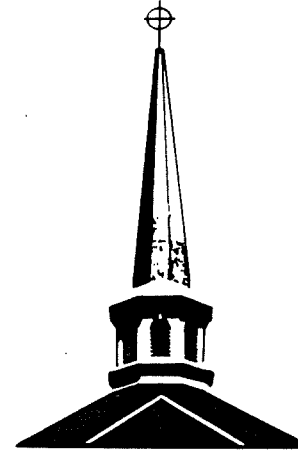


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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

January

1999

Kerry On . . .

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As the new year begins I am planning to start out on a reading adventure. Spiritual biographies will be my guides. A book, *Moses: A Life*, by Jonathan Kirsch will take me through January. Perhaps I will go and see the movie too: "The Prince of Egypt." Other guides will include Walker Percy and Flannery O'Connor, American writers, Dorothy Day and Sojourner Truth, Christian social activists. I'm looking forward to *Mozart: Traces of Transcendence*, by Hans Kung and *I Asked for Wonder*, by Abraham Heschel. There are other choices to be made as the year moves along.

My goal is to learn from the spiritual paths of these sojourners, one each month during 1999. My conviction is that being engaged by another's journey can be enriching, challenging and encouraging. Each guide will be unique but I will be looking for common themes and ways in which they complement one another. If you have any recommendations, please let me know. Also you might want to sample some of these spiritual guides as well. Happy reading in 1999.

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*

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING

Sunday, January 24

6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

In Our Family

1 New Year's Day

2

JANUARY

3 9:45 AM Epiphany Intergenerational Event
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon Fellowship
No Jr./Sr. High Fellowship

4

5 1:00 PM The Lord's Table

6 9:30 AM Bible study

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

7:30 PM Tom Miles' study group

7 6:30 PM Handbell Choir

8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

8

9 8:30 AM Deacons Retreat

10

9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:30 AM New Officers Breakfast
9:45 AM Sunday School
Inquirers' Class
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon Fellowship

11 7:00 AM The Monday Connection

12:30 PM Christian education committee

8:00 PM Committee meetings

12 9:30 AM Christian Living AM

7:30 PM Christian Living PM

13 9:30 AM Bible study

2:45 PM Collingswood

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

7:30 PM Tom Miles' study group

14 6:30 PM Handbell Choir

8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

15

16

17

9:00 AM *Children's Choir*

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM **Worship**

Noon Fellowship

3:00 PM Manor Care

4:00 PM Jr. High Youth fellowship

5:30 PM Jr./Sr. High Youth fellowship dinner

6:00 PM Sr. High Youth fellowship

18 8:00 PM Session meeting

19 10:30 AM Men's book group

20 9:30 AM Bible study

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

7:30 PM Tom Miles' study group

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 — Sacrament of communion**

Noon Fellowship

★ 6:00 PM Annual CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

25 7:30 PM Deacons meeting

7:30 PM Adult education committee

26 10:00 AM National Capital Presbytery
at National Presbyterian Church

27 9:30 AM Bible study

4:00 PM *Primary Choir*

7:30 PM Tom Miles' study group

28 6:30 PM Handbell Choir

8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

29

30 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High fellowship meeting

31

9:00 AM *Children's Choir*

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM **Worship**

Noon Fellowship — distribution of subs from
Youth Fellowship sale

We keep in our prayers . . .

Joe Curry's mother, Alice J. Curry, who is very ill, and with Joe, who has traveled to North Carolina to be with her.

Congratulations and God's blessing on . . .

Nancy Gorman and Bob Tietjen, who were married January 2, in Connecticut.

We rejoice in the births of . . .

Samantha Marie, daughter of Janet Olsen-Dinkel and Scott Dinkel, and granddaughter of Carol and Ken Olsen, born December 19, in Flanders, New Jersey;
Austin Joseph Venit, son of Kristen and A.J. Venit, born October 5.

We rejoice in the adoption of . . .

Daniel Stewart McMahan, son of Susan and Kevin McMahan, and grandson of Kathy and Bob McMahan, born December 8.

We celebrate with joy the baptisms of . . .

Stefanie Kendall Baarman, daughter of Danielle and Doug Baarman, and sister of Shannon, November 29;

Isabella Augustine Alarie, daughter of Rene Augustine and Mark Alarie, December 13.

We give thanks for the lives of . . .

Millie Gimer, wife of Dick Gimer, who died December 4;

David Simpson's father, Ray Simpson, who died November 26, in Halifax, Nova Scotia;

Marcia Boogard's aunt, Alice Pullman Longstreth, who died in Connecticut;

David Moquin's aunt, who died in November, at the age of 105;

Kerry Stoltzfus's uncle, Homer Stoltzfus, who died in Florida

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 Dick and his family, David Simpson and his family, Marcia and her family, David Moquin and his family, Kerry and his family.

<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.



FOR YOUTH

1999 CONFIRMATION CLASS

The new Confirmation Class begins on January 20, and will meet Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. This group of 8th and 9th graders will learn about worship, the sacraments, theology, history, and how to live life as a Christian. A big part of the class will be writing faith statements. We will also have an overnight retreat at Camp Glenkirk in May.

Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus and DYCE Marilyn Johns will co-lead this class, which will join the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. If your 8th or 9th grader is not registered for the Confirmation Class and would like to join us, please call the church office.

YOUTH WORKCAMP

Many, many thanks to those who supported the youth groups in our Youth for Hire fundraiser by providing jobs (I guess we should thank God for providing all of those leaves!). We also had good response to our Christmas Shopper's Sitter Service. These first fundraisers netted nearly \$1000 toward summer workcamp. Huge thanks and hugs to all the youth who worked so hard. While the workcampers did a lot of the work, many of the youth who are not able to go to workcamp also helped. It was very exciting to see our youth supporting one another in this worthwhile mission.

Our January fundraiser is a big one. The youth will be making and selling sub sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday. Now,

we know the Redskins (and the Bills) are out of it, but you still might want to watch the game on January 31. Why not have each, and will contain turkey, ham, cheese and lettuce. Condiments such as peppers, tomatoes and onions will be given out separately so you can take just what you want. Watch your bulletin and the tables in Fellowship Hall to sign up for as many subs as you'll need to feed the crowd for the party.

We have our official list of workcampers, and we have reserved our spot in Greenville, Michigan. Please begin now to pray for the following:

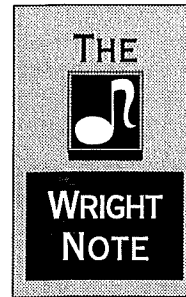
Carl Atwood	Liz Johns
Courtney Chapin	David McKune
Catherine Dorman	Rich McPherson
Erin Dunlop	Sharon Reid
Andrew Grier	Emily Wescott

Tom McPherson, adult advisor
Marilyn Johns, adult advisor

Host College Students March 18

As part of our 1999 Lenten program, the Carroll College 60-person choir from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will present a concert of Lenten music at our church, 7:30 p.m., March 18. **WE NEED HOSTS FOR THESE 60 COLLEGE STUDENTS!!!** There will be a HOST-GUEST dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall preceding the concert, and the students are to be returned to church early on the 19th.

It is a wonderful "outreach" opportunity for our church to sponsor this concert and for individual families to be part of the support for the choir members. Please volunteer to host one — OR SEVERAL — students. Sign up in the narthex, the church office, or call Mary Margaret Smith, 301-299-3331.



If Advent is a time to prepare, then the week after Christmas is a time to reflect and give thanks. I am indeed grateful for the giving and sharing that were manifested this year in the form of music. The beautiful vocal and instrumental sounds from both young and not so young were accomplished through dedicated hours of rehearsal and preparation. Not once did any choir member, instrumentalist, or soloist complain about interrupted schedules or extra time spent at church. All worked together to give their best to the Lord.

Thank you, Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, Primary Choir, Girls' Ensemble, Soloists, College Students, Handbell Choir, and Instrumentalists, for your meaningful contribution to worship. Your involvement was my special gift this year.

1999 BIG EVENT "Ministry and Mission for the New Millennium"

Mark your calendars for February 26-27, 1999 for National Capital Presbytery's Big Event. This is a Friday evening and all-day Saturday combination of worship, keynote speakers, and workshops. Friday evening is mission-focused, with Dr. Marian McClure, director of the PCUSA Worldwide Ministries Division, as the keynote speaker. Saturday's keynote is Dr. Leonard I. Sweet, dean of the theological school at Drew University and author of several books on the church in the new millennium.

Both Friday and Saturday have many workshops from which to choose. Friday's workshops are on current missions in the denomination, and Saturday's are a wide variety of topics, from spirituality to worship, from vital congregations to Bible and theology.

You may participate in both events, or just Friday or Saturday. The cost is minimal, and includes dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.

*Come and be nourished,
body and soul!*

1999 Sanctuary Flower Chart

The new 1999 Sanctuary Flower Chart has been placed on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please sign your name at the appropriate date and state how you would like the funds used (as a memorial or tribute). There is no limit on how many people may sign up for any given Sunday. A donation of \$25 per vase may be placed in one of the envelopes provided at the bottom of the chart, (or placed in an envelope found in the church pews and deposited in the collection plate). After each service, the flowers will be given to the ill, homebound, needy church member or to a nursing home. We encourage you to help beautify the sanctuary and at the same time remember your loved ones.

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.

Jan. 3 Intergenerational Epiphany Celebration — in Fellowship Hall

10 Rev. Holly Ulmer, University of Maryland, Campus Ministries

17, 24, 31 “Art and Religion” — Tom Miles

DEACON DOINGS

We hope you enjoyed the Williamsburg Breakfast on December 6. We always look forward to this event as our capstone event of the year, before transitioning some of the parish groups to new Deacons at the start of the new year.

The Deacons retreat of January 9 will see the Class of 1998 “graduate” and turn over their responsibilities to the incoming Class of 2001: Kentsdale parish group will pass from Joe Curry to Alice Smith, Rockville Group from Joe Curry to Tony Barnard, Country Place Group from Kent Arnold to Ann Eagleson, Churchill Group from Renee Jochum to Kay McClaine, Gaithersburg Group from Marnel Williams to Rob Swisher.

HUNGER RELIEF DRIVE UPDATE

PPC members — **Marica Boogard, Janet Dunlop, Ann Kier, Pat and Bill King, Janet and Calvin Koonce, Dave Moquin, Kay and Melissa Norvell, Mary and Jim Reichley, Wilma Sharer, Elaine and Bill Skinner, Walter Stewart, and Rob Wescott** — conducted a Hunger Relief Drive on the Saturday and Sunday before Thanks-

giving. Thanksgiving dinners for dozens of needy families in Montgomery County were made possible through the \$1,036 raised. Additionally, more than 80 households visited by our solicitors took envelopes in which they promised to mail donations directly to Montgomery County Community Ministry, which had coordinated the drive. **Mildred Rowan** provided hot tea and cookies to our teams. **Carl Atwood, Brian Dunlop, Katherine McPherson, Meggie Rudnic, Kirsten Stewart, and Chris Teets** had distributed fliers announcing the drive to more than 350 households in our church neighborhood.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Potomac Theatre Company, I would like to thank Potomac Presbyterian Church for assisting with our recent production of “Lend Me a Tenor,” through the generous donation of rehearsal space. With a fast-paced farce such as this play, the stability of a continuous rehearsal space was invaluable to the cast and director. I look forward to being able to work together again in the future. Sincerely, John Healey

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

I was happy to receive from my friend Nancy Clark a copy of the charge she gave to me at my installation service in October. As I read it over, I thought it contained some wonderful insights for anyone serving in a church, which includes church professionals, but also all of its members. So I pass this on to you, with Nancy's permission, as a charge to you for the New Year.

“... [I know] how you have sought to follow God and live for God for many years ... I have seen your faithfulness as you have responded as God called you to new places. And, I have seen your excitement as God called you here, knowing that indeed it is the living God who calls you and empowers you to service.

“As you serve in this position, I encourage you to remember three things:

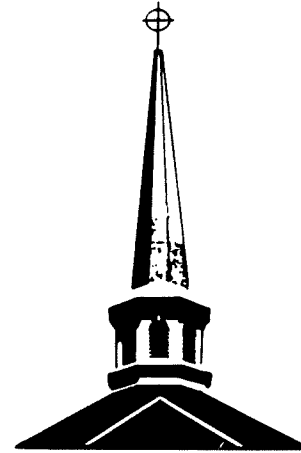
1. When God calls you, be bold and step out with confidence; be ready and willing for the many opportunities that await you here. Be prepared to respond when God beckons you into uncharted territory.
2. Keep your eyes on God. I am sure you remember the story of Peter on the water. Jesus came to the disciples on the water at night. Peter said, ‘Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you.’ Jesus said, ‘It is I.’ And Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water. But then he looked around and saw the storm, and began to sink. It will be easy for you to start out and then to notice the problems ... not enough time, not enough money, or personality conflicts. Storms are always brewing and it will be easy to become disheartened and begin to sink. Keep your eyes on God. It is God who has called you out. It is God who is sufficient.
3. Finally, when you do look around and become afraid or begin to sink, do not try to make it on your own. Cry out to God. When Peter cried out, ‘Lord, save me,’ Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. God is there for you and will be your strength in all circumstances.

