Choir
	10:00 AM	Fellowship		9:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:25	Easter Egg Hunt		11:00 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship		Noon	Fellowship
	Noon	Fellowship	27	7:30 PM	Deacons meeting
	9:30 AM	Middle School Fellowship	28		
		Hide eggs for the hunt and supervise hunt at 10:25	29	9:30 AM	Bible study
				4:00 PM	Primary Choir
			30	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir
				8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir

In Our Family

We rejoice in the births of...

Katherine Nicole Skinner, daughter of Nicole and Steven Skinner, and granddaughter of Elaine and Bill Skinner, born February 25;

Andrea Eleanor Zucchi, daughter of Anne and Nando Zucchi, and granddaughter of Peggy and Jon Hawley, born February 26;

Heather Elizabeth Mitchel, daughter of Amy and Dave Mitchel, and granddaughter of Kay and Ralph Mitchel, born March 16.

We give thanks for the lives of...

John Clouse's father, John Clouse, who died February 25;

Harriet Grier's mother, Erma Curry, who died March 1;

Sherri Bond's aunt, Barbara Johnson, who died in March;

Ken Olsen's cousin, Marilyn Lowe, who died in March

We commend them to the loving care of our Lord.

For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Our prayers are with John and his family, Harriet and her family, Sherri and her family, and Ken and his family.

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, PPC has donated 461 blankets to Church World Service. Until this year, the most blankets we had donated was 402.

April

Adult Christian Education

Sunday Morning Adult Seminar 9:45 a.m. in the library

Please join us in the church library from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., each Sunday. For further information, please call Kathy McPherson, 301-765-1154.

April

- 5 Religion in politics Jim Reichley
- 12 Easter No class
- 19 Great ends of the church C.F. Van Gorder, stated clerk, National Capitol Presbytery
- 26 Worship in the reformed tradition Sue Berry, associate for worship and education, NCP

Your WILL

Create a lasting legacy

New general endowment plaques

Three new general endowment names have been added to the plaque in Fellowship Hall:

- Dwight Elliot Self family
- Jane Beaton Steinmetz
- James and Marilyn Spivey

Please stop by the plaque and note the new names. You may remember each of these people.

"Keeping on giving" being used increasingly by our members

DIANE - O - GRAM

It's that time of year again!

When Jesus gives The Great Commission to his followers, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," he doesn't stop there. He goes on to add, "and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

It does take a lot of time, but you have as much as the person in the pew beside you; it is just a decision about how you are going to use it.

When we baptize a baby in this congregation, we promise, in the name of the whole church of Christ, to undertake with these parents the Christian nurture of their child.

Here at Potomac Presbyterian Church, we teach what Jesus taught us in many different ways, and we help parents to nurture their children in the Christian faith in many different ways. One of the most identifiable and concrete ways we do this is in our Sunday School hour every week.

We offer Christian education opportunities to people of all ages. We believe that teaching three year olds that God loves them —and the church does too — is just as important as teaching adults to understand what Karl Barth had to say about Romans.

We are a congregation with many different talents, and we all teach in many different ways, but I invite you, as someone does at this time every year, to consider committing yourself to teaching a Sunday School class next year. It is a huge responsibility, but we share it with at least two people for each age level. It does take a lot of time, but you have as much as the person in the pew beside you; it is just a decision about how you are going to use it. I know you are out of town often, but we can coordinate your schedule with someone else who is also out of town often.

Jesus doesn't leave his followers with just tasks to do, he also leaves them with the promise, "And lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the age." I count on that promise to include every hour that I am in a class with young disciples — and you can too!

Why I love teaching Sunday School

— Olivia Mabeus

Six years ago I was visiting my grandmother in my mother's hometown. Grandma was too sick to go to church that Sunday, so I went alone. When I signed my name on the "Friendship Pad" in the pew, the woman sitting next to me turned and stared at me. She kept glancing at me. At the end of the service, she turned and stated, "I know who you are." Since I didn't have a clue who she was, and I was reasonably certain that I hadn't been featured on "America's Most

Wanted," this declaration baffled me. She continued, "I know who you are, and I want you to know your mother was a mighty fine Sunday school teacher." Before I had a chance to respond, she went on, "but your grandmother was the best Sunday school teacher I ever had in my life." She paused ever so slightly then added, "and of course you know that your great-grandmother was the greatest Sunday school teacher who ever lived!" She then touched me gently on the arm and asked, "Have you come here to teach Sunday school?" In an instant analysis, I realized which end of the totem pole I would be on in this family progression, and I politely declined.

I share this little story because it highlights one of the big reasons I love teaching Sunday school. I remember the absolute joy and excitement my mother shared with me as she was preparing her Sunday school lesson every week of my childhood. I never had my mother as my teacher, but what she taught me at home

was that Bible study was interesting and applicable to everyday life.

There is no greater Bible study than preparing a Sunday School lesson

What I have learned in teaching Sunday school myself for the past 22 years, is that there is no greater Bible study than preparing a Sunday School lesson. I can't tell you how many times the 5th grade lesson for the week has been a timely reminder for me in my own life of what God expects me to do. God speaks to me in every lesson, not just to the kids. God was important to me as a child and I pray that at least some of my Sunday School lessons leave children with the same vibrant feeling of God's love and care that I felt in my own childhood. If this is not happening for your child, please let me know, so I can apply for even more divine intervention on Saturday night! Or better yet, volunteer to teach Sunday school and help me out as part of the strong and enthusiastic teaching team at PPC.

FACT:	In the wars of the last decade far more children than soldiers have been killed and disabled Open wide your hearts . . . and Give help	

One Great Hour of Sharing

Don't forget to bring your OGHS coin boxes back to church on Easter Sunday. There will be a giant Easter basket in the narthex to receive the children's offerings. Sharing with those in need is an important part of getting ready for Easter. Filling a coin box—with pennies and prayers—is important for all of us. Additional boxes are still available in the narthex. If you will not be here on Easter Sunday, you may deliver your box to any of the Sunday School teachers.

WELCOME to our new members

The following people joined our congregation, March 16, 1998.

Bonnie and Lowell Baier
9701 Hall Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301-299-7879

Bonnie and Lowell have lived in Potomac since the 1960s in an old hunting lodge, surrounded by wildlife. For 34 years, wildlife conservation has been a consuming avocation for Lowell, who founded a national wildlife organization and has been active in two others since the early 1970s. An Indiana native, he graduated from Valparaiso University and Indiana University. Lowell practiced law in Washington, D.C. before forming his own commercial real estate development company, Baier Properties, Inc. His interests include wildlife art, European painting, 15th-19th century architecture, and Western U.S. history. Bonnie is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania. Since retiring from teaching elementary grades in Great Falls, Virginia, she has been active in volunteer work, taking care of her three dogs. The Baiers enjoy antiquing, gardening, the beach, and the West.

Deacon: Miriam Conley

Edson Theodore (Ted) Gregory
5108 River Hill Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
301-320-2307

Ted, who grew up in a military family, lived in many locations before coming to the Washington area. He is a self-employed computer consultant who specializes in application development work. His hobbies include sailing and dancing.

Deacon: Bob Best

David Moquin
736 Chessie Crossing Way
Woodbine, Maryland 21797
410-992-8726

Originally from California, Dave's family moved to Maryland when he was a young boy. He is a graduate of Frostburg State and the University of Maryland. Dave is a teacher at Wheaton High School where he coaches both football and wrestling. The father of four children, his hobbies include singing, fishing, reading, and watching musicals. We look forward to having Dave in the Sanctuary Choir on Sunday mornings!