“Only by the call of the sovereign God, the grace of the resurrected Lord, and the power of the Holy Spirit can you accomplish what you are called to do. Remain in these.”

I pray for all of the members and friends of Potomac Presbyterian Church a new year richly blessed in fulfilling the call of God. I thank God daily that we are in ministry together.

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Potomac, Maryland 20854
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE Potomac Presbyterian Church

February

1999

Kerry On . . .

*"What brought you to church today?" the pastor asked as he greeted John at the coffee hour.**

John replied, "I woke this morning feeling so good, so blessed, so alive – so created – I just had to say thank you and this is the only place I could think of to say it adequately. I wanted to say it to Jesus."

When we plan worship and when I prepare sermons, I try to remember this particular reason many folks come to worship. There are many other reasons, including habit, which is not always a bad thing. Actually, a good habit can be described as a spiritual discipline. Sometimes I imagine that God surprises us when we least expect it, when we might have thought we were just going through the motions.

We also come to worship when our pain and sorrow and loneliness are great. We come hoping for a word of blessed assurance. Often the hymns will do it because the words and music express a peace that passes understanding. A familiar Scripture read, something in the sermon – and it is God's word to us. Add to that a warm welcome at the door and a listening ear at the coffee hour and we sense that healing has begun.

Then, too, we come because we know that we need to be challenged, that we need encouragement to stand up to the temptations and glitzy promises of our modern culture. We need to know that there are people we can call family, who join us in trying to live out the Christian faith in the face of enormous pressures. We are gladdened to know that others have gone before us, that friends will go with us on the way, and that there is hope for our children.

More than these and other human needs is the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ who calls us to come and worship. I'll look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

*Eugene Peterson in *Christian Century Magazine*, January 13, 1999

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

1
2 1:00 PM The Lord's Table
No Bible study
3 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:30 PM Evening study of parables
No Confirmation Class
4 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
5
6

7 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon Fellowship
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship

★ Congregation-based Shelter Program — all week

8 7:00 AM The Monday Connection
12:30 PM Christian education committee
8:00 PM Committee meetings
9 9:30 AM Christian Living AM
7:30 PM Christian Living PM
10 9:30 AM Bible study
2:45 PM Collingswood
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening study of parables
11 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

12
13

14 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon Fellowship **★ ALL DEACONS' COFFEE**
12:30 PM **Communion Class**
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship

15
16 10:30 AM Men's Book Group, parlor

FEBRUARY

17 9:30 AM Bible study
11:00 AM Sacrament of communion
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
6:00 PM Sacrament of communion
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening study of parables
18 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

19
20

21 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
Inquirers' Class
11:00 AM **Worship Sacrament of communion**
Noon Fellowship
3:00 PM Manor Care
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
7:00 PM **Choristers Guild 50th Anniversary Children and Youth Choir**

22 7:30 PM Deacons meeting
23
24 9:30 AM Bible study
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening study of parables
25 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
26 **The Big Event, NPC**
27 **The Big Event, NPC**

28 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
Inquirers' Class
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon Fellowship
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship

We keep in our prayers . . .

Cathy Hotes, who is ill at home;
Joe Curry's mother, Alice J. Curry, who has been ill.

Congratulations and God's blessing on . . .

Bill Harrison, who celebrated his 90th birthday January 8;
Sadie Nannen, who celebrated her 91st birthday January 5, and who is celebrating the birth of her great grandson, Travis Otto Nannen.

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

Grant Rutherford Cookerly, son of Kay and Clay Cookerly, brother of Colton, and grandson of Mary Ann and Tom Cookerly, January 12;
Travis Otto Nannen, son of Patsy and John Nannen, and great grandson of Sadie Nannen.

We give thanks for the lives of . . .

Jean Hummon's brother, Spencer Tomion, who died in Port Huron, Michigan;
Bob Bedingfield's father, Arnold Bedingfield, who died last week;
Rene Augustine's grandmother, Freda Augustine, who died at the age of 105, January 21, in Denver, Colorado.

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 Jean and her family, with Bob and his family, and with Rene and her family.

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 21 through Sunday, March 14.

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 14, at 9:45 a.m., and then will be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please call Louise Plumb, 301-762-2769, or Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007, with any questions.

Adult Christian Education

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

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

- 7 Linda Gooch, Jail Ministries, Vienna, Virginia
- 14 **“The person who most influenced my Christian life”**
Panel discussion: Donna and Bob Mecklenburg, Bill Skinner, Doreen Arnold
- 21, 28 **“Science and Religion”**
Jim Miller

Lent in the year of our Lord 1999

Jesus said, Do this remembering me

Wednesday, February 17	11:00 AM	Ash Wednesday Service
	6:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
		The Lenten season will begin as we gather at the Lord's Table for music, a brief meditation, and communion. Child care will be provided.
Sunday, February 21	11:00 AM	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Worship and communion
Sunday, February 28	7:30 PM	Home Communion Host: Bob Best, 10212 Gary Road, Potomac 301/469-5458
Wednesday, March 10	7:30 PM	Home Communion Hostess: Miriam Conley, 9001 Saunders Lane Bethesda 301/469-8316
Thursday, March 18	7:30 PM	Carroll College Choir Concert Potomac Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 21	7:30 PM	Home Communion Host: Rob Wescott, 9812 Clydesdale Street, Potomac 301/299-2826
Thursday, April 1		Maundy Thursday
	6:30 PM	Fellowship Meal
	8:00 PM	Communion Service

<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.

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

HAVE YOU FINISHED WITH CHRISTMAS YET? Do you have all the decorations back in their boxes, labeled and lovingly wrapped, ready for next year? Have you finished all of those thank-you notes? Made and broken your New Year's resolutions? Great! Now what do we have to look forward to? More cold weather and snow, maybe more ice and (oh, please, no!) power outages?

Much has been written about the post-Christmas letdown. Many people experience severe depression at unfulfilled expectations, credit card bills, New Year's resolutions from the previous year that were not kept, and a lack of purpose and direction.

I propose a different outlook for this new year. This year, as you begin to feel the letdown creeping in, look to the Scriptures for a glimpse into the promises of God. The Bible is just full of promises, and we can have absolute confidence that those promises will be realized in God's time. In the book of Hebrews, we learn that God's promise is unchangeable (6:13-20). We as parents sometimes break promises to our children; our friends or spouse may break promises to us at times, and it may even be for good reason. But God is completely dependable. Hebrews says, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

So wrapped in God's unchanging, unfailing promise, we can have confidence and hope in the future. With that as our anchor, we have nothing to fear. We can enter the new year with boldness, willing to take some risks for our

faith, and in love of our neighbor. May God bless each one of us as we enter an exciting new year!

1999 BIG EVENT

“Ministry and Mission for the New Millennium”

February 26–27, 1999

Registration forms for National Capital Presbytery's Big Event are in the rack in the narthex. Don't miss this opportunity to hear top-notch national speakers and attend workshops on a wide variety of topics relevant to Christians today.

Keynote speakers

Friday:

Dr. Marian McClure, director of the PCUSA Worldwide Ministries Division

Saturday:

Dr. Leonard I. Sweet, dean of Drew University theology school and author of books on the church in the new millennium.

Workshops

Friday:

Current missions in the denomination

Saturday:

A wide variety of topics, from spirituality to worship, from vital congregations to Bible and theology.

You may attend all or part of the event. The cost is minimal and includes dinner Friday and lunch Saturday. For more information, please contact Marilyn Johns, this year's chairperson.

*Come and be nourished,
body and soul!*



FOR YOUTH

God's Family at the Table

Plans are underway for our communion education class for children in grades 2-5 and their parents. This will be a four-part study, each session 90 minutes, held after church on the second Sunday of the month, beginning on February 14. A light lunch will be provided.

The PCUSA Book of Order encourages churches to provide education in the Lord's Supper to children so that when they receive communion they have an understanding of its significance. All member and visitor families are welcome to attend this class, which will be led by Marilyn Johns in the library. In order to be sure we have enough materials, please

Thanksgiving in February

Help the hungry by dining out

Tuesday, February 2

Every month, thousands of people in Montgomery County seek emergency assistance from private agencies.

- Support food distribution and meal programs that help feed the hungry
- Eat out Tuesday, February 2, when participating restaurants will donate 10% of their proceeds to Thanksgiving in February.

call Marilyn at the church or e-mail her, marilyn@potomacpresbyterian.org, if you would like to register.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We thank Allison Lyons, John Norvell, Meg King, Nathan King, Leah Cannon, Jane Simpson, John Simpson, Jenny Cannon, Derek Smith, and Andy Wylie for their participation in College Student Sunday worship service. We also thank Doug Reid and Sara Hougen, who gave the sermons.

WORKCAMP Update

Many thanks to all who purchased sub sandwiches for the Super Bowl. We are close to our fundraising goal, and we very much appreciate the generous support of the congregation, including several donations. A meeting is planned to decide what other fundraisers are needed. We have also planned three meetings in the spring that will focus on skills training, safety, and preparing our hearts for service.

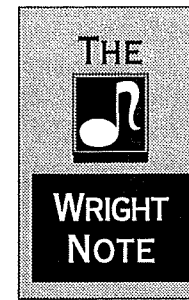
Blanket the world with love

February 14

For a child shivering in the cold, a warm blanket can mean the difference between life and death. For a family whose home lies in rubble, a sturdy blanket offers a small measure of shelter and security.

*Your Blanket Sunday Gifts
make a world of difference . . .*

*The gift that keeps on giving . . .
Remember your church in your will.*



During the past year, the worship committee has discussed offering the congregation other opportunities to worship – beyond the Sunday morning 11 o'clock hour. I have a delightful, enriching suggestion: Sunday, February 21, 7:00 p.m., at the

National Presbyterian Church, 600 children and youth from 37 churches will be presenting in scripture and song a choral festival worship service. This event, entitled "Make Your Life a Song to God," celebrates the 50th anniversary of Choristers Guild, the sponsoring organization. Our own children's choir will be participating.

How does a worship event involving 600 singing children and youth ever become a reality? The local chapter of Choristers Guild starts a year in advance with planning repertoire and engaging guest conductors to lead the singers. This year our children will be privileged to rehearse all afternoon on February 21 with two nationally known composers and church musicians, Helen Kemp and John Yarrington. The choirs from individual churches have been learning the anthems in their home churches since fall. They then come together in a massed chorus and rehearse with the clinicians in preparation for the culminating worship service which includes hymns, scripture, celebrate litany and their anthems. This all occurs in the magnificent worship setting of National Presbyterian with the pipe organ, handbells and other special instruments.

Our children's choir will bring their choir robes and their sack lunches to spend the afternoon and early evening at this festival. They will long remember this experience. I guarantee that if you choose to

attend the 7:00 festival service, you will long remember it, too!

Thank You's

We thank you so very much for your very generous contribution to the women staying at Rainbow Place.

We have been over-full since we opened November 1. Due to the large number of women we have used up supplies at much faster rate than in previous years. Your contribution will go a long way to help us continue to give the much needed personal help to women for all those things that can't be donated but must be purchased, i.e., tokens and prescriptions.

Thank you all, Marnie Lehr, director

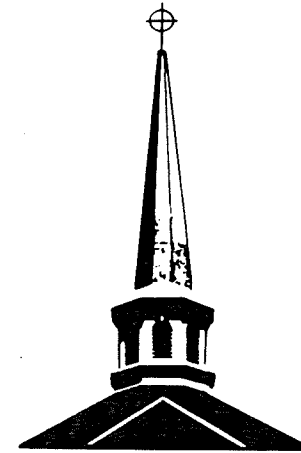
You're the best! Thank you so very much for your extremely generous donation of presents for 10 of our Friends in Action families. Your big hearts have brightened the holidays for some truly needy members of our community. Once again this year, Friends in Action is proud to be Potomac Presbyterian Church's partner in service. We commend you for your social conscience and your desire to share the season with the less fortunate. ...

Happy holidays, and best wishes for a blessed new year!

Peace,
Monica Barberis-Young, director

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

March

1999

Kerry On . . .

The Season of Lent is a time for questions. My sermon series is "Questions They Asked Jesus," such as "How can a man be born again?" and "Where can I get this living water?"

We may not have quite the same opportunity to ask Jesus questions like the ones that were asked in the Gospels. Yet in every age, similar questions emerge in the context of our lives. During this season that leads to a dark Friday and the cross, perhaps we are invited to pose our own questions. As a spiritual discipline during Lent, I suggest we consider the following thoughts, and others that touch our minds and hearts.

How can I be born again?

Where can I find living water?

What does it mean to trust in Jesus?

What is it that causes my faith to stretch and grow?

Who has been the greatest influence in my spiritual growth?

How can I meet some of the difficult challenges to my faith?

What is it that makes me most grateful?

May the very presence of Christ be with us as we make the Lenten Journey.