Deacon: Bob Best

DEACON DOINGS

Spring is now here, and we are busily planning the following upcoming events:

The board of deacons will sponsor "Confirmand Sunday" on Palm Sunday in April, using our recent class of confirmands as greeters, ushers, and coffee-hour hosts.

We will be helping support the worship committee's efforts regarding all of our youth for the upcoming "Youth Sunday" a little later in the spring, a separate event from the "Confirmand Sunday" event.

Please continue to let us know your concerns. If you have any ideas to share, please contact your deacon.

PPC youth makes good

A former Potomac Presbyterian Church member has been named managing editor of the Washington Post.

Steve Coll attended our church with his brothers Jeff and Danny. He graduated from Wootton High School in 1976 and attended Occidental College.

He was editor and publisher of the Washington Post Magazine and a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist.

His brother, Shirley Coll, was our education director 25 years ago and until recently served as the minister of the United Church of Christ in Silver Spring.

Meet the Mashburns

Catch up on the news from our missionaries, Rebecca and Jay Mashburn and their children, Candice and Joel, as they continue their ministry in Nepal.

Rebecca, a M.D., manages several rural clinics, and Jay, an engineer who formerly headed a hydroelectric project, now works on environmental and community service projects in the village of Kirne, Nepal.

The Mashburns now have a website where you can see photos of the family and learn more about their country and their work. The address is <http://pubweb.acns.nwu.edu/%7Evho040/index.html>

What do you think, Cindy—an approach worth looking into for our own Sanctuary Choir?!

Notice in a church bulletin:

"The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir."

ICE

FOR YOUTH

Parenting in the pew

Guiding your children into the joy of worship

Don't you hate it when your little one wriggles in church? It can get so bad that we spend so much time "shushing" the children that we forget to teach them what they're really in church for!

Diane Hutchins bought a new book, *Parenting in the Pew*, by Robbie Castleman, that helps parents learn how to tutor their children in worship. After reading it, I discovered that I've been going about it all wrong for over five years! It would be helpful for parents of children from 3 to 18!

I'm so eager to share with all of you what I learned, that the Christian education committee has asked Diane to lead us in a workshop based on this book.

We have chosen Sunday morning, May 3, during the Sunday school hour. We hope you will bring your children to Sunday School at 9:45, even if they don't ordinarily attend, and spend an hour with us in Fellowship Hall thinking seriously about worshipping with our children.

If you'd like Diane to order a copy of the book for you, please let her know. If you would like to borrow her copy, after May 3, you are welcome to!

Summer already?????

Mark your calendars!

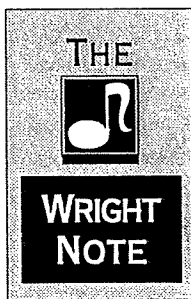
BIBLE SCHOOL June 22-26

Kathie McShea has agreed to coordinate this year's Bible School adventure. It is now time for you to tell her how you might be able to help.

Bible School is a very labor intensive undertaking. Usually we have almost as many adults as we have children in the building that week. It's the only time of the year when we can share our enthusiasm for the wonderful stories of the Bible with our children in an extended time frame.

Your pre-school children will have a wonderful time with us. Your elementary school children need to spend this time with us. We hope your whole family will put Bible School on their summer calendar!





Every month I am asked to sit at the computer keyboard to produce inspiring words for this column. My brain-to-hand connection works more fluidly when executing a Bach fugue for the organ, when directing a soaring phrase in a Saint-Saens choral anthem, when guiding the handbells through a difficult measure, or when leading children's voices on the last phrase of "We Are Children of Our God."

Just as I am sitting here struggling with a topic for this month, I receive a phone call from a choir member who has joined the Sanctuary Choir recently. Usually my church calls at home are to tell me of valid reasons

for absences from upcoming rehearsals or special services. This call is made from an office where urgent business sounds are heard in the background.

"Hello, Cindy. I just called to tell you what last Sunday meant to me: the little children's voices, the handbells, the rich tones of the choir and cello on the anthem, the inspiring sermon, the hymns—it was wonderful! And then to go with you and some of the children from the children's choir to Manor Care in the afternoon to sing for those folks over there—that was great. I loved hearing John Hummon play all those old hymns and to observe the warm rapport between Kerry and the residents. When the children sang and read, it was so heartwarming to watch the reactions of those poor folks. The service was like rain on parched ground. I wonder if those of us who worship back at our own church realize how fortunate we are. Bye-bye. I've got another call."

Thanks, Walter. You have made my day.

Cindy

MAUNDAY THURSDAY *Fellowship Meal*

April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Come for a **LIGHT DINNER** in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the narthex beginning March 15, \$3 per person at the door.

Continue Maundy Thursday with an 8:00 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE** in the sanctuary. The Rev. Rufus Lusk, United Church of Christ and Yale Divinity School, will present a one-person drama entitled, "I am Judas Iscariot," followed by communion.

Elementary school-aged children are invited and encouraged to attend. Nursery care will be provided.

• FELLOWSHIP •

Greet spring 1998
by bringing your family to

MAY DAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Friday, May 1, 1998
6:30-9:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Join us for
A DELICIOUS SPAGHETTI DINNER
with all the trimmings

some fun and games
and back by popular demand,
THE BLUE SKY PUPPET THEATRE!

All ages will enjoy the award-winning
performance of "The Barker of Seville"!

Music!
Comedy!
Good food!
Fun!
Door prizes!

and best of all . . .
FINE FELLOWSHIP for all ages!!

Come one, come all!
Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 5,
during coffee hour after service.
All this for just \$5 per person.

Questions? Call Melanie Mason, 301-365-1115,
or Gail Cannon, 301-365-8632

Take me out to the ball game!

Once again, come out and root for the Orioles on Monday, June 22, at Camden Yards. For more information and to make your reservation, contact Bob Best, 301-469-5458.

May 10 is YOUTH SUNDAY

We have chosen Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, as Youth Sunday this year. It is an opportunity for the youth of our congregation to plan and participate in the worship service Sunday morning.

Letters have been sent to all high school seniors inviting them to share some of their reflections about the church's role in education for the new millennium. We hope several of our seniors will call Kerry to volunteer to share this responsibility.

We invite all junior and senior high students in the congregation to join us during the Sunday School hour April 26 for a planning session for this worship service. We will make a plan that morning and assign specific responsibilities.

Diane and Kerry will be available to offer as much assistance as the young people think they need. We thank Paddy Simpson for coordinating this event for us.

for children and friends
—toddlers through sixth grade—
of Potomac Presbyterian Church



**Easter
Egg
Hunt**

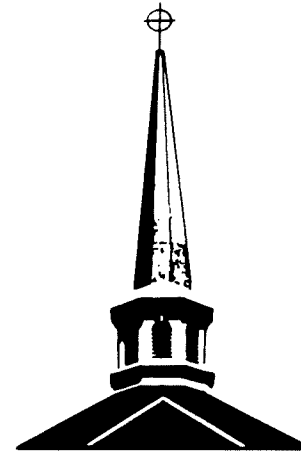
**Sunday
April 12**

- Bring your baskets
- Meet in the narthex at 10:25.

In the event of rain or serious mud, we will hunt indoors—somehow . . .

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301-299-6007

Non-profit Org.
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Rockville, MD
Permit No. 200



STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

September

1998

Kerry On . . .

As the fall season begins, we welcome Marilyn Johns as our new Director of Youth and Christian Education. Ms. Johns holds an M.A. in Christian education from Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. For the past five years she has been serving at the Neelsville Presbyterian Church in Germantown. Please read Marilyn's article to get to know her better and to hear about her vision for Christian education at PPC.

The installation service for our new director will be on Sunday morning October 4 at the regular worship service. A reception will follow during the coffee hour.

I want to encourage all of us to renew our commitment to Christian education and become involved in many opportunities that are available. Look for descriptions of the educational programs in this issue of *Steeple to People*. Worship returns to the 11 o'clock hour on September 13 and I urge you to make this time a priority in your week. Who can even imagine what great blessings God has in store for us as we gather for study and worship?

Let us all give thanks for the family of faith called Potomac Presbyterian Church.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Diane Hutchins, *director of Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

SEPTEMBER 13

9:45 Rally Day 11:00 Worship

In Our Family

SEPTEMBER

<p>1</p> <p>2 7:30 PM Sunday School teacher orientation meeting</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>6 10:00 AM Worship 11:00AM Fellowship</p> <p>7 Office closed, Labor Day</p> <p>8 9:30 AM Christian Living Group</p> <p>9 9:30 AM Bible study</p> <p>10 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>13 9:45 AM RALLY DAY ★ 11:00 AM Worship Noon Fellowship</p> <p>14 7:00 AM The Monday Connection 8:00 PM Committee meetings</p> <p>15</p> <p>16 9:30AM Bible study 4:00 PM <i>Primary Choir</i></p> <p>17 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>18 5:30 PM Wedding rehearsal</p> <p>19 4:30 PM Wedding</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>20 9:00 AM <i>Children's Choir</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Fellowship 3:00 PM Manor Care <i>Steeple to People</i> deadline</p> <p>21 8:00 PM Session meeting</p> <p>22 10:00 AM National Capital Presbytery meeting, Trinity Presbyterian, Herndon, VA</p> <p>23 9:30 AM Bible study 4:00 PM <i>Primary Choir</i></p> <p>24 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>25 6:00 PM Wedding rehearsal</p> <p>26 2:00 PM Wedding and reception</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>27 9:00 AM <i>Children's Choir</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship — FAITH & WORK ★ Noon Fellowship</p> <p>28 7:30 PM Deacons meeting</p> <p>29</p> <p>30 9:30 AM Bible study 4:00 PM <i>Primary Choir</i></p>
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The gift that keeps on giving . . .
Remember your church in your will.

We keep in our prayers . . .

Bettie Ann Johnson's mother, who is recovering from surgery.

Godspeed to . . .

Kathie and Kevin McShea and their daughters, Erin, Allison, and Heather, temporarily at 66 Treaty Drive, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087.

We rejoice in the births of . . .

Daniel Jacob Stafford, son of Caroline and Brian Stafford, brother of Lauren, and grandson of Janet and Ed Clark, born July 1;

Matthew William Sharer, son of Shelly and David Sharer, and grandson of Wilma and Gene Sharer, born July 6;

Kyle Scott Skinner, son of Karen and Jeff Skinner, and grandson of Elaine and Bill Skinner, born July 13.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of . . .

Austin Howard Mills, son of Nancy and Loren Mills, August 2.

Many thanks to **Miriam Conley, Renee Jochum, Karen Karch, and Betty Yadlosky**, who filled in for Flo Casper, our church secretary, while she was on vacation.

**Congratulations
to Matthew Teel and his family.**

We rejoice with them as they begin their ministry in Tarkio, Missouri August 1. Matthew accepted the call, met with various Heartland Presbytery committees, and was approved for ordination August 16.

Right out of church bulletins . . .

"Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door."

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

"The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her."

"Ushers will eat late comers."

September

Adult Christian Education

Sunday Morning Adult Seminar

Why wait until January for a "New Year's resolution"? Start the new Sunday School year by joining our Adult Ed group each Sunday in the library from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. This year we have chosen "Transforming Hearts and Minds" as our theme. Our guest speakers have been carefully chosen with this theme in mind. So join us for discussion, fellowship, and food. It's going to be a "transforming" year.

September

13 RALLY DAY – Fellowship Hall

20 "Transforming my life from Buddhism to Christianity"

Dr. C. Leong Seow, professor, Princeton Theological Seminary

27 Reflections of his Bosnia peacekeeping mission

Alan Heil

October 4, 11, 18, 25

A four-week book study on the life and works of St. Francis of Assisi

Dr. Dewey Wallace (back by popular demand)

For further information, contact Kathy McPherson, 301 765-1154

Anyone with a digital camera who would like to help spruce up the church's web site should contact Cal Reid, 301 340-8142.

WE NEED YOU! Listen carefully for God's call

Do you feel called to teach Sunday School next season? Listen carefully for God's call – it may be in the form of a call from the Christian education committee in the next few weeks. If it is in another form, we need you to call us! We are still very short of teachers for young children – pre-school through fourth graders – for the fall. We hope you will hear God calling you!

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

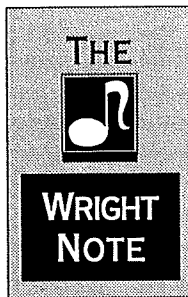
What a privilege to be called by God to serve this congregation! My family and I have already felt so welcomed among you, and we thank you for that. This has been an emotional roller coaster for us, saying good-bye to one church and hello to another. I appreciate your kindness and your openness.

It is also a privilege for me to follow Diane Hutchins. It is a delight to come into a position with everything in order and running so well. Much of the credit for that also belongs to the members of the Christian Education committee, who have worked hard to see that everything would be in place for the new Sunday School year.

For the first several months I plan to be observing and learning. After helping to get the new school year up and running, the main focus of my activity will be on the youth programs of the church, and looking for new ways to involve youth in the church's life. I want to see lots of parents and other adults involved, so don't be surprised if you get a call from me. If I happen to miss you and you are interested in helping to plan or implement youth programs, just call me at the church!

The best way for you to help me to get oriented to this new place is to let me know what's on your mind. I am in the office Monday through Thursday, and I would love for you to drop by and say hello, and share some of your ideas for Christian education at Potomac. I am diligently studying my pictorial directory, but make sure you say your name at least five times when I meet you.

I am excited about being here, and look forward to the ministry God has in store for us together.



Attention all RINGERS and SINGERS! September is the month to get back to or to join a choir. In May I invited you to make your commitment to join then, before the fall calendar began to fill up. Now it is time to act on that commitment.

Read the following lineup of possibilities and bring yourself and/or your children to the appropriate choir at the designated time. No advance calling is necessary, except for those interested in handbell ringing. If you are one of those individuals ready to try one of the most enjoyable musical adventures you can imagine, please call me at 301 926-7015 so I can organize the program effectively in terms of skill level and bell assignment. I really encourage more of you to try handbell ringing. Last season we rang with just five or six people. That is very difficult for both ringers and the director finding and arranging music to play. Eight or more is ideal.

Primary Choir starts September 16
4:00 p.m., Wednesdays, *Grades K-2*

Children's Choir starts September 20
9:00 a.m., Sundays, *Grades 3-6*

Handbell Choir starts September 17
6:30 p.m., Thursdays
Any age, with music reading skills

Sanctuary Choir starts September 10
8:00 p.m., Thursdays
Age is not a factor. Come and enjoy good singing in a friendly setting.

Thank you for your continued support of our music program. I look forward to a season of renewed musical and spiritual growth.

Cindy

Join PPC for a Fall Hayride

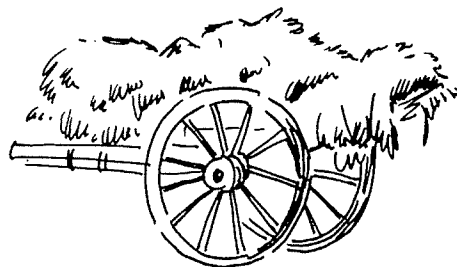
The PPC Fellowship Committee welcomes one and all to an old-fashioned fall party, complete with a hayride, bonfire, picnic (sub sandwiches, cider and marshmallow roasting), lots of singing, and a free pumpkin for all! Hope you can join us for this special and most enjoyable event.