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*



1
2 1:00 PM The Lord's Table
3 9:30 AM Bible study
12 noon ★Ladies' Luncheon
4:00 PM Primary Choir
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study
4 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
5
6 9:00 AM ★Christian Living RETREAT

7 9:00 AM Children's Choir
9:45 AM Sunday School
Inquirers' Class
11:00 AM Worship
Noon Fellowship
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
8 7:00 AM The Monday Connection
12:30 PM Christian education committee
8:00 PM Committee meetings
9 No Christian Living groups
10 9:30 AM Bible study
2:45 PM Collingswood
4:00 PM Primary Choir
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study
7:30 PM ★Home communion Host, Miriam Conley
11 10:00 AM Endowment committee
6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
12
13 ★SPRING CLEANUP

14 9:00 AM Children's Choir
9:45 AM Sunday School
Inquirers' Class meets with Session
11:00 AM Worship/New Member Sunday
Noon Fellowship
12:30 PM Communion Class
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
Steeple to People deadline
15 8:00 PM Session
16 10:30 AM Men's Book Group, parlor

MARCH

17 9:30 AM Bible study
4:00 PM Primary Choir
6:30 PM Handbell Choir
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
18 6:00 PM Dinner for college choir and hosts
7:30 PM ★Carroll College Concert
19
20 Spring Cleanup rain date

21 9:00 AM Children's Choir
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
Noon Fellowship
12:30 PM Communion class
3:00 PM Manor Care
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
7:30 PM ★Home communion Host, Rob Wescott
22 7:30 PM Deacons
23 6:00 PM Presbytery meeting at National
24 9:30 AM Bible study
4:00 PM Primary Choir
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study
25 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
26
27

28 9:00 AM Children's Choir
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
Noon Fellowship
No youth group activities
29
30
31 No morning Bible study
No Confirmation class
6:30 PM Handbell Choir
7:30 PM Evening Bible study
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

We keep in our prayers . . .

Lucille Ferrara, recovering after surgery;
Don Thompson, recently hospitalized;
Kathy McPherson's mother, Mamie Simmons, recovering after surgery;
Bill Leary's mother, Claire, recently hospitalized, and his aunt, Eleanor Dixon, who recently underwent medical testing;
Debbie Leary's mother, Mary Foulds, who has recently undergone medical testing.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of . . .

Matthew William Sharer, son of Shelly and David Sharer, and grandson of Wilma and Eugene Sharer.

We give thanks for the life of . . .

Debbie Leary's aunt, Terry O'Connell, who died February 10, in Toronto, Ontario

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 Debbie and her family.

GENERAL ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS ENCOURAGED

PPC's Endowment Committee is encouraging all members of the congregation to participate in the general endowment program of the church.

Contributions can be made by any member, or friend, of the church at any time to provide funds for general church purposes, or for some specific interest of the donor.

People may occasionally have unexpected funds that they do not want to include in their yearly pledge but that they could put into a general endowment, in which the income can continue forever to assist projects in which the donor is interested.

All who contribute at least \$1,000 will have their names put on the General Endowment Plaque in Fellowship Hall as a recognition of their "gifts that keep on giving."

<http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org> Visit PPC's web site! Catch up on Kerry's sermons 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.

Adult Christian Education

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

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

- 7 "Science and Technology" part 3 of 4
Dr. James Miller
- 14 "Science and Technology" part 4 of 4
Dr. James Miller
- 21 Kerry Stoltzfus
- 28 "Easter in Poland"
Klara Rozner

Lent in the year of our Lord 1999

Jesus said, Do this remembering me

Wednesday, February 17	11:00 AM	Ash Wednesday Service
	6:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
		The Lenten season will begin as we gather at the Lord's Table for music, a brief meditation, and communion. Child care will be provided.
Sunday, February 21	11:00 AM	First Sunday of Lent
Sunday, February 28	7:30 PM	HOME COMMUNION Host: Bob Best, 10212 Gary Road, Potomac 301/469-5458
Wednesday, March 10	7:30 PM	HOME COMMUNION Hostess: Miriam Conley, 9001 Saunders Lane Bethesda 301/469-8316
Thursday, March 18	7:30 PM	CARROLL COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT Potomac Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 21	7:30 PM	HOME COMMUNION Host: Rob Wescott, 9812 Clydesdale Street, Potomac 301/299-2826
Thursday, April 1	7:00 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY Fellowship Meal and Communion Service

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

From February 2 to 6, I was privileged to attend the Ecumenical Church Educators Event in Chicago. This is usually the Presbyterian church educator's event, but this year it included over 2000 educators from at least eight different denominations. It was a week of growth and faith for me, in many ways I wasn't expecting.

First of all — and speaking to a congregation of well-traveled people, I'm sure you will find this amusing — I have not flown in about 15 years. When we vacation, we always drive. I found myself in awe at the beauty of our country, and amazed at the technology that not only got me where I was going safely and on time, but got my luggage there as well! I grew in respect for all of the people responsible for that.

The ecumenical flavor of the week was something I was frankly not looking forward to, but which turned out to be delightful. This was particularly evident in the worship times. We heard excellent preaching and storytelling from several different traditions, and oh, the music! It was fun to stumble over hymns from other denominations, while others around were singing loudly and strongly. Our worship was enhanced by an Asian choir, and by one of the best gospel choirs I have ever heard. It reminded me that it's okay to move out of my comfort zone, and that God speaks and hears in many different ways. My faith grew.

Although the week was very full, I allowed a little time for rest and relaxation. I was able to go to the Art Institute, which was incredible. I connected not only with people from our presbytery (There were about 25 of us there!), but with former classmates, teachers, and colleagues. I took some time to reflect on where I have been, where I am now, and what God may have in store for me. I re-learned how to listen for God's voice, and that helped me to grow even more.

Finally, my children were given some new independence in my absence. Although they were in constant touch with people, and I called them often, they were on their own for some of the time. This not only gave them new confidence in themselves, but reminded me that they are becoming young women who too soon will be on their own. They grew and so did I.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this conference. You have, in effect, watered the seed that has been planted here and allowed it to grow.

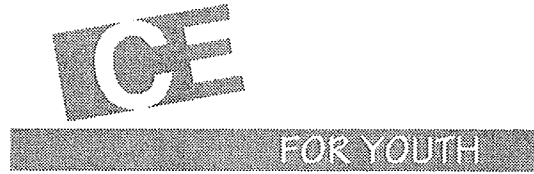
Get acquainted with your Bible

- *Been away from the church for awhile?*
- *Afraid to open your Bible for fear you will sneeze from the accumulated dust?*
- *Intimidated by all the "thou"s and "hast"s in the Bible?*
- *Thankful that page numbers for the Scripture readings are included in the Sunday bulletin?*
- *Embarrassed by the fact that your kids know more about Moses than you do?*

We have a class just for you!

Beginning on April 11, we will offer during the church school hour a six-week series called "Get Acquainted with Your Bible." This is a very basic study especially designed for those who are unfamiliar with the Bible, either because you never went to church as a child, or you stopped going as a teenager, or you need a refresher course.

Marilyn Johns will lead this study, assisted by Beth Rudnic. If you have children, we have a wonderful Sunday School program for ages four and older, and a professionally staffed nursery for the little ones. Please join us in the parlor at 9:45 a.m., beginning April 11, and bring all those questions you thought were too silly to ask. A sign-up will be available in March for those interested.



WORKCAMP Update

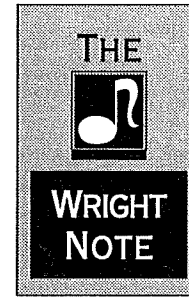
The 1999 summer workcampers are pleased to report that our Super Bowl Sub Sale was a huge success, netting about \$885! Many thanks to all who bought subs, and to those who chose to donate money instead. A special thank-you to Sam's Club in Gaithersburg that donated \$50 to help with the sale. We hope you enjoyed the sandwiches, and acknowledge absolutely no connection to the recent intestinal flu epidemic that has hit our area.

We are very close to our fundraising goal, so we will have a little hiatus until May 2, when we will sponsor a car wash after church. Thank you again for all of your support for this important mission project.

Vacation Bible School STAFF NEEDED!

The Christian Education Committee is beginning to plan for summer Vacation Bible School, which will take place the week of June 28-July 2.

If you are interested in helping with the planning, teaching, music, arts and crafts, storytelling, recreation, or drama, please contact Marilyn Johns at the church. Adults and teenagers are encouraged to help!



During Lent, our hymns will reflect the contemplative nature of the season. When you see the hymns listed in the bulletin, you may want to consider more than the title and page number. Just below the title is the hymn tune name printed in capital letters. Next to that name will be a set of numbers, letters, or even the word irregular. These pertain to the syllabic scheme of the hymn. For instance, in the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy," the numbers 11, 12, 12, 10 mean that there are 11 syllables in the first line, 12 in the second, 12 in the third, and 10 in the last line.

The composer of the hymn tune is printed on the right side of the page, and the text origin is on the left. The very bottom of the page gives copyright information. Some hymns are old enough to be in the public domain; thus, you would find no printed information below the hymn.

Some hymns will have scriptural references in the upper right or left hand corners. "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" has Matthew 21:8-11 printed on page right. Other hymns may not print scriptural references, but indeed speak to Biblical teaching. The staff looks for these direct and indirect applications in choosing the hymns each week. The goal is to relate what we sing to what we hear from the preaching and reading of the word.

My hope is that all the music in any given worship service will bring enlightenment and further meaning to the message of the day. The message will vary, as will the music. As we move from the sadness of Lent to the joy of Easter, may our hearts be filled with music both minor and major, soft and loud, reflective and explosive.

Cindy

Springtime CHURCH YARD SPRUCE UP

**Saturday, March 13
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

We intend to have fun so bring the children as well as your rakes and shovels. We will provide beverages and snacks for all the workers.

Come early or come later. We want you to share in the glory of making PPC shine, and match the beauty of God's own springtime.

For further information, contact Donna Mecklenburg, 301-330-9209, or Jim Dart, 301-279-2061.

DEACON DOINGS

"...and they're off!!"

Yes, the Deacons hit the ground running in '99. We started at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 9, with our annual planning session. Dr. Alice Miller led our discussion, centering on ministry in our roles as Deacons. The orientation of this was "Christ in the Street," which gives the concept that the Deacon's role provides the opportunity to minister to anyone and everyone, at any time. We developed this idea more fully through group discussion. All of us are enthusiastic about the prospect of fulfilling our mission, although this responsibility is somewhat intimidating. In addition, we discussed the development of "listening" skills — something we all agreed each of us needs to improve. Your help is urgently needed, so please talk with us!

We said good-bye to the retiring Deacons, with a small gift a token of our appreciation for a three-year term "well done!!" Thanks again to Kent Arnold, Country Place parish; Joe Curry, past chair of the Board of Deacons, Kentsdale and Rockville; Marnel Williams, Gaithersburg, and Renee Jochum, Churchill. As they leave, we welcome the new class of 2001 to our fellowship: Tony Barnard, Rockville parish; Ann Eagleson, Country Place; Kay McClaine, Churchill; Rob Swisher, Gaithersburg, and Alice Smith, Kentsdale.

By the time *Steeple to People* hits the streets, we will have completed the first "Deacons Coffee" of the year. We hope that you were able to meet your new and "returning" — not old, we are self conscious, you know — Deacon. We enjoy this opportunity to meet face to face with each of our parish members.

We thought you would enjoy hearing from our new Deacons, in their own words. So, this month, Rob Swisher and Alice Smith have some comments that may help you get to know us a little better. Next month you will hear from the others. Hope you enjoy.

... from Rob Swisher

I began attending services at PPC in the summer of 1995, and joined in February of 1996. Like many, I've been inspired and touched by the friendliness of the congregation, Kerry's sermons, and Tom Miles' prayers. In January of 1998, my wife Janet and I were married at PPC. We have two teenage sons, Adam, 15, and Ryan, 14, who attend Wootton High School and Frost Middles School. I enjoy attempting to hang

(Continued on other side)

... from Alice Smith

I am the Deacon with the accent! Actually, it is French. I have tried to lose it for 50 years!! I was called the "high priestess" by a member of my parish 20 years ago. I hope I will not be preachy. I got the "senior" term for two years only (Actually, I was asked to finish Kathy McShea's term after she left for Pennsylvania.)

I am delighted to serve again as a Deacon. I have gotten in touch with every member

(Continued on other side)

(Rob, continued)

out and communicate with my sons, and attending their numerous sporting events. Janet and I hope to have a child or our own in the coming year. I am currently acting director of the office of information systems at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

It is an honor to serve as a Deacon at PPC. I am interested in continuing the tradition of caring and friendship fostered by past and present Deacons at PPC. Our relationship to each other as a Christian community is a very special one. It is one not readily found in other facets of our lives and it is not necessarily an easy one to maintain. I hope to be a friendly face and helping hand in the service of the PPC community. On a personal level, I hope that being a Deacon will enrich my journey as a Christian.

(Alice, continued)

of the Kentsdale parish by writing long-hand (no e-mail, no internet). I am not that modern, but I am an expert with the coffee machine in the kitchen (which scares the computer experts!!) I hope you enjoyed the coffee hour in February when members of my parish were hosts.