Saturday, October 17
5:30 pm
Homestead Farms
15600 Sugarland Rd.
Poolesville, MD

- The trip to the farm is an easy 11.1 miles from PPC and takes about 20-25 minutes.
- Maps will be made available at the church prior to the event.

We need a minimum of 50 people to sign up ASAP. Look for our poster in the narthex – you can't miss it! OR you can give Gail a call to reserve your spot as soon as possible. (301) 365-8632

\$7 per person (includes everything but a blanket and folding chairs, either or both of which is recommended for your comfort)



SHARING OUR MISSION

PPC supports local community

One of the ways in which Potomac Presbyterian Church supports the local community is by participating in "The Lord's Table," a program which helps feed the hungry in our county. PPC provides both financial support, administered by our Mission Committee, and personal participation by members of our congregation.

Each month, this church, with two other scheduled participating churches, provides an evening meal for people served by "The Lord's Table" – homeless people and others whose financial resources are short of their real needs, including even some entire families. Our volunteers, usually four to eight in number, go to the host church in Gaithersburg early in the afternoon of the first Tuesday of the month, prepare and serve the meal, clean up afterward, and do whatever else is needed and can be done. Additional services, such as counseling, are provided by the county.

This is truly a worthwhile mission, and those who contribute time and effort deserve our recognition, our support, and our love in Christ's church.

Report from Texas

The Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Ladonia, Texas, to which PPC has provided funds for a steeple, baptistry and Bibles, has given the Mission Committee a recent progress report. For the first time in its 120-year history, Mount Zion now has a service every Sunday instead of just twice a month. The church has also inaugurated Bible sessions on each Tuesday of the month. Work is still continuing on plumbing and landscaping at the new church, which replaced the former church burned in the 1995 and 1996 spate of racially motivated burnings in the south.

Mount Zion is still in need of assistance to meet its total financial commitments, but the congregation is flourishing in its new structure and is very grateful for the help contributed by PPC.

Christmas International House

Now is a good time to start thinking about how you might share your Christmas holidays this year. In the Gaithersburg area, Christmas International House will welcome 15 to 20 foreign students from December 18 to January 1. We will need host families, as well as help with three planned trips, extra meals, etc. CIH provides an opportunity for families to demonstrate and to share the real meaning of Christmas. Dialogue and exchange of ideas characterize the program – peacemaking at the grass roots level.

Please join us for our planning meeting on Monday, October 13, at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m. We'll meet in the fellowship hall, see the new Gaithersburg video, and discover why this program is so rewarding. For further information, call Eleanor Munch, 926-3728.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

August 25, 1998

Dear Members of the DYCE Search Committee,

Approximately one year ago you each agreed to serve on the Director of Youth and Christian Education Search Committee, and were duly elected by the Session. At last night's Session meeting, the Search Committee was dismissed with thanks for a job well done, and I was instructed to convey the Session's gratitude to you.

You have not only done your job faithfully, you have done it expeditiously as well. As the result, we are able to start the 1998-99 education year with Marilyn Johns at the starting line and raring to go. Thank you for devoting your time and talents in order to make this possible.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McMahon
Clerk of Session

*udos to Kathy McPherson, Chair; Leah Cannon; Dan Dowd; Olivia Mabeus; Bridget Newton;
Beth Rudnic; Ed Tennent*

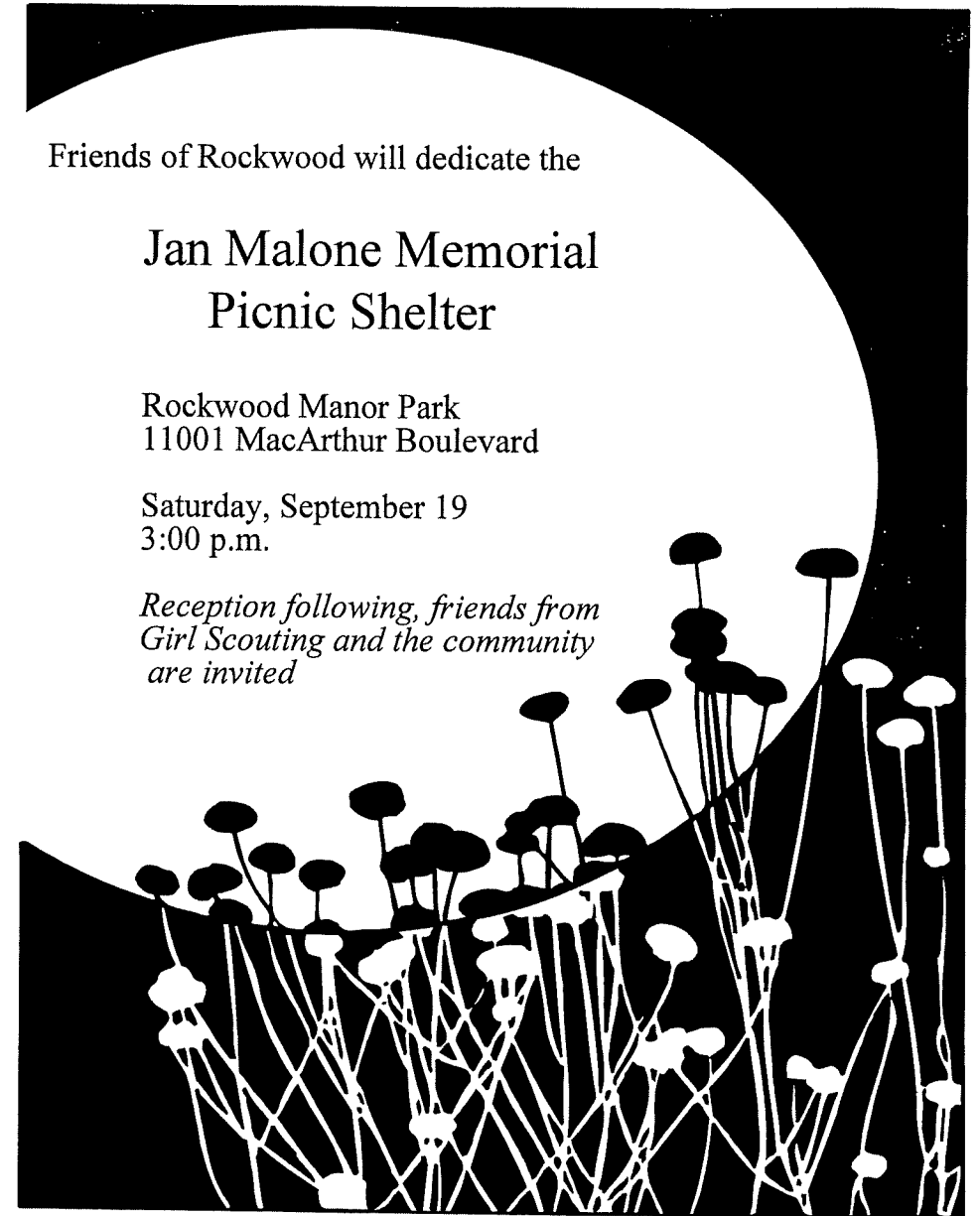
Friends of Rockwood will dedicate the

Jan Malone Memorial Picnic Shelter

Rockwood Manor Park
11001 MacArthur Boulevard

Saturday, September 19
3:00 p.m.

*Reception following, friends from
Girl Scouting and the community
are invited*



WORKCAMP 1999



AWOL
A WORK OF LOVE

Although it seems like a long way until the summer, plans are already underway for an exciting opportunity for youth. Next summer we will participate in a workcamp program especially for youth. Workcamp is an opportunity for young people to put their faith into action by taking a week in the summer and traveling to a disadvantaged area to repair the homes of poor and elderly people. We gather with about 350 other youth and advisors and have lots of fun meeting new people, as well as learn how to strengthen our faith. As an added bonus, workcamp counts for 30 hours of your required community service.

If you want to know more, an organizational meeting will be held for interested 8th-12th graders and their parents on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the library. At this meeting we will assess how many are interested in going, how many adult advisors we will need, and where and when we will go. If you cannot attend and are still interested in going to workcamp, please call Marilyn Johns at the church prior to the meeting.

Trees in the Bible

Use the code below to find the names of the trees in each sentence.

Noah built the ark with wood from the _____ tree.
3, 25, 16, 18, 5, 19, 19

The dove returned to the ark with a leaf from an _____ tree.
15, 12, 9, 22, 5

Rebekah's nurse, Deborah, died and was buried under an _____ tree.
15, 1, 11

When Moses went into the Holy Place he saw that Aaron's staff was covered with blossoms and with the fruit of an _____ tree.
1, 12, 13, 15, 14, 4

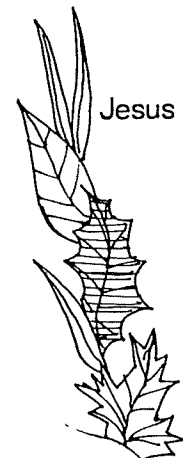
When Deborah judged the Israelites she was sitting under a _____ tree.
16, 1, 12, 13

King Solomon requested that _____ trees from Lebanon be brought to
3, 5, 4, 1, 18

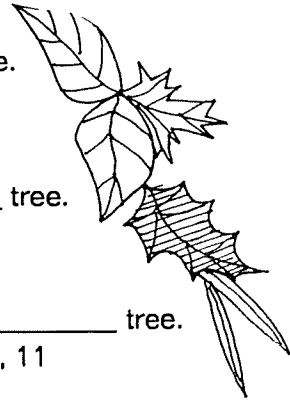
Jerusalem for building the temple.

Zacchaeus climbed up into a _____ tree so he could see Jesus.
19, 25, 3, 1, 13, 15, 18, 5

Jesus told Nathanael, "I saw you while you were still under the _____ tree."
6, 9, 7

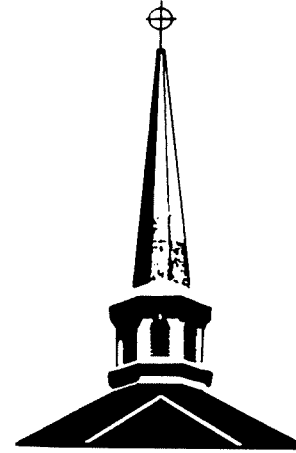


A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Potomac Presbyterian Church
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Potomac, Maryland 20854
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

November

1998

Kerry On . . .

It's November and Thanksgiving is coming. Well, the day we call Thanksgiving will soon be here. Actually it is a word that is at the core of our spiritual lives and spills over into the daily ups and downs of our busy schedules. It is really an attitude that shapes our ways of relating to one another and our more basic relationship to God. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good," says the Psalmist.

I especially like how the late Henri Nouwen speaks of this relationship to God from the perspective of the parable of the Prodigal Son.

"Here lies hidden the great call to conversion: to look not with the eyes of my own low self-esteem, but with the eyes of God's love. As long as I keep looking at God as a landowner, as a father who wants to get the most out of me for the least cost, I cannot but become jealous, bitter, and resentful toward my fellow workers or my brothers and sisters. But if I am able to look at the world with the eyes of God's love and discover that God's vision is not that of a stereotypical landowner or patriarch but rather than of an all-giving and forgiving father who does not measure out his love to his children according to how well they behave, then I quickly see that my only true response can be deep gratitude."

*From: Henri Nouwen,
Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Marilyn Johns, *director of youth and Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*



In Our Family



We keep in our prayers . . .

Millie Gimer, who is at home;
Sally O'Neal, in the hospital after surgery.

Congratulations and God's blessing on . . .

Courtney Kaiser and Scott Koonce, who were married in Concord, Massachusetts, October 3.

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

Meredith Kathleen Srour, daughter of Stephanie and David Srour, born September 25.

Standards of conduct

At its regular October meeting, the Session approved a Sexual Misconduct Policy for Potomac Presbyterian Church. Our congregation has had no incidents at any time during its history, but acted upon the recommendation of both National Capital Presbytery and insurance carriers, in preparing a document which helps protect the congregation and staff. The document outlines standards of conduct and details of supervision and accountability. A copy will be provided to all staff and volunteers and signed acknowledgments will be kept on file. The policy is available in the church office for anyone interested in reviewing it.

In September, our church completed 10 years

of providing a worship service at Manor Care on the third Sunday of each month.

DEACON DOINGS

We hope you enjoyed the recent "All Deacons Coffee," Sunday, October 18. Our year-end event will, of course, be the

Williamsburg Breakfast Sunday, December 6

You don't want to miss it!! Meanwhile, please continue to let us know your concerns — any ideas to share, please contact your deacon.

NOVEMBER

1 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM *Sunday School*
11:00 AM **Worship — Communion**
Noon *Fellowship*
★ 6:00 PM **Halloween Party**

2 7:00 AM *The Monday Connection*
3 1:00 PM *The Lord's Table*
4 9:30 AM *Bible study*
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:30 PM *Evening Bible study*
5 6:30 PM *Handbell Choir*
8:00 PM *Sanctuary Choir*
6
7 9:00 AM *National Capital Presbytery Leadership Training Event*

3:00 PM *Manor Care*
4:30 PM *Junior High Fellowship*
6:00 PM *Jr. High/Sr. High light dinner*
6:30 PM *Senior High Fellowship*

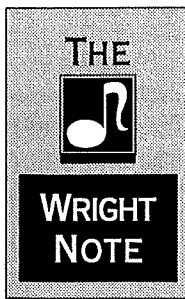
16
17
18 9:30 AM *Bible study*
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:30 PM *Evening Bible study*
19 6:30 PM *Handbell Choir*
8:00 PM *Sanctuary Choir*
20 ★ 7:00 PM **FAMILY Holiday Workshop**
21 ★ 10:00 AM **"Help the Homeless" Walk**

8 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM *Sunday School*
11:00 AM **Worship — Baptism**
Noon *Fellowship*
4:30 PM *Junior High Fellowship*
6:00 PM *Jr. High/Sr. High light dinner*
6:30 PM *Senior High Fellowship*
9 12:30 PM *Christian education committee*
8:00 PM *Committee meetings*
10 9:30 AM *Christian Living*
7:30 PM *Evening Christian Living group*
11 9:30 AM *Bible study*
2:45 PM *Collingswood*
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:30 PM *Evening Bible study*
12 6:30 PM *Handbell Choir*
8:00 PM *Sanctuary Choir*
13
14 5:00 PM **SESSION RETREAT**

22 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM *Sunday School*
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon *Fellowship*
4:30 PM *Junior High Fellowship*
6:00 PM *Jr. High/Sr. High light dinner*
6:30 PM *Senior High Fellowship*
23 7:30 PM *Deacons meeting*
24 6:00 PM *National Capital Presbytery meeting at National Presbyterian Church*
6:30 PM *Handbell Choir*
8:00 PM *Sanctuary Choir*
25 9:30 AM *NO Bible study*
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:30 PM *NO Evening Bible study*
26 *Happy Thanksgiving — office closed*
27
28

15 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM *Sunday School*
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon *Fellowship*

29 **First Sunday of Advent**
9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM *Sunday School*
11:00 AM **Worship — Baptism and Communion**
Noon *Fellowship*
30



In just a few weeks we will be experiencing the meaningful weeks of Advent. During the four Sundays that precede Christmas, we will be preparing verbally and musically for Christ's birth. Many of you will ask, "Why don't we sing

Christmas carols, starting with the first Sunday of Advent?" One answer to that question lies in the theology expressed so beautifully in the twenty hymns grouped together in the Advent section of our hymnal. These texts support the scriptural references used during the time of preparation called Advent.