I will be happy to meet you in the narthex during the month of March and hope to get acquainted with the families I have not met yet. Please feel free to call me if you have a concern of any kind. I will be very happy if I can be of help.

Au revoir ...

Alice Smith

HOME ommunion

During the season of Lent, Potomac Presbyterian offers a special way for us to celebrate the sacrament of communion. Home communion is a reminder that the first Christians had to worship in secrecy, as they were persecuted for their faith. They would gather in a home, usually taking a small meal and then worshipping our God with other Christians. It is truly an honor and privilege for the Deacons to be able to open our homes to our congregation in celebration of holy communion and in remembrance of those who sacrificed so much that we now have our freedom to worship openly. Last year I was a host; it was such a wonderful experience that I wanted to host again this year. Please join us for one of the home communions. It is both emotionally and spiritually uplifting.

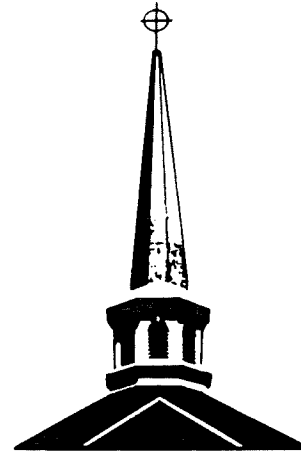
See you at PPC soon!!!

Bob Best

Chair, Board of Deacons

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

April

1999

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*

Kerry On . . .

John Ortberg writes in *The Life You've Always Wanted*,

Too often people think about their "spiritual lives" as just one more aspect of their existence, alongside and largely separate from their "financial lives" or their "vocational lives" or even their "family lives." Periodically they may try to "get their spiritual lives together" by praying more regularly or trying to master another spiritual discipline. It is the religious equivalent of going on a diet or trying to stick to a budget.

The truth is that the term *spiritual life* is simply a way of referring to one's life — every moment and facet of it — from God's perspective. Another way of saying it is this: God is not interested in your "spiritual life." God is interested in your life.

I find this a very liberating notion. God is interested in the totality of our lives.

God is pleased when we enjoy beauty and art and all manner of good things. God is pleased when we do good work, whether we are engineers or lawyers, ministers or students. God is pleased when we use our gifts and talents to help others and to enhance the quality of life for our families.

Spiritual life is meant to be the core of our being and all other aspects of life are meant to interact with who God intends us to be at the center. True morality has its roots in our inner being as does a genuine sense of calling. It is my hope that our life together as a congregation helps us to relate to all of life from God's perspective.



In Our Family



1 7:00 PM ★Maudy Thursday Fellowship
Meal and Communion service

2
3

4 9:00 AM **Alleluia! He is risen
Easter worship**
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:20 AM Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 AM **Alleluia! He is risen
Easter worship**
Noon Fellowship
NO YOUTH GROUPS meet

5 Church office closed
6 1:00 PM The Lord's Table
7 9:30 AM Bible study
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study led by Tom Miles

8 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
9 9:30 PM ★Junior High LOCK-IN
10 9:00 AM Junior High Lock-in ends

11 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon Fellowship
12:30 PM Workcamp meeting
NO Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
Steeple to People deadline

12 7:00 PM The Monday Connection
12:30 PM Christian Education Committee
8:00 PM Committee meetings

13 9:30 AM Christian Living Group
7:30 PM Christian Living Group

14 9:30 AM Bible study
2:45 PM Collingswood
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:00 PM Confirmation class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study led by Tom Miles

15 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

APRIL

16 6:00 PM Norvell wedding rehearsal
17 4:00 PM Norvell wedding

18 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM **Worship**
Noon Fellowship
12:30 PM *Communion class*
3:00 PM Manor Care
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
Steeple to People deadline

19 8:00 PM Session
20 10:30 AM Men's Book Group, parlor
21 9:30 AM Bible study
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study led by Tom Miles
22 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

24 8:00 AM ★CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

25 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM **Worship/Sacraments of baptism and
communion**
Noon Fellowship
4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship

26 7:30 PM Deacons

27
28 9:30 AM Bible study
4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
7:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Evening Bible study led by Tom Miles

29 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
30 ★Senior High OVERNIGHT

We keep in our prayers . . .

Lucille Ferrara, at home;
Kathy McPherson, at home;
Gerry Collins, at home.

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

Phoebe Tomion Fry, daughter of Gretchen Hummon and Peter Fry, and granddaughter of Jean and John Hummon, born February 25;

Nathan Thomas Wright, son of Diane and Jason Wright, and grandson of Cindy and Lynn Wright;

Alex Fuller Grandi, son of Beth and Drew Grandi, and grandson of Kathy and Don Grandi.

We give thanks for the life of . . .

Bill Harrison, husband of Janet and charter member of our congregation, who died February 23;

Wilma Sharer's mother, Margaret Ingram, who died March 11, in Pennsylvania.

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 Janet and her family and with Wilma and her family.

The gift that keeps on giving . . .
Remember your church in your will.

<http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org> Visit PPC's web site! Catch up on Kerry's sermons 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.

April

Adult Christian Education

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

Please join us in the church library, each Sunday, 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

For further information, please call Kathy McPherson, 301-765-1154.

- 4 **Easter**
No class
- 11 **“Founding Fathers — Calvin”**
Dr. Bruce Douglas
- 18 **“Founding Fathers — Zwingli”**
Dr. Bruce Douglas
- 25 **“Founding Fathers — Knox”**
Dr. Bruce Douglas

ADULT EDUCATION KICK-OFF SUNDAY

SAVE SEPTEMBER 19, 1999, on your calendar for Adult Education Kick-Off Sunday. Our theme will be “New Century — New Creation in Christ,” based on Corinthians II 5:17, “So if everyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.”

CHRISTIAN LIVING GROUPS

The morning and evening Christian Living groups came together in March for a mini-retreat. We began by having a lovely dinner on Friday night at LaMiche in Bethesda. Saturday morning we enjoyed Bridget Newton's hospitality at her home as we discussed the book, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, by Rebecca Wells. It offered some lively comment and reflection. Following a scrumptious potluck lunch, we ventured to the Regal Theater to see “The Other Sister.”

It was a wonderful time for refreshment and renewal, and a nice way for both groups to meet together. We will continue meeting on the second Tuesday during April and May (the morning group meets 9:30–11, and the evening group 7:30–9), and for our June meetings we'll choose a study for next year and have an end-of-the-year celebration (This group loves to party!). Please feel welcome to join us if you haven't already been attending.

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

Christ is risen! We hear these joyful words often at this time of year. Are they merely rhetoric, or are they meaningful in our lives? Ask elementary-age Sunday School students what Easter is all about, and they will say, almost by rote, “Jesus rose from the dead.” No big deal. Yada-yada. A mere miracle.

Well, it is a big deal! It is a *huge* deal! Easter is surely the most significant holiday for Christians. It may also be the most difficult to understand. Our logical minds can't understand how someone could be brutally killed on a cross, then buried in a cave covered by a huge rock, only to be seen walking, talking, and eating a few days later. The empty tomb is scientifically impossible for us to fathom, and in fact there have been many alternate theories as to what happened to the body of Jesus, if he was even really dead. To make it even more confusing and less believable, the accounts in the gospels are significantly different. One commentator remarks, “It must be conceded from the outset that, conceived as a matter to be submitted to a jury, the case is seriously flawed.”

He goes on to say that, in fact, the case was not meant to be brought to a jury. The resurrection is a faith story, a story of God's love for us and God's sovereign power. We are asked to proceed on faith, even childlike faith, in our understanding of Easter. It shouldn't be surprising to us, if we believe in God's power, that Christ could be raised from death. Perhaps we should be more surprised that God has such love for us in our sin and disobedience, that the reason for Christ's death and resurrection is our salvation.

We truly have much to celebrate, and how fitting that the celebration is in the spring, a time of new life and growth. May each of us experience abundant renewal and growth and hope and faith in this miraculous season.

Get your Dancing Shoes Out!

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

Saturday, May 1
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The PPC Fellowship Committee is inviting the congregation to an informal dance on Saturday, May 1, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. here at the church! Light dessert fare and refreshments will be offered as we dance the night away. An experienced mystery couple will be on hand with just the right music to lead us. Come and have some fun learning line dancing and other groovy moves on the dance floor. The whole family will love it! Look for more information in the church bulletins in the weeks to come. Call Gail at 301/365-8632 for more information.

WORKCAMP Update

Car Wash

On Sunday, May 2, the workcampers and other youth will host a free car wash for worshipers. Donations will be accepted for this service, and baked goods will be sold while you wait. In order to prevent a bottleneck, we will begin washing cars during the worship service. So let your car get a little dirty and support our youth mission project. We will make it shine and you will leave church with a broader grin than usual, knowing you have helped a worthy cause. Sign-ups will be available in mid-April.

Get acquainted with your Bible

- *Been away from the church for awhile?*
- *Afraid to open your Bible for fear you will sneeze from the accumulated dust?*
- *Intimidated by all the "thou"s and "hast"s in the Bible?*
- *Thankful that page numbers for the Scripture readings are included in the Sunday bulletin?*
- *Embarrassed by the fact that your kids know more about Moses than you do?*

We have a class just for you!

Beginning on April 11, we will offer during the church school hour a six-week series called "Get Acquainted with Your Bible." This is a very basic study especially designed for those who are unfamiliar with

the Bible, either because you never went to church as a child, or you stopped going as a teenager, or you need a refresher course.

Marilyn Johns will lead this study, assisted by Beth Rudnic. If you have children, we have a wonderful Sunday School program for ages four and older, and a professionally staffed nursery for the little ones. Please join us in the parlor at 9:45 a.m., beginning April 11, and bring all those questions you thought were too silly to ask. A sign-up will be available in March for those interested.

EASTER EGG HUNT

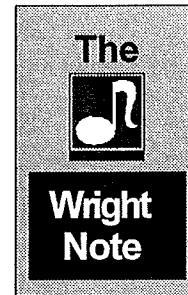
On Easter Sunday morning an Easter egg hunt will be held for all children up to grade 4. The youth of our church will hide eggs filled with goodies in three areas: preschool, 1st and 2nd grade, and 3rd and 4th grade.

Children should bring Easter baskets in which to collect their treasures, and meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:20 a.m. The hunt will last about 20 minutes, at which time children will re-gather in Fellowship Hall. There will be four different colored eggs, containing different surprises and Scripture verses, so everyone can get a little of everything.

Please join us for the fun!

Easter nursery workers needed

On Easter Sunday, April 4, one or two adults are needed to help with each of our worship services. If you can help out at either the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. service, please let Marilyn Johns know as soon as possible.



Our Children's Choir represented us well at the Choristers Guild 50th anniversary Choir Festival at National Presbyterian Church on February 221. They joined over 600 singers for rehearsal all afternoon under the direction of

Helen Kemp. Then in the evening they presented a choral worship service of scripture and song entitled "Make Your Life a Song to God." Our children were attentive, responsive and enthusiastic in their rendition of sacred music that indeed reflected the best in children's music — both in text and musical integrity.

"Make Your Life a Song to God" is a theme worth remembering. Our choirs practice and prepare carefully the musical gifts we give to God. We share the anthems with you, but they are sung or rung as an offering to God. Have you ever noticed that the word perform is not in my church music vocabulary. Yes, we practice meaningfully to learn and present the music well, but we sing and play it as a gift, representing our best efforts.

God knows our talents. What a joy to let God know we are using and developing these gifts as a means to praise and honor His name. I hope that the hours of care we devote to anthem preparation will stimulate us to treat our lives as songs, worthy of hours of practice to improve and enhance ourselves as gifts to others, and thus, to God.

Cindy

SHARING OUR MISSION

Christmas in April Saturday, April 24

This April, Potomac Presbyterian Church will continue our involvement in the Christmas in April campaign. This "hands-on" mission project to help a local neighbor extends our commitment to our community.

Richard Cannon has volunteered to serve as House Captain and will coordinate our efforts to improve the home of an elderly gentleman living in the Travilah area. Further details concerning this mission project will be forthcoming in the next weeks.

Community Based Shelter (CBS) Program

Again this year, Mary Reichley carried out superbly her management of our church's involvement in the Community Based Shelter Program. She has also written her usual outstanding annual report of the contributions from so many people in this year's participation. Others of us on the Mission Committee are grateful to have Mary's leadership in this important assistance to those less fortunate within our community, and we wish to state our appreciation in *Steeple to People* to those more-than-100 members of our church family who helped this year. Many thanks to all of you for your involvement — we know that not only did people at the shelter benefit, but also those of you who gave of your time and material aid.

John Hummon
Chair, Mission Committee

DEACON DOINGS

Your Deacons continually try to improve our effectiveness in ministering to our parish groups. This is truly a moving target ... no pun intended. Each of us brings our unique personalities, strengths and traits to this calling. It is this diversity that we call upon to help us as we interact with our respective parish groups, analyze our actions and modify our direction. Thus, "Deaconship" is an *art* not a *science* ... in our mind. As we change, we hope to be more effective.