In the Christmas section which follows, are forty selections appropriate to the events surrounding Jesus' birth. Are these all carols? Are some Christmas hymns? Is there a difference? How can you tell which is which?

First, let us look at abbreviated definitions of carol and hymn. Carols date back to the Middle Ages. Religious texts were set to secular or popular melodies. They were not restricted to just Nativity themes. These old carols were simple and direct, reflecting the common people. In carols, the tune seems to be of prime importance. In hymns, the words take precedence. Hymns are songs written to praise or adore God.

How can you tell which is which? Look at Silent Night, #60. Directly under the title is printed "Stille Nacht," the hymn tune name. To the immediate right is the hymn tune composer, Franz Xaver Gruber. To the left is the text writer, Joseph Mhor, 1818. In contrast, look at "The First Nowell," #56. The musical reference to the right says English carol. The text reference to the left says, English carol, 17th century.

Here is your Advent homework: Which of the following are carols and which are hymns? "O Little Town of Bethlehem," #44; "Joy to the World," #40; "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," #38; "O Come, All Ye Faithful," #41; "Hark! The Herald Angles Sing," #31; "Angels We Have Heard on High," #23; and "Away in a Manger," #24 and #25. The answers are readily found in our current hymnal.

Cindy



FOR YOUTH

FELLOWSHIP

Junior and Senior High Youth Fellowship groups are meeting every Sunday evening for games, discussion, prayer and fellowship.

Junior Highs: 4:30-6 p.m.
Senior Highs: 6:30-8 p.m.

We also offer a light supper from 6-6:30 for \$2 per person. All you have to do is let Marilyn Johns know that you are coming so we can prepare enough food.

If you are in grades 7-12, we hope you'll join us as often as you can for youth fellowships.

It's amazing how quickly you can make friends when you are all knotted up together and trying to figure out how to untangle yourselves, or working with a team on Bible trivia questions.

*Come and join us —
we'd love to have you!*

YOUTH WORKCAMP

Excitement is building as we begin our plans for summer workcamp! We have decided to attend the Railroad City Workcamp in Altoona, Pennsylvania during the week of June 13-19. Because of the decline of rail travel, this former hub for railroad manufacturing is now a city in disrepair. We expect our labor of love to provide new roofs and build wheelchair ramps, as well as give hope to elderly and indigent people.

How can you be involved in this project? There are many ways:

1. **Pray** for the youth and adults who will be attending, and for the residents of the area we will serve. A finalized list of participants from our church will be available in early December.
2. **Support our fundraising efforts.** We need to raise \$200 for every person going, plus enough to cover the possible rental of vehicles. Descriptions of upcoming fundraisers follow.
3. **Fundraiser Coordinator** could be a very important job for the right person. This person would publicize the fundraisers, remind the youth, keep track of the proceeds, and handle the details.
4. **One male adult is still needed** to accompany the group as a chaperone and worker. The job of an adult advisor is tough — you have to work alongside the youth, and help to oversee our group at other times. It takes a lot of love and patience, a week of your vacation time, and definitely a sense of humor. Are you the man for the job?

UPCOMING WORKCAMP Fundraisers

December 5 Youth for Hire

Hire a team of youth to do yard work, babysitting, dog washing, housecleaning, fence painting, whatever! We prefer that the youth work in teams of at least two. Suggested donation: a minimum of \$5/hour/youth. There will be sign-up forms in the bulletin soon.

December 12 Christmas Shoppers' Sitter Service

Bring your children to the church 1-5 p.m. for child care while you get that last-minute Christmas shopping done. We will have youth and adults to entertain and educate your child. They will probably have as much fun as you do! This will be done strictly by donation only.

January 31 Super Bowl Sub Sale

Youth will take orders throughout January for sub sandwiches. Plan ahead for those Super Bowl parties — these subs are GOOD! Cost is \$5.00 per sub and there is no limit to the number we can make.

GOD'S FAMILY AT THE TABLE

The children's Communion education class has been rescheduled to be more convenient for participants.

This class, for children in grades 2-5 and their parents, will be offered the third Sunday of each month, beginning February 21. We will meet 12:30-2:00 p.m., and a light lunch will be provided. The final class will be in May, and children will take Communion for the first time on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Watch your bulletin after the first of the year for a sign-up form.



The Deacons of PPC cordially invite you and your family to our annual

Williamsburg Breakfast

Sunday, December 6
9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Bring a breakfast bread to share
Children will be served first and go to their classrooms

Come catch the *spirit of Christmas!*

Come and share the joy!

Deck the Hall

Prepare for and enjoy the Christmas season — help decorate our church on December 5th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Family Holiday Workshop

Friday, November 20
7:00–9:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Join us for a fun evening of creativity in preparation for the holidays —

- Learn how to tie beautiful bows
- Assemble original Christmas tree ornaments
- Share punch and cookies
- Enjoy the best of fellowship

The Fellowship Committee is looking for interested volunteers to “man” a craft table — no particular talents necessary, just the desire to have fun! Call Gail Cannon or Melanie Mason.

Christmas House Tour

Sunday, December 13
3:00 until 5:00 p.m.

The Fellowship Committee is planning a Christmas House Tour for Sunday, December 13, 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. Come tour the Bedingfield home, the McPherson home, and the Perry home. More information will follow in the coming weeks!

PLAN AHEAD FOR CHURCH AND HOME
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Poinsettia Sale

The worship committee is again offering poinsettias for sale to the congregation. Profit from this sale defrays the cost of Christmas decorations for the church.

The poinsettias are grown by Behnke Nurseries and are of excellent quality. They are available in red, white, or pink.

Pot size	Number of blooms	Price
6 inch	4–6	\$12
7 inch	8–12	\$20
8 inch	12–15	\$25
10 inch	20+	\$40

Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 29. Poinsettias may be picked up Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.–noon. Make checks out to Potomac Presbyterian Church and include with order. Place orders in the collection plate or in the box in the church office. Questions? Call Vicki Dorman.

ORDER FORM

Quantity	Size	Color	Price
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Name _____			
Phone _____			

Mark Your Calendars...

PPC will sing Christmas carols at Collingswood and Manor Care Nursing Homes on Sunday, December 20.

The Christian Living Group

has begun its study of Dee Brestin's popular book, *The Friendships of Women*. We are so excited about this study of women's relationships that we would like to make it available to working women as well.

On the second Tuesday of every month beginning November 10, Christian Living will be offered in the morning 9:30–11:00 a.m. and *in the evening*, 7:30–9:00 p.m. The groups will be studying the same chapters each month, so if you can't make one group, maybe you can make the other. We hope to plan a couple of events during the year that will combine the evening and morning groups.

If you are interested in being a part of the evening group, or would like more information, please call Marilyn Johns as soon as possible so a book can be ordered for you.

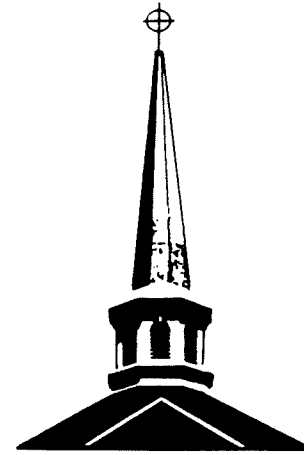
from church bulletins . . .