To that end, you may have noticed that we have not sent to each of you, a separate mailing of *Deacon Doings* as we did for the last two years. It is not that we don't care — rather, it seems that the many at PPC viewed this separate mailing as somewhat of a competition to *Steeple to People*, since much of the information was duplicated. Thus, we have concluded that this did not increase our effectiveness to you, our parish members. We have suspended the collective mailing of *Deacon Doings* and will use *Steeple to People* as our vehicle to communicate with the congregation at large about the Deacons' activities. We welcome your thoughts on this action.

Additionally, you will find your Deacons involved in new, unique roles with the congregation. As we experiment with different ways to "reach out" and minister individually to our congregation members, we hope you notice and will let us know if you like what you see. Please be assured we know that our primary mission is to nurture each of our parish members individually. We will not lose that focus, but hope that we can change our techniques as our congregation and parishes change, and so become more effective to you!

We hope you enjoyed hearing from new Deacons Rob Swisher and Alice Smith last month in *Steeple to People*. This month we hear from Ann Eagleson...

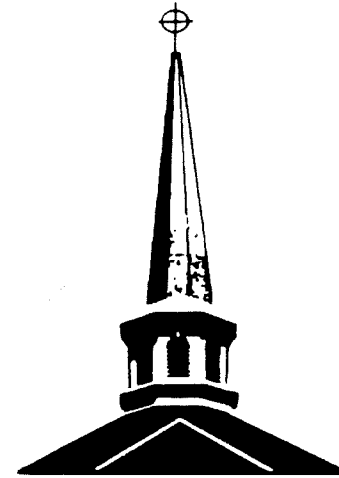
River Falls, in Potomac, became our home after moving from Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1981. We attended several area churches before calling PPC our church home in the mid-eighties. Neighborhood friends, Kerry's Christian leadership, and the friendliness of the congregation made us feel most welcomed.

Two of our sons still reside in Indianapolis with their families. Four of our grandchildren are there. Tom, his wife, and nine-month old daughter are closer, in Charlottesville, Virginia. David is working, temporarily, in Ohio with plans to eventually settle in this area. Both Tom and David did their Boy Scout Eagle projects at PPC in 1988 and 1994.

After 30-plus years of volunteer work, tennis is now my favorite interest. Learning to play golf, at least hitting the ball four out of five times, is at the top of my "to do" list this year. This will be a true test of my patience — however, it will be great fun to play with my husband, Bill. I was deeply honored to be asked to serve my church as a Deacon. I still have much to learn but am finding PPC has many willing teachers. I look forward to this new challenge in my life, to grow spiritually, and with God's help, to faithfully carry out my duties as Deacon. Peace be with you.

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

May

1999

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*

Kerry On . . .

Have you ever considered the notion that to say, "I believe in God," is possible because God first of all says, "I believe in you." At creation God surveyed all that He had made and especially humankind and said, It is very good. In the call of Abraham and Sarah God said, I believe in you and will make of you a great nation and through you I will bless all the families of the earth. Through the prophets God expressed his confidence that a wayward people could once again be a light to the nations. When the time was right God sent his Son Jesus Christ the ultimate expression of God's belief in the human community.

On a human scale we know the incredible power that is called forth in our lives when someone says to us, "I believe in you." The bride and groom say these words to each other as they make their vows. A teacher or mentor made all the difference in our lives when they said to us, "I believe in you." Our parents and grandparents have given us this awesome gift. Just consider the consequences of not hearing this affirmation. Think how a fragile life can go wrong when these words are never heard. Yet when they ring true we are able to grow and flourish.

Each time we read the Scriptures and whenever we come to worship we are invited to express our belief because God has already said these few awesome words, "I believe in you." There is no telling who we can become and what we can do in light of this affirmation. Thanks be to God.

MAY

1 7:00 PM May Day Dance

2 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM **Worship**
 Noon Fellowship
 ★Workcampers CARWASH
 5:00 PM Jr. High Fellowship dinner for parents
 3 7:00 AM The Monday Connection
 4 1:00 PM The Lord's Table
 5 9:30 AM Bible study
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 7:30 PM Evening Bible study, led by Tom Miles
 6 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
 7
 8

9 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM **Worship YOUTH SUNDAY**
 Noon Fellowship
 12:30 PM Communion Class
 No Jr./Sr. High Fellowship
 10 12:30 PM Christian education
 8:00 PM Committee meetings
 11 9:30 AM Christian Living Group
 7:30 PM Evening Christian Living Group
 12 9:30AM Bible study
 2:45 PM Collingswood
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 7:00 PM Confirmation Class
 7:30 PM Evening Bible study
 13 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
 14
 15

16 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM **Worship**
 Noon Fellowship

12:30 PM Workcampers meeting
 3:00 PM Manor Care
 4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
 6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
 6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
 17 6:45 PM Communion Class, ends 8:15 PM
 8:00 PM Session meeting
 18 10:30 AM Men's Book Group, parlor
 19 9:30 AM Bible study
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 7:00 PM Confirmation Class
 7:30 PM Evening Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 20 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
 21-22 ★Confirmation Class Retreat,
 Camp Glenkirk
 22

23 9:00 AM *Children's Choir*
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM **Worship — CONFIRMATION
 Sacrament of BAPTISM**
 Noon Fellowship
 5:00 PM Community Ministry of Montgomery
 County picnic
 4:30 PM Jr. High fellowship
 6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
 6:30 PM Sr. High fellowship
 24 7:30 PM Deacons meeting
 25 10:00 AM Presbytery meeting at Vienna
 Presbyterian church, Vienna, Virginia
 26 9:30 AM Bible study
 4:00 PM *Primary Choir*
 7:30 PM Evening Bible study, led by Tom Miles
 27 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir
 28
 29

30 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM **Worship**
 Noon Fellowship
 31 Memorial Day, church office closed



In Our Family



We keep in our prayers . . .

George Adrouny, ill at home.

Congratulations and God's blessing on . . .

Melissa Norvell and Chad Mills, married at Potomac Presbyterian Church, April 17.

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

William L. Amoroso IV, son of Rhonda and William Amoroso, born February 23, 1999.

We give thanks for the life of . . .

Gerry Collins

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 Gerry's family and friends.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The Session of Potomac Presbyterian Church has recently enrolled in the Stephen Ministry, a program to train and organize lay people to do caring ministry. Kerry Stoltzfus, Kathy McPherson, and Ruthanne Stoltzfus are attending a leader's training course and will train some of our members to be "Stephen Ministers" here at PPC. Nancy Tietjen, who has previously served as a Stephen Ministries leader, will join our leadership team.

Our lay Stephen Ministers will work under supervision and will be available to care for persons experiencing challenges in their lives, such as hospitalization, grief, loneliness, divorce, job loss, birth of a child, and many other life events for which a person could benefit from an effective helping and caring ministry.

This will be an exciting time for PPC. This approach to lay caring ministry is a way to multiply and supplement the caring ministries of our pastors and Deacons. If you have questions about this new form of ministry our congregation is undertaking, please call one of our leaders. In the meantime, please keep our congregation in your thoughts and prayers as we prepare for our lay caring ministry.

Adult Christian Education

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

Classes are held in the church library each Sunday, 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., unless otherwise noted. For further information, please call Kathy McPherson, 301-765-1154.

- 2 David Fowler — discussion of Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*
- 9 Mother's Day
Video and discussion

Please note: Classes May 16 and 30 will be held in Fellowship Hall

- 16 New Paths "In the Beginning . . ." Exploring the creation story of Genesis with music, art, and drama
- 23 New Paths "In the Beginning . . ." *continued*
- 30 New Paths "In the Beginning . . ." *continued*

Endowment Funds Distribution

As continuing proof of the value of endowment funds, the Session approved at its January meeting distribution of some of the funds accumulated last year:

- From the **Frazier Memorial Fund** two disbursements were authorized:
 - \$500 for Christmas in April program
 - \$250 for the Senior High Work Camps
 - From the **Haack Memorial Fund** two disbursements were authorized:
 - \$1000 to the Stephen's Ministry training program
 - \$250 to Dr. Alice Miller as Deacon retreat leader
 - A third of **Annual Fund Earnings**, in accordance with Session policy previously approved, to the Special Mission account of the Mission Committee
 - A third of **Annual Fund Earnings**, in accordance with Session policy previously approved, to the Capital Fund account of the Property Committee
 - The Memorial and General Endowment Funds have used \$760 of the yearly income for three major enhancements of the church's program:
 - To help defray some expenses of the Carroll College Choir
 - For special music for Sunday worship
 - For liturgical dance in the Maundy Thursday service
- These events were all appreciated by the congregation and reemphasize the value to all of us of the Endowment Program.
- General and Memorial Endowment Funds — truly the "gifts that keep on giving."

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

Just Say Yes! I know that's not the typical message you hear these days. But I think it is one that should be heard more in the church. One of the beauties of the Presbyterian system is that the laity has such power and voice. This church is not controlled by one individual, or by the staff. It is a family of believers who are all different, and who bring different gifts with them when they come here. Let's celebrate that! Every time a person joins the church we add depth and richness to our family. I look forward to hearing the new ideas of members as the Spirit inspires them. In my opinion, there's no such thing as a bad idea. Some ideas need to be nurtured for awhile, some need a few tweaks to make them workable, but when a new idea comes along, let's all try to listen to it with open hearts and minds.

In educational ministry, I am always looking for new ideas for programs or classes. If you had hired me just for my great ideas, my tenure here would run out as soon as the ideas ran out. But you called me here to facilitate programs and encourage the ideas of members. I am continually impressed and amazed at the talent and creativity we have in this congregation. Right now you may be thinking of a ministry program that you've seen in another church, or that you are especially interested in. Just because I haven't thought of it myself doesn't mean it isn't a wonderful idea. Share it with me! Yes, everything has to be done through the system, and that's a good way to get initial input and suggestions. If we work together as a team, the seed of an idea can grow into a ministry program that might change lives and bring people to greater faith.

As we approach Pentecost, a time of great change for the church, let us be ready for the Spirit to lead us. "The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, ... and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you." (1 Samuel 10:6-7)

When we hear an idea for a new program, let's all try to avoid our first tendency to look for the pitfalls, and **Just Say Yes!** We might surprise ourselves at the things we can do!

YOUTH SUNDAY

Please plan to attend worship on Sunday, May 9

Our youth will lead the service Sunday, May 9. This is always a special and meaningful service that you won't want to miss. The children will also be participating; therefore, there will be no Enrichment for 4 year olds through 2nd graders on that day.

Celebrate

with
Community Ministry of
Montgomery County

Lon Dring's 27 years of service
to our community

Sunday, May 23
5:00 p.m.
Strathmore Hall Arts Center
10701 Rockville Pike

- Bring your picnic or buy it on-site (O'Brien's Barbecue)
- Beverages and dessert will be supplied, but bring the chairs or blankets you'll need
- Park on-site, \$2, or at Grosvenor Metro around the corner
- If it rains, come anyway. We'll have a tent

Spread the word. Tell your friends and co-workers.

CMMC is honoring Lon with a fund to support the organization's Public Education and Advocacy Program. We welcome your contributions which can be sent to CMMC/Lon Fund, 114 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville, MD 20850-4213.

The Potomac Theatre Company

cordially invites the congregation of PPC to attend a free dress rehearsal of their upcoming production, "Man of La Mancha," which will be held at Bullis' Founders' Hall on Wednesday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. Please call Gail Cannon, 301-365-8632, to reserve a seat.

Ladies' Luncheon

Rescheduled for
Wednesday, May 12
at noon
at Kathy McPherson's home

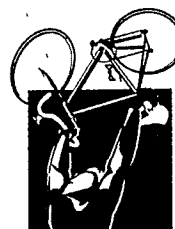
Please call Edee Callahan, 301-977-2828, to reconfirm and be reminded what dish you will be bringing to share.

W O R S H I P

Sanctuary Flower Fund

There are still spaces available on the Flower Chart to sign up to contribute flowers as a tribute or memorial to a loved one. The chart is located outside the church office. A donation of \$25 per vase may be placed in an envelope provided at the bottom of the chart, or in an envelope found in the church pews and placed in the collection plate.

If you are interested in donating flowers from your garden to decorate the church on any Sunday, please call Janet Koonce, 301-469-7975, or Cecie Phair, 301-926-8944.



Washington, D.C.
AIDS Ride

Jim Jochum, a member of Potomac Presbyterian Church, will represent and ride in the name of PPC, 350 miles, over four

days in June, with 2,500 other bicyclists. Jim's financial obligation to enter this "Ride" is \$2,000. Together, the riders hope to raise \$4,000,000 for people living with HIV/AIDS.

You should have received your letter regarding this "DC Aids Ride" by now asking for your support of Jim in this challenging endeavor. Perhaps some of you have already mailed a contribution toward our goal to the Aids Ride office that, in turn, will advise the riders weekly as to how close they are to their personal commitments.