“The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.”

“Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.”

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE Potomac Presbyterian Church

December

1998

Kerry On . . .

God of wisdom and glory, power and might, love and compassion, grace and truth, we come before your awesome presence. We come because in your Son Jesus we are invited to call you Father. You promise to hear our prayers and we trust that all your intentions for us are good.

Today we give you thanks for Jim and Helen Leitch whom you called to come to Potomac in 1963 to begin a new congregation. We thank you for their faithfulness to you, the people of this congregation, and to each other.

We marvel at their gifts, their sense of humor and their deep faith. Now we give thanks for the life of Helen Leitch and rejoice that she is now with you, O Lord. We trust that she has been welcomed into your glorious presence with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." We pray for Jim, who has lost his life-long companion. Comfort him and give him a deep sense of gratitude for their years together. May we continue to grow in faith as we give thanks for the ministry of Jim and Helen Leitch.

Now, O Lord, we pray for your children, the ones who come forward in our worship service, the ones who are filled with grief and suffering in Central America. We pray for your children who are sick and remember especially Millie Gimer, Sally O'Neal and Ray Simpson. Be with your children who struggle for justice in the face of racism and bigotry. Be with those who are lonely and question life's purpose. Guide your strong children, the ones with extraordinary gifts — may they use these gifts for your glory.

We are all your children, O Lord, no matter what our age. Help us to trust in your loving care, your unfailing faithfulness, and your grace that is always amazing. These prayers we offer in the name of Jesus, who invited us to pray saying, Our Father ...

Notes of concern may be sent to Dr. Leitch, The Village, 2805 NW 83rd St., D-116, Gainesville, FL 32606. Memorial gifts may be sent to Hospice of North Central Florida, 4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Marilyn Johns, *director of youth and Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*



FOR YOUTH

YOUTH WORKCAMP

Greenville, Michigan, June 19–26

Because of exam schedules, we have had to reschedule summer workcamp to another week and location. We are excited to be planning our trip to Greenville, Michigan, the week of June 19–26.

Since it is so far away, we will be leaving Saturday and spending the night in a church about halfway. We are finalizing our list of participants this month.

Special thanks to Vivian Teets, who has agreed to be our fundraiser coordinator.

We still need one male adult to accompany the group as an adult advisor. It's tough work, but very rewarding. Please see Marilyn Johns for more information.

Youth FELLOWSHIP

December is a busy month for our youth! We will all help with **Youth for Hire** and the **Christmas Shopper's Sitter Service** to help the workcampers.

Some youth are being hired by the deacons to help with the Williamsburg Breakfast on December 6.

On December 19 both groups will have a **Christmas party** at Marilyn Johns' house, at which they will sing in the neighborhood, exchange gifts, and eat lots of goodies.

Youth are also encouraged to **sing** on the 20th at the nursing homes.

*Please join us —
We're having a great time!*

Don't forget: Sign up for YOUTH FOR HIRE

We have many willing and able teens who will do household chores:

- yard work
- child care
- pet sitting
- or other jobs you may have.

We are flexible on the date, too. Most jobs will be done on December 5, but we can arrange for other days. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per hour per youth.

Sign up also for our Christmas Shoppers' SITTER SERVICE

December 12, 1-5 p.m.

**Parents will have up to FOUR HOURS!
of UNINTERRUPTED! SHOPPING!**

You can shop while your children are being cared for. We will have games, crafts and videos, along with loving care for children through sixth grade. Donations from grateful parents will be accepted.



We keep in our prayers . . .

Millie Gimer, at Suburban Hospital;

Sally O'Neal, at home.

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

Casey Priscilla Kendall, daughter of Becky and Charlie Kendall, sister of Austin and Kara, and granddaughter of Camille and Cliff Kendall, November 6.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of . . .

Katherine Lee Donohue, daughter of Sharon and Thomas Donohue.

<http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org> Visit PPC's web site! Catch up on Kerry's sermons that you missed, review the church's mission programs, or check out upcoming events. Anyone with a digital camera who would like to help spruce up the church's web site should contact Cal Reid, 301/ 340-8142.

Dear friends,

How grateful we are for all of your kindnesses during the illness and death of Ruthanne's mom.

Your prayers sustained us despite the frustrations, anxieties, and profound sadness. The loving kindness of friends and strangers, the small miracles of timing and medicine were all noted and appreciated again and again.

It is never easy to carry the loss of 81 years. It is easier when others help to carry the burden. Thank you.

Kerry and Ruthanne

Three new GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Three new general endowment funds have been added to the recognition plaque in Fellowship Hall:

Wendy Wei-Wei Chen Guo
Frederick Sass, Jr.
Hal Harker Newell

Please plan to look at the growing number of names on the plaque, signifying an increasing awareness of the means of giving a donation for the ongoing purposes of the church — beyond our normal budget. Truly, these are gifts that keep on giving.

A contribution of at least \$1000 is needed to set up a general endowment gift.

New Members, *continued*

terian Church where she was active in youth activities including work-camp for 3 years, VBS, and Sunday School. Her mom, Marilyn, is our director of Christian education.

Deacon: Susan Hougen

Joseph A. Kovacs
12512 Meadow Farm Rd., Potomac 20854
301/924-2611

Joe was born in Budapest, Hungary. His family left during the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 to go the United States. Joe is a graduate of Harvard University and Cornell Medical School. He has been at NIH since 1982 doing clinical research on Aids and HIV infection. Joe and his wife, Carol, have 5 sons, Joseph, Stephen, Michael, Nicholas, and William. When he is not trying to keep up with his sons, Joe enjoys tennis, squash, and photography.

Deacon: Bob Karch

Anita Machlin
8908 Iverleigh Ct, Potomac 20854
301/299-2092

Anita and her twins, Jenny and Jeff, have enjoyed the fellowship of PPC as they have become active in church activities during the past year. Anita belongs to the Wednesday morning Bible study group and the Sunday Adult Seminar class. Jeff and Jenny, sixth graders at Cabin John Middle School, are active in Sunday School and youth group activities. Anita retired from her career as a publications director in a large trade association in D.C. to spend more time with her family. She and her husband, Ken, and Jenny and Jeff enjoy boating, tennis, summers in Ocean City, and community service.

Deacon: Miriam Conley

Janet Swisher
6 Scottish Autumn Ct., Darnestown 20878
301/977-2650

Janet and her husband, Rob, were married at PPC on January 3, 1998. Janet is originally from St. Mary's County where her parents still live. She completed her BS in information systems management at the University of Maryland this year and is a project manager for RG II Technologies. Janet is stepmother to Adam, 15, and Ryan, 14. Her hobbies include decorating her new home in Darnestown. She and Rob help with the youth activities at PPC and often usher on Sunday mornings.

Deacon: Marnel Williams

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

If you're like me, you lack patience.

In fact, I can't *wait* to have patience! If God doesn't hurry up and give me some patience soon, I think I'll burst! I want patience while I wait in line at the grocery store. I want patience while I drive on the beltway and am stuck *again* at the interchange of I-270 and I-495. I want patience while I wait for God's leading on decisions I have to make. I want patience, and I want it *RIGHT NOW!*

Of course, this is silly. Patience is, by definition, waiting for something that takes time. It is listed in those virtues that we know as the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). We are told throughout Scripture to wait for the Lord.

The concept of waiting for the Lord is especially important during the season of the church year we call Advent. This is the four-week period before Christmas when we wait in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah, both in the form of Jesus Christ, and the second coming. At this time of year we should reflect on the Old Testament prophecies, and the miraculous events leading up to the birth of the Christ child. We should eagerly and joyfully await His coming again.