If you have NOT contributed to date, and would like to do so, the address to mail your donation is:

Washington, D.C. AIDS Ride 4
Pledge Office, Dept. 0654
Rider 1281
Washington, D.C. 20073-0654

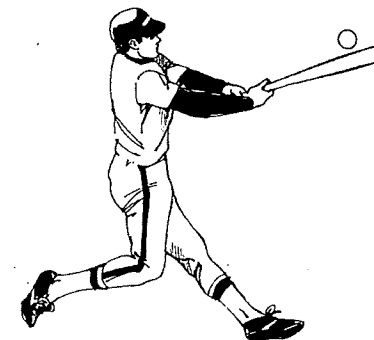
✓ **NOTE: Be sure to include Rider #1281 on your check**

Consider this your invitation to come down to D.C. about 2:00 p.m. on June 27 for the closing ceremony of the "Ride" and watch 2,500 tired and exhausted, but happy, bicyclists arrive at the final destination, on the mall. Let's make PPC proud!

The Session has endorsed Jim's participation in the Aids Ride and invites you to join in this effort.

Step up to the plate for God

National Capital Presbytery
LEADERSHIP SPRING TRAINING
for all church leaders



WORKSHOPS

for new and continuing Elders, Deacons
pastors, educators, committee members

Saturday, May 15

Oaklands Presbyterian Church
14301 Laurel Bowie Road (Route 197)
Laurel, Maryland

9:00-9:30 a.m. Registration
9:30-9:50 a.m. Opening worship
10:00-noon Morning workshops
Noon-1:00 a.m. Lunch
1:00-3:00 a.m. Afternoon workshops

Cost: \$8, includes morning beverages, lunch

Two of our own PPC members will be leading workshops:

"The visible Church: How to make it visible and how to keep it visible"
Led by Bob Plumb, PPC Elder (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)

"Saying what we believe: An overview of the Book of Confessions"
Led by Marilyn Johns, our youth and Christian education director (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

Did You Know? . . . On good things happening in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

We have 800 missionaries in countries all over the world.

Last year the church responded to disasters in 40 countries and 25 states.

Ninety percent of our congregations are involved in hunger relief projects.

Presbyterians build more Habitat for Humanity houses per member than any other denomination.

D E A C O N D O I N G S

Your Deacons continually try to improve our effectiveness in ministering to our parish groups. Each of us brings our unique personalities, strengths and traits to this calling. It is this diversity that we call upon to help us as we interact with our respective parish groups, analyze our actions and modify our direction. We hope you enjoyed hearing from new Deacons Rob Swisher and Alice Smith last month in *Steeple to People*. This month we hear from Tony Barnard and Kay McClaine.

From Tony Barnard . . .

When Phyllis, Patty, Jim, and I moved to Potomac from Carmel, Indiana, in 1987, there was no way that I could be active in the church. After working 60 hours per week, there was little discretionary time for anything except family. People tried to get me involved because they recognized that you gain the most benefits if you contribute your time. With Patty in Atlanta and Jim in Dallas, Phyllis and I are empty nesters now, and in addition, my job changed last year to a less time-demanding one. So, I jumped at the opportunity to become a Deacon and give back to those who have given so much to me. As a beginner Deacon, I welcome your ideas and comments.

From Kay McClaine . . .

I have been asked to introduce myself to the congregation, As some of you know, I am a "Mainiac" (someone who had the opportunity to be born and grow up in the state of Maine). I met my husband Jim in Baltimore, where we both attended Johns Hopkins and where I graduated from the School of Nursing. Since that time I have spent most of my married life living in various parts of Pennsylvania, except for a two-year stay in Illinois. I have resided here in Potomac for the past 11 years. I am the mother of two grown daughters. Sarah is married to Steve Willgress and they have three children. She is an operations manager for Starbucks in Seattle. Margaret is married to Christopher Block and they have one daughter. They reside in Sun Valley, Idaho. Margaret is still involved with her ladies' clothing boutique in Portland, Oregon. She runs the business side of this store long distance using fax, e-mail, etc.

Jim and I are in the process of downsizing to a condominium from our townhouse, as we look at our approaching retirement years. In the future we also plan to be spending more time at our summer place in Maine.

When I think of my years as a member of Potomac Presbyterian Church, there are many thoughts that come to mind and a few special events that stand out. There was the wonderful wedding of our daughter Margaret at which Kerry officiated and then there was the support I received from PPC members and staff as I struggled through the terminal illness and death of my sister Nancy.

I hope that by serving as a Deacon, I will be able to give back to the church for all that I have received.



We are entering that time of year when the word graduation becomes more realistic at home, school, and yes, even at church. The structure of our children's choirs is based on the school grade levels. When our Primary Choir singers reach the end of the 2nd grade, they graduate and move on to the Children's Choir that serves children in grades three through six. We will have two graduates from the Primary Choir this year: **Jennifer Cronin** and **Meggie Newton**. Jennifer was a member of our very first choir, organized in 1996. Meggie joined as a first grader in 1997. They both have come regularly and enthusiastically on Wednesdays at 4:00 to explore the exciting world of vocal music with me.

We will have three sixth graders graduating from our Children's Choir: **Jennifer Dart**, **Jacqueline McMahon**, and **Kathy King**. Jennifer joined the choir back in 1994 when she was just a 2nd grader. Our choir was for grades 2-5 at the time. For five years she has faithfully set her clock early to practice at 9:00 a.m. with the Children's Choir. Jacqueline McMahon began singing in the choir when her family joined the church in 1995. She and I have celebrated her Christmas Eve birthday many times when she has sung at the Christmas Eve services. Kathy King just joined the choir this past year as a sixth grader and enjoyed singing in the Choristers Guild Festival with us.

Current membership in the children's choir program is as follows:

PRIMARY CHOIR

**Jennifer Cronin Colleen Mitchel
Colleen Cronin Meggie Newton
Katherine Ling Allison Srour**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

**Jennifer Dart Sarah Mecklenburg
Elizabeth Kent Thomas Niskanen
Kathy King Kelly Stewart
Jacqueline McMahon Katie Wolleson**

The children's choirs will sing on May 9 as part of youth Sunday. A youth ensemble of junior and senior highs is being organized to sing as well. Finding a rehearsal time is the challenge of the century. Please see Mrs. Wright before Sunday School or after church to indicate your interest and to share schedule limitations.

Cindy

NURSERY NEWS

We warmly welcome Erin Morris, our new child care worker. Erin is an education student at Montgomery College, and will staff our nursery every other Sunday morning.

We are looking for another responsible adult to work on the other Sundays. If you know of anyone who is 18 years of age or older, dependable, and loves children, please call Marilyn Johns at the church. Schedule is from 9:30-12:15 Sunday mornings twice a month, at \$30 per Sunday.

COMPUTERS WANTED

The Christian Education Committee is exploring the idea of a computer lab for the church. This would enable the Sunday School, Creative Enrichment and Youth Groups, as well as adults, to use wonderful Christian software that is available for reference, maps, Bible games, and creative writing.

We hope you will be able to help us.

Ideally, we would like the computers to be donated so that the church does not have to incur the expense. If you or your business is in the process of updating your system, you may be able to help, and get a nice tax deduction for the donation.

In order to run most of the available software, we would like 3-4 computers with the following minimum requirements:

- Pentium processor, with a minimum of 100 MHz of speed
- CD-capable multimedia computers with 16 megabytes of RAM
- 8-speed CD drive or higher
- Windows 95
- Sound card and video card
- Mouse with roller ball on top (so it can be passed from user to user)
- 15"-17" color monitor

Many of you may have 386 or 486 computers that you want to give away, but unfortunately these will not run most of the recent software at speeds that make the games usable. Please do not donate these.

If you would like to help in this effort, but don't have a computer to donate, we will accept donations of cash to help purchase software. The initial package, which in-

cludes a variety of programs for all ages, costs \$201 per computer. If you would like to make a donation for all or part of this, please designate this on your check.

Another need is for a couple of "techies" who would be willing to help us get started.

If you have any questions, or would like to donate a computer, please call Marilyn Johns at (301) 299-6007.

Thank you for helping us bring our educational program into the 21st century. Stay tuned and see your children excited about coming to church!

SUMMER CREATIVE ENRICHMENT

Plans are being made for Summer Creative Enrichment and child care. The Christian Education Committee will offer the following (and of course need help staffing these!):

- CHILD CARE FOR 2-3 YEAR OLDS during the entire worship service. We would like **one senior high age student or older** to staff this.
- AN ENRICHMENT CLASS FOR AGES 4 THROUGH RISING 2ND GRADERS for the portion of the worship service that follows the "Children at Worship" time. Curriculum is provided. We would like **one adult and one rising 7th grader or older** to staff this.

Can you take one or two weeks in the summer to help out? Please call Marilyn Johns at the church, or Mary Ling at (301) 294-6388 to sign up.



Hear ye! Hear ye!

Important news about Vacation Bible School!

Come one, come all to *SonCastle Faire*, our exciting Vacation Bible School program for this year. We will take our children back to the time of castles and kings, where they will discover their unique, God-given talents and learn to use their gifts to serve the King of kings!

We have changed the date to accommodate your busy schedules. *SonCastle Faire* will take place during the week of July 12-16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will also have a closing program Friday night, July 16, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars now.

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful way to bring unchurched people into the church. Think about asking your neighbors who have children ages 4 through rising 5th graders to participate in *SonCastle Faire*. We guarantee they will have a good time, and may be introduced to Jesus for the first time! The cost for the week will be \$10 per child, with a maximum of \$25 per family, which will cover the cost of supplies.

We in need of teachers, music leaders, craft helpers, recreation leaders and snack helpers. There will be nursery care and a 2-3 year-old class for workers' children only. All available adults in the church are asked to help in some way. Youth (rising 6th graders and older) are also strongly encouraged to help. We would especially like to see some of our college students that week. Check your calendar and call Marilyn Johns at the church if you would be willing to teach or help.

Let's all work together and make *SonCastle Faire* the best VBS ever at PPC!



WELCOME

to our new members

Barbara and Bob Carlstrom

Barbara is a vocalist and performs throughout the DC area. She grew up in Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin. Bob is a native of Michigan and attended Augusta College. He is a consultant and a principal in Lombard Technologies. They have four children between them: Benjamin Spohn lives at home and is a junior at Bullis where he loves playing football and lacrosse; Cari, George and Alec are grown and living on their own.

Judy and Larry Dick

Judy and Larry moved to the Washington, D.C., area from upstate New York five years ago. They are parents of two adult children and grandparents of two grandsons who reside in the area. Judy worked as an executive at the Mental Health Association in Orange County, New York, for 12 years. Larry is a computer specialist at NIST. Prior to this position, he worked at IBM for 27 years as a programmer.

Marty Curtis

Marty and her husband Michael are the parents of three children. Clay, 25, is married to Lauren and they reside in Tampa, Florida. Ryan, 21, is in his third year at the University of Virginia and is a defenseman on the university's lacrosse team. Caitlin, also a PPC member, is a sophomore at Bullis. She is an active sportswoman who participates in soccer, lacrosse and basketball. Marty enjoys reading, needlepoint, Community Bible Study and following the sports activities of Ryan and Caitlin.

Doug and Janet Dunlop

Doug, a native Washingtonian, grew up in McLean, Virginia. Janet was born in San Francisco and moved extensively from military base to military base during her childhood years. Janet and Doug met while undergraduate students at the College of William and Mary. Janet holds a law degree from William and Mary and is counsel in the U.S. Department of Labor Solicitors Office. Doug received his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Maryland; he is employed by Cadence Systems. They have two children; Erin, a freshman at Churchill, and Brian, a 7th grader at Takoma Park Middle School.

Kathy Jeffers

Kathy holds an undergraduate degree and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She was in veterinary practices in New York and Pennsylvania before moving to the Washington area. Currently she works in the field of evaluating veterinary medicines at U.S. Pharmacopeia. She and her husband Jim are the parents of Eric, a third grader, and Matthew who is in kindergarten at Travilla Elementary School. Kathy enjoys gardening, tennis, and reading in her leisure time.

John and Patsy Nannen

John was born and raised in Potomac. He holds an undergraduate degree from Texas A&M and a master's degree from George Washington University. His career and special interest are in the field of high

technology. Patsy attended Eastern Kentucky University on a basketball scholarship and received her master's degree in social work from the University of Louisville. They are the parents of a son, Travis, born in December 1998. Both John and Patsy enjoy outdoor sports, including biking, boating, and skiing.

James Saville

James holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in classics studies. He has been an investment counselor for six years and is currently employed by Citibank in that capacity. He has a wide range of hobbies and interests including art, literature, music, politics, bodybuilding and travel. James resides in Germantown.

Karin Schiffman

Karin and her husband Howard have two children: Matt is 16 and attends the Landon School; Rebekah, 12, is enrolled in a Montgomery County school program. Karin holds a BA degree in elementary education from the University of Montana and has worked on an MBA degree at George Washington University. In addition to her interests in team tennis and golf, Karin is an active pianist. Starting piano lessons just four years ago, she is already performing with five other musicians in community concerts.

Alyssa and Chip Shooshan

Alyssa grew up in New Hampshire and graduated from the state's university with a BA in political science. She worked on the staff of a US Senator for

six years prior to the birth of her daughter. Chip, a native of Bethesda, is a graduate of Harvard University and holds a law degree from Georgetown Law Center. He is the president of a telecommunications policy consulting firm based in Bethesda. Alyssa and Chip are the parents of Kate who just celebrated her first birthday.

Nancy Tietjen

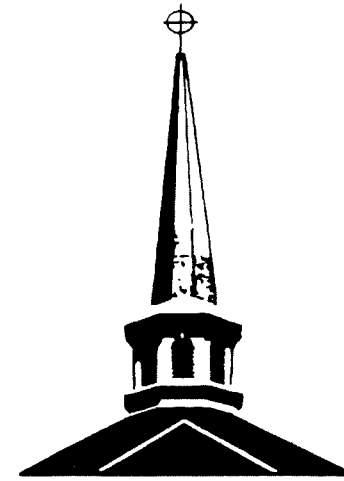
Nancy came to Potomac from Westport, Connecticut, in January after her marriage to Bob. Prior to moving, she worked as a librarian in Westport. She has three sons and a daughter (Beth Rudnic, an elder at PPC) and six grandchildren. With her recent marriage, she adds two sons and two more grandchildren of Bob's. She served as an elder and Stephen Ministry leader at Noroton Presbyterian Church. She was also active in volunteer activities at Norwalk Hospital, while living in Connecticut.

Jackie Tillson

Jackie was born and raised in Iowa and attended Colorado Womans College. After graduation, she moved to New York City and has lived on the East Coast all her adult life. She is the mother of two children. Jackie has worked in sales for the past 15 years and relaxes by travelling and being outside to enjoy nature. She especially likes the C&O Canal, towpath and the Potomac River. She also enjoys singing and reading, an interest she says is "the greatest stress buster in the world."

Potomac Presbyterian Church
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Potomac, Maryland 20854
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

June

1999

Kerry On . . .

On Sunday, May 23rd, we celebrated Confirmation Day and the following young people made their affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ.

Carl Atwood

Joe Bernstein

Heather Knighton

Nora Lee

Betsey Rudnic

Christopher Teets

Emily Wescott

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 my sermon I concluded with a "Top Ten List for Giving" which reminds us all of how we are invited to be giving people in response to God's grace.

10. Give a generous tip because genuine appreciation is priceless.
9. Give your attention to a less popular student or co-worker.
8. Give your time to something that will last, like teaching someone how to read.
7. Give your best effort to whatever job you are doing, flipping hamburgers at McDonalds, or being the CEO of a new company in 2030.
6. Give your respect to everyone because they are God's children.
5. Give one of your baseball gloves away so you'll always be able to return the throw.

(Continued on page 3)

SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS JUNE 13, 1999, 10:00 a.m.

JUNE

1	1:00 PM	The Lord's Table
2	9:30 AM	Bible study
3	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir
	8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir
4		
5		Race for the Cure
<hr/>		
6	9:00 AM	Children's Choir Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Worship
	Noon	Fellowship/TEACHER APPRECIATION
	12:15 PM	Workcampers meeting
	4:30 PM	Jr. High fellowship
	6:00 PM	Jr./Sr. High fellowship dinner
	6:30 PM	Sr. High fellowship
7	7:00 AM	The Monday Connection
	12:30 PM	Christian education meeting
8	11:00 AM	Morning Christian Living Luncheon
	1:30 AM	Stephen Ministry leaders meeting
9	Noon	BIBLE STUDY LUNCHEON
	2:45 PM	Collingswood
10		Evening Christian Living Group
11		
12		

13	10:00 AM	SUMMER WORSHIP schedule begins Commissioning of workcampers
	11:00 AM	PICNIC
	Noon	Fellowship
14	8:00 PM	Session meeting
15	10:30 AM	Men's Book Group, parlor
16		
17		
18		
19		Workcampers travel to Michigan Presbyterian Church U.S.A. General Assembly convenes in Fort Worth
<hr/>		
20	9:00 AM	Fathers' Day Chorus rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship Sacrament of COMMUNION
	11:00 AM	Fellowship
21	8:00 PM	Session
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		Workcampers return
<hr/>		
27	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Fellowship
28		No Deacons
29	6:00 PM	National Capital Presbytery meeting at National Presbyterian
30		

In Our Family

We rejoice in the birth of . . .

Evanthia Maria Conley, daughter of Tina and Erin Conley, and granddaughter of Miriam and Bob Conley, May 6.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of . . .

Austin Joseph Venit, son of Kristen and A.J. Venit, April 25;
Jackson Thomas Miller, son of Judith Anne and Joel Miller, May 16.

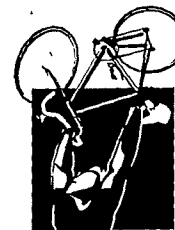
We give thanks for the life of . . .

Joe Curry's mother, Alice J. Curry, who died May 18, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

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 Joe and his family.



Washington, D.C. AIDS Ride

Jim Jochum, a member of Potomac Presbyterian Church, will represent

and ride in the name of PPC, 350 miles, over four days in June, with 2,500 other bicyclists. Jim's financial obligation to enter this "Ride" is \$2,000. Together, the riders hope to raise \$4,000,000 for people living with HIV/AIDS.

You should have received your letter regarding this "DC Aids Ride" by now asking for your support of Jim in this challenging endeavor. Perhaps some of you have already mailed a contribution toward our goal to the Aids Ride office that, in turn, will advise the riders

weekly as to how close they are to their personal commitments.

If you have NOT contributed and would like to do so, the address to mail your donation is:

Washington, D.C. AIDS Ride 4
Pledge Office, Dept. 0654
Rider 1281
Washington, D.C. 20073-0654

✓ **NOTE: Be sure to include Rider #1281 on your check**

Consider this your invitation to come down to D.C. about 2:00 p.m. on June 27 for the closing ceremony of the "Ride" and watch 2,500 tired and exhausted, but happy, bicyclists arrive at the final destination, on the mall. Let's make PPC proud!

The Session has endorsed Jim's participation in the Aids Ride and invites you to join in this effort.

Adult Christian Education

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

Classes are held in the church library each Sunday, 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., unless otherwise noted. For further information, please call Kathy McPherson, 301-765-1154.

6 **"Transforming Hearts and Minds"** Nancy Clark (Last class of the season)

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The last week in April found Kerry Stoltzfus, Kathy McPherson, and Ruthanne Stoltzfus in St. Louis attending a Stephen Ministry leadership training to learn how to establish a Stephen Ministry for PPC.

From Ruthanne:

There were 524 in a very large ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel. From 40 states we convened to hear about the program. (Since 1975 6,839 congregations have enrolled in this ministry.). There were a large number of Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Methodists.

Stephen Ministry gives our church an effective way to train and organize members to provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals struggling with a crisis like grief, divorce, loneliness, relocation, hospitalization, terminal illness, or unemployment. By equipping lay people, we can help fulfill our calling as Christians and also expand the amount of caring ministry available through our church. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this exciting ministry.

From Kathy McPherson:

At the conclusion of our leadership training conference in St. Louis, Kerry, Ruthanne, and I were commissioned as "Stephen leaders." We join Nancy Tietjen, a Stephen leader for many years.

Our next step as a leadership team will be to recruit, select, and train members of Potomac Presbyterian Church to be Stephen ministers, the ones who will provide one-to-one care. After training is completed (50 hours), each Stephen minister will be matched with an individual in need of care. Stephen ministers will also receive ongoing supervision and continuing education throughout their participation in the program. We ask for a two-year commitment.

On Sunday, June 27, at 11:15, we will show a brief information video on the Stephen Ministry in the church library. We encourage you to come if you might be interested in becoming a Stephen minister. Also, please feel free to talk with Kerry, Ruthanne, Nancy, or Kathy if you have questions.

This is an exciting time for our congregation. Please prayerfully consider joining the Stephen ministry program at PPC.

You are invited to:
"Stephen Ministry" information video,
Sunday, June 27, 11:15 a.m.
church library
Please join us and learn more about this wonderful program.

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

The past couple of months have seen a flurry of children's and youth activities here at Potomac Presbyterian. We had a meaningful experience of worship with our youth and children on Youth Sunday. We continue to plan for our youth mission trip to Greenville, Michigan, with fundraisers and meetings. Our confirmation class has completed their rigorous training, have written statements of their faith, and have joined the church. The "God's Family at the Table" children's communion class has finished its instruction and taken the Lord's Supper for the first time.

We are so proud of our young people for their accomplishments and their choices. What a contrast with the tragic events of the past two months, with the senseless killings in Colorado, and fear of further incidents! I know that many parents began to look a little more closely at their children's activities after that. I know that many teenagers and children have wondered if they or their friends would be next. Going to school has become an exercise in apprehension and uncertainty.

One of the reasons we try to have lots of different activities at the church for youth and children is that we want them to have a safe place to be, whether that means a sanctuary from physical harm, or someone to talk to who will listen to them, or an outing they know is safe and wholesome. In our church's programs for children and youth, they are expected to respect each other and themselves; they are encouraged to stand up for their beliefs, even in the face of persecution; they are invited to question and challenge in an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

Please continue to pray for our children and youth. They need your prayers now more than ever. I firmly believe that a strong and supportive church family can make a huge difference in lives that may be disjointed or confused or afraid. Let us truly be a community of faith as we bear each another's burdens. The results may change lives!

(Kerry, continued from page 1)

4. Give your best praise to God, and you'll have plenty left over for your family and friends.
3. Give your talent to make the world a better place; God will be pleased and you will be glad that your life made a difference.
2. Give your forgiveness when someone hurts you; it is the one thing in all the world that can heal a broken relationship.
1. Give your love to the Lord who loves you best of all.

The Reformed Churches' Recovery of Spirituality

Thomas Miles, Parish Associate

"Theology Today," the quarterly publication of Princeton Theological Seminary, devoted its April 1999 issue to the widespread and intensive renewal of interest in *Christian* spirituality. The editorial page referred to this interest with these words:

"Bookstores are brimming with works on spirituality. Lectures, tapes, conferences, spirituality centers, spiritual formation training programs, and small groups abound. Protestant seminaries are now hastily pressed to add spiritual formation to their already overburdened curricula. Monastic guest houses welcome thousands of exhausted go-getters annually."¹

What is spirituality? Definitions abound, but they all point in one direction. Spirituality is the discipline and practice of what Reformed (Presbyterian) Christians call "the means of grace." Those means are what Howard Rice, Presbyterian pastor and former professor of ministry at our denominations's San Francisco Theology Seminary, describes as "... spiritual disciplines that enable the development and maintenance of distinctive Christian identity."² Professor Rice lists the following means of grace: prayer, reading scripture, meditation, feasting and fasting, serving others, worship and sacraments, reading devotional classics, and Sabbath rest.³

Why the rush and press to recover and practice Christian spirituality? The general agreement among writers and practitioners of Christian spirituality is this: people concerned with their lives and the lives of their children seek something substantive, a nurturing of their souls through a vital relationship with God, that will restore meaning, purpose and enduring satisfaction to their everyday lives.

For six weeks this summer I will reside at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California, about fifteen miles north of the Golden Gate bridge, for the purpose of enriching and updating my ministerial skills. This will include some study activities, in company with faculty and clergy, directly related to the reclamation of Reformed Christian spirituality.

Upon my return home I will resume my reading of the works and commentaries upon the works of C.S. Lewis, the Oxford Don whose writing for so many years have helped and even now help clergy and laity alike in their search for a vital relationship with God. The reading will provide the basis for two products, so to speak: a dissertation on "The Spirituality of C.S. Lewis: A Model Spiritual Discipline and Practice," and the formation of at least one and possibly two spirituality groups with the congregation.

You may begin your participation with me in this summer of study and the work that follows by practicing your Christian spirituality now: pray for my efforts on behalf of my ministry.

1. Ellen T. Charry. "Christian Spirituality: Whither?" 1.
2. *The Pastor as Spiritual Guide* (Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1998), 51.
3. *Ibid.*, 51-56.

be posted between June 16 and June 21 to reach them.

The address is:
Greenville Middle School
1321 Chase Road
Greenville, MI 48838

You are sweaty and aching after eight hours of work in the hot sun, you have callouses on your hands, you are not looking forward to another night of sleeping in a sleeping bag on a hard floor, and then, out of the blue, you get handed a letter from someone at your church back home with an inspirational message of support and maybe a little treat.

You can be there in spirit! Mark your calendars now to remind yourself to write a note.



The Christian Education Committee is making progress in plans for a PPC computer lab. This lab would enable the Sunday School, Creative Enrichment and Youth Groups, as well as adults, to use wonderful Christian software that is available for reference, maps, Bible games, and creative writing.

We have already had one very generous donation of a computer from a member of our church. We would like at least two more computers (we already have monitors and keyboards). In addition, the Session has authorized some general endowment funds to help us get started, and there is some money available for CE facilities. We are well on our way!