Instead, we are even more impatient than ever as we battle the lines in the toy stores and at the mall. We get overstressed worrying about getting into further debt with all the gift-giving. We think about all of the cleaning, cooking, and card-writing we have to do, and this time when we should be focusing on spiritual things becomes a time of irritation and depression.

It helps me to think about Mary, whose time was much longer than ours as she awaited the birth of her child. What must she have been thinking and feeling about this child whose birth was foretold to her by an angel? Reread Luke 1:26-56. You will learn that Mary, although she was frightened and troubled by being chosen to be the mother of Christ, put her complete faith in God. Her response was to believe in God's power and to sing God's praises in joy.

I wish all of you a very "Mary" Christmas this year!

The concept of waiting for the Lord is especially important during the season of the church year we call Advent

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Living Groups

Two Christian Living groups are simultaneously studying the book, *The Friendships of Women*, by Dee Brestin.

We have lively discussions, prayer, and fellowship together as women in Christ.

Please feel welcome to attend either group — the evening edition of Christian Living is off to a good start. Call Marilyn Johns to purchase a book.

- **Both groups** meet on the second Tuesday of the month
- **Morning group** meets 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- **Evening group** meets 7:30-9:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School offering

The Christian education committee is pleased to announce that this year our children's Sunday School offering will be given to the Medical Benevolence Foundation to purchase immunizations for children around the world.

Each quarter given will vaccinate a baby against DPT, measles, TB and polio. This will greatly improve the life expectancy and general well-being of these children. This project will continue into the summer with a special missions emphasis in Vacation Bible School.

Please encourage your child to participate in this important project by giving regularly to the Sunday School offering. Children may receive offering envelopes from their Sunday School teachers.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Preliminary plans are already underway

for Vacation Bible School 1999. The tentative dates are June 28-July 2, but the Christian education committee would like your input.

If you have an opinion, or already know that your summer plans would affect that date, please drop a note in Marilyn Johns' mailbox. Offering an alternative date would be very helpful.

We are also looking for two people to help organize and coordinate Vacation Bible School. You are guaranteed a lot of fun as well as support from the committee and DCE.

WELCOME

to our new members

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS, WHO JOINED POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN OCTOBER 25.

Rene Augustine and Mark Alarie
7417 Royal Dominion Dr., Bethesda 20817
301/365-8331

Rene, a graduate of Duke University and Vanderbilt Law School, is Counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. She is on the board of directors of Recording for the Blind of Metropolitan Washington. Her hobbies include photography and painting. Mark, originally from Arizona, is a graduate of Duke University and the Wharton School of Business. While at Duke, Mark was a member of the basketball team and later played several years with the Washington Bullets. Currently, he works at BT Alex Brown in Baltimore. Sports have been a big part of his life, as both participant and coach. He enjoys spending time with children, especially his 6-month-old daughter Isabella, who will be baptized on December 6.

Deacon: Carolyn Ewels

Sharon and Tom Donohue
8805 Copenhaver Dr., Potomac 20854
301/315-2262

Sharon was born in Michigan, raised in Connecticut and has lived in the D.C./Baltimore area for 12 years. She is a graduate of Lafayette College, Johns Hopkins, and holds an MBA from the University of Maryland. While Sharon's primary job is being a good mother, her part-time job is managing aerospace projects for Orbital Sciences Corp. Her hobbies include jogging, reading, needlepoint, and piano. Tom was born in Chicago, raised in Ridgewood, N.J. and moved to Maryland in 1990. He and Sharon have lived in Potomac since 1992. Tom is a graduate of Colby College, Rutgers, and received an MBA from the University of Maryland. He is a transportation planner for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Sharon and Tom are the parents of 3-year-old Michael and 5-month-old Katherine, who was baptized at PPC on November 8, 1998.

Deacon: Judy Bernstein

Elizabeth Johns
10605 Radstock Ct., Damascus 20872
301/253-9202

Liz is an 11th grader at Damascus High School. She enjoys reading, writing, and anything involving animals. She joined PPC by certificate of transfer from Neelsville Presby-

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Christmas House Tour

Sunday, December 13
3:00 until 5:00 p.m.

Come tour the Bedingfield home, the McPherson home, and the Perry home.

Christmas Music CELEBRATION

December 20
9:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall



If you sing or play an instrument,

consider being a part of "A Christmas Music Celebration" on December 20 at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Instrumentalists will be members of The Jesus Birthday Band or soloists.

Vocalists will share their talents with the audience.

Everyone will sing carols with the band.

Contact Mary Margaret Smith, 301/299-3835, if interested.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20

PPC will sing Christmas carols at Collingswood and Manor Care Nursing Homes.

Ushers are needed

for the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight services. Please contact Dan Dowd, 301/299-3835, to volunteer.



The Deacons of PPC
cordially invite
you and your family
to our annual

Williamsburg Breakfast

Sunday, December 6
9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Bring a breakfast bread to share.

Children will be served first
and go to their classrooms.

Come catch the
Spirit of Christmas!

Lighting the Advent Candles

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival.” It is also the name given to the season of the four weeks of waiting for Christmas. We use an Advent wreath to help us wait and think about why Jesus was born.

The Advent wreath is made of evergreens to symbolize the eternal life that Jesus brought; and the wreath — a circle — symbolizes His never-ending love.

The Advent wreath contains candles to help us mark the passing of time. The candles also remind us that Jesus came to be the Light of the World. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” He came, and still comes, to light up our lives with His love.

We use purple candles to symbolize royalty and penitence. Jesus wants us to be of His kingdom. Remembering the ways we are unfaithful to God and feeling sorry about them is called penitence which is symbolized by the color purple.

We wait for Christmas, for Jesus’ blessing, for a new life with Him.

November 29 **First Sunday of Advent**

- 9 am Children’s Choir
- 9:45 am Sunday School
 - Adult Seminar
 - led by Marilyn Johns*
- 11 am WORSHIP
 - Baptism, Communion
 - Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - Sermon: New Covenant
- Noon Fellowship



Saturday, December 5

- All day Youth for Hire
- 9 am Decorate the church

December 6 **Second Sunday of Advent**

- 9 am Children’s Choir
- 9 am Williamsburg Breakfast
 - Bring a bell!*
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11 am WORSHIP
 - Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5
 - Sermon: New Glory
- Noon Fellowship

- 4:30 pm Junior High Fellowship
- 6 pm Jr/Sr High Dinner
- 6:30 pm Senior High Fellowship



Saturday, December 12

- 1-5 pm Christmas Shoppers Sitter Service

December 13 **Third Sunday of Advent**

- 9 am Children’s Choir
- 9:45 am Sunday School
 - Adult Seminar
 - led by Lon Dring of CMMC*
- 11 am WORSHIP
 - Baptism
 - Scripture: Luke 1:46-55
 - Sermon: New Joy
- 3-5 pm Christmas House Tour
 - Bedingfields, Perrys,
 - McPhersons

Saturday, December 19

- 3-7 pm Jr/Sr High Fellowship
 - Christmas party
 - at Marilyn Johns’ home

December 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 9 am Children’s Choir
- 9:45 am Christmas Music
 - Celebration, Fellowship Hall
 - Pageant rehearsal in sanctuary
- 11 am WORSHIP
 - Scripture: Luke 2:8-20
 - Sermon: New Time
- 4-6 pm Caroling in nursing homes



December 24 **Christmas Eve**

- 5 pm Family service
- 7 pm Candlelight
 - Communion Service
- 11 pm Candlelight
 - Communion Service

Sunday, December 27

- 11 am WORSHIP, college students
- Noon Fellowship

Sunday, January 3

- 9 am Epiphany Celebration
- 11 am WORSHIP