Your help is still needed, however. Ideally, we would like the computers to be donated so that the church does not have to incur the expense, and we can use these other funds for software or renovation of facilities to accommodate the computer lab. If you or your business are in the process of updating your system, you may be able to help, and get a nice tax deduction for the donation. The following are the minimum requirements for computers:

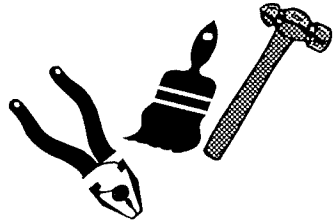
- Pentium processor, with a minimum of 100 MHz of speed
- CD-capable multimedia computers with 16 megabytes of RAM
- 8-speed CD drive or higher
- Windows 95
- Sound card and video card
- Mouse with roller ball on top (so it can be passed from user to user)

Many of you may have 386 or 486 computers that you want to give away, but unfortunately these will not run most of the recent software at speeds that make the games usable. Please do not donate these.

If you would like to help in this effort, but don't have a computer to donate, we will accept donations of cash to help purchase software. The initial package, which includes a variety of programs for all ages, costs \$201 per computer. If you would like to make a donation for all or part of this, please designate this on your check. Another need is for a couple of "techies" who would be willing to help us get started.

If you have any questions, or would like to donate a computer, please call Marilyn Johns at (301) 299-6007. Thank you for your generosity, and your commitment to quality Christian Education!

YOUTH MISSION



We need you to extend the next level of support

Our workcampers will be spending the first week of their summer vacations working to repair and build homes for needy families as part of the 1999 Workcamp Program. Joining with hundreds of other Christian youth from around the country, they will be working with hammers, screwdrivers, and paint brushes by day, and participating in fellowship activities in the evenings, as part of this nationally recognized mission program.

Our youth have been working hard to raise funds for their mission (remember the hoagie sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday and the car wash just a couple weeks ago?) and the congregation has responded generously. Now we, the Deacons, are asking the members of PPC to extend to them the next level of support.

As they spend the week on their mission, we need to include them in our prayers. In addition, it would be great to send them letters or small packages to show them that we are thinking about them.

The participants are:

Carl Atwood	David McKune
Courtney Chapin	Rich McPherson
Catherine Dorman	Sharon Reid
Erin Dunlop	Emily Wescott
Andrew Grier	Marilyn Johns
Liz Johns	Tom McPherson

The dates are: June 19 (depart PPC) and June 26 (depart camp), so mail should

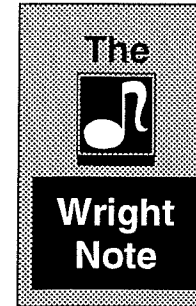
Youth Workcamp . . . about two weeks and counting

The time is rapidly approaching when ten youth and two adults from our church will venture forth to Greenville, Michigan, for a week of hard work, incredible fun, and life-changing activity.

The workcampers are so grateful to the congregation for its generous support of our fundraising activities. The May 2 carwash netted over \$800! The workcampers also greatly appreciate your prayers and interest in this important mission project.

On June 13, during the worship service, **the congregation will commission the workcampers to service. Please plan to attend this special time** (at 10:00 a.m.) and join others in wishing them well.

In addition, on June 13, **please join with your church family for our annual church picnic, sponsored by the youth.** Submarine sandwiches and other picnic foods will be sold, with most of the profits going for seed money for next year's workcamp. The picnic will begin at 11:00 following the worship service. Come with a healthy appetite!



At this time of year, some of the regularly scheduled musical rehearsals are canceled to give the singers and ringers a chance to vacation and energize for fall.

THE PRIMARY CHOIR had its last rehearsal May 12, giggling and singing as enthusiastically as always.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR will have its final practice June 6 in the form of a choir breakfast and talent sharing at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR climaxed its season Sunday, May 16, with six people ringing a total of 37 bells. **Wendy Petti, Alice Smith, Jean Hummon, Mary Smith, Miriam Conley, and Carl Atwood** deserve a summer break! The Sanctuary Choir sings as a group for the last time on June 6. Growing steadily in numbers and tone quality, these singers will be missed as an ensemble. But listen for many of them singing in solo or ensemble capacities this summer.

So, what happens musically when the choirs are in recess?

On June 13, the Worship Committee has invited a musical group, the **Virginia Gospel Singers**, to entertain at the church picnic and also participate in the worship service.

June 20, the **Men's Chorus** will continue its Father's Day tradition of singing in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. and in worship at 10:00 a.m.

From June 27 through the end of August, I will organize and rehearse **solos, duets, and ensembles** for the worship services.

In mid-July, I plan to attend the Presbyterian Conference on Music and Worship at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. This is a wonderful opportunity from me to study and learn more effective ways of using music to support and enhance the worship experience.

I thank all the choirs for their support and service. I look forward to a stimulating summer of solos, duets, ensembles — and yes, the Father's Day Chorus, June 20.

Cindy

VIRGINIA GOSPEL SINGERS

June 13

10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

On June 13, at 10:00 a.m. (our first Sunday of the summer schedule and the date of our annual church picnic), you have the opportunity to hear a different Christian musical tradition, one that began in Southern Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches: Bluegrass Gospel music.

Bob Stone and the Virginia Gospel Singers will provide special music in our 10:00 a.m. worship service and will perform at 11:30 a.m. at the picnic. The Virginia Gospel Singers are five men performing with doboro, banjo, guitar, mandoline, and bass instruments. A "free will" offering will be taken at the picnic concert. The group is "Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through Bluegrass Gospel music."

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear "live" and "up-close" this special Christian tradition.

ICE

FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

... Zephania
Haggai
Zacharia ...

Members of the third and fourth grade Sunday School class have been learning the books of the Old and New Testaments during the past year in order to more readily locate passages and stories in the Bible.

All students in the class have learned many of the names, even the ones that are hard to pronounce. Special congratulations to **Chelsea Drumheller** and **Thomas Niskanen** who have memorized and recited all of the books of the Old and New Testaments — in order!

Thank You

We thank our Sunday School teachers for taking the promise to nurture our children in the love of the Lord.

- Frank Bond**
- Jackie Cronin**
- Chris Cyrway**
- Mary Ling**
- Olivia Mabeus**
- Pam Mazza**
- Julie McMahon**
- Kay Mitchel**
- Sonia Russo**
- Mary Margaret Smith**
- Vivian Teets**

Also, thanks to Erin Morris, our caregiver and to all those who have helped with Enrichment groups.



SON OF CASTLE FAIRE!

Mark your calendars now!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 12 to 16

Register now!!

Children pre-school to fifth grade: You can have a fun-filled week learning about how you can serve The King. Registration forms are available at the church. Complete the form and return to Marilyn Johns.

Volunteer!

Adults and youth of the church are needed to help make this a successful week for our church. We need people in many categories, some of which take only an hour. Please hurry and call Jackie Cronin at 301-527-1235 and let her know what you are available to do to assist during this exciting week.



Summer

Creative Enrichment

We still need people to sign up for a week or two to help with Creative Enrichment for the summer. Staffing is needed for the following:

- **CHILD CARE FOR 2-3 YEAR OLDS** during the entire worship service. **We would like one senior high age student or older** to staff this.
- **AN ENRICHMENT CLASS FOR AGES 4 THROUGH RISING 2ND GRADERS** for the portion of the worship service that follows the "Children at Worship" time. Curriculum is provided. **We would like one adult and one rising 7th grader or older** to staff this.

Can you take one or two weeks in the summer to help out? Please call Marilyn Johns at the church, or Mary Ling at (301) 294-6388 to sign up.

Summer reading list

A book list is being developed for children and youth to supplement their summer reading. These books will contain Christian themes, although they may not all be Christian books as such. The list will be arranged by age group, and will be available by June 6 in Marilyn Johns' office. Please pick one up!

Also, if you have copies of any of the books on the list that you would like to donate to the church's children's library (a work in progress!), please talk with Marilyn.



GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL

Blake Brumbaugh, Wootton High School, going to St. Anselm College

Courtney Chapin, Churchill High School, going to University of Miami

Jonathan King, Georgetown Prep, going to Syracuse University

COLLEGE

Jennifer Gregg, Elon College

Meg King, Northwestern University

Nathan King, Purdue University, Dec. 99

John Paul Norvell, Princeton University

Mary Singleton, Indiana University

Samantha Toerge, Amherst College

Andrew Wylie, Franklin and Marshall

GRADUATE SCHOOL

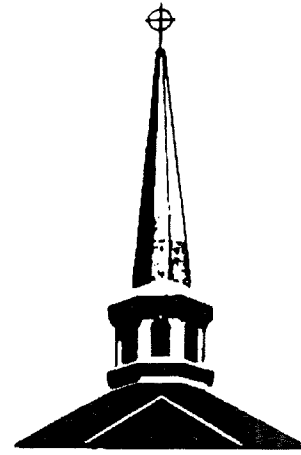
Arianna Smith, University of Michigan, Masters of music in clarinet performance

NURSERY NEWS

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Tripta Verma to our nursery staff. She will alternate Sundays with Erin Morris. Tripta is a child-care worker with extensive experience, and loves working with babies! Please take a moment to welcome Tripta to our church.

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE Potomac Presbyterian Church

Summer

1999

Kerry On . . .

How about that new billboard campaign? There is a black background and a brief phrase in white letters.

"C'mon Over And Bring The Kids" - God

"Loved The Wedding, Invite Me To The Marriage" - God

"That Love Thy Neighbor Thing, I Meant It" - God

"Will The Road You're On Get You To My Place?" - God

"Tell The Kids I Love Them" - God

Its a non-denominational campaign that began in Florida and is sponsored by an anonymous client of a Ft Lauderdale advertising agency. For all of us at Potomac Presbyterian Church these thoughts remind us of the joyous responsibility we have to share God's love. In our worship and education, our caring and mission we proclaim God's message. We may be seeing some folks who are responding to one of these signs in the weeks ahead. Let's do all we can to welcome them in our Lord's name.

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*

Congratulations to Joyce Jenkins!!!

Little did I realize that my "first" assignment upon being elected to the General Assembly Council would be from Kerry Stoltzfus – when he asked me to write a brief paragraph about what my duties would be. I assured him that I had no idea at this point just what my duties would be beyond those assigned which are "to work on behalf of the General Assembly in partnership with other governing bodies as the church seeks to serve the needs of the world. It cultivates and promotes spiritual welfare, carries out General Assembly policy with and through the program divisions of Congregational Ministries, National Ministries and Worldwide Ministries, and provides services for the church through the offices of Corporate and Administrative Services."

More practically, the General Assembly Council meets in the spring and fall, and individual divisions also hold one meeting during the year. I will be assigned to one of 12 division/committees sometime in late July and have just forwarded my ranking of preferred assignment to the associate for General Assembly Administration. There have been recent recommendations to modify the Council and its responsibilities that may substantially impact our duties in the future. I am looking forward to my orientation and first meeting in September, 1999 and ask for your support and prayers during my term of office. You'll be hearing from me as I get educated and involved.

Joyce Jenkins

A Stephen Minister At Work...

<i>Sharing</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
<i>Trusting</i>	<i>Interpreting</i>
<i>Encouraging</i>	<i>Nurturing</i>
<i>Praying</i>	<i>Interceding</i>
<i>Helping</i>	<i>Sustaining</i>
<i>Empathizing</i>	<i>Training</i>
<i>Needing</i>	<i>Enabling</i>
	<i>Resolving</i>

Stephen Ministry training at Potomac Presbyterian Church begins on October 6, 1999. For further information, contact Kerry at (301) 299-6007.

In Our Family

We rejoice in the birth of...

Matthew Burger, son of Tom and Elizabeth Burger, brother of Tommy Burger and grandson of Bill Malone, born on June 19;

We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

Jackson Thomas Miller, son of Joel and Judith Ann Miller, May 16;

Travis Otto Nannen, son of John and Patricia Nannen, and grandson of Sadin Nannen, May 16;

Meredith Kathleen Srour, daughter of David and Stephanie Srour, May 16;

Katherine Darlien Johnson, daughter of David and Elizabeth Johnson, and granddaughter of Robert and Barbara Redmond, June 20;

Alexander Radford Hayden, son of Mark and Robin Hayden, June 27.

We welcome our "Adopt a Student" couple...

Minh-Vu and Katherine Todd Nguyen, students at Union Theological Seminary. We look forward to getting to know them and supporting them.

We give thanks for the lives of...

Doug Grier's mother, Solveig Grier, who died on May 11;

Joe Curry's mother, Alice J. Curry, who died on May 18.

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."

workcamp reflections continued...

evening and remained close. I would like to give all my thanks to the congregation for their everlasting support that has allowed us to go to workcamp this year. Without your support, we would be nowhere.

David McKune: I have never had a resident as nice as Mildred Glover. She was very much in need and very, very appreciative.

Rich McPherson: When I first arrived in Greenville, I had feelings of anticipation, nervousness and fear. These emotions soon turned to joy as new lifelong friendships were made and old friendships within our youth group were made stronger. The work my crew did this week helped someone in need, while it helped my crew grow in faith. The workcamp experience opened my heart, mind and eyes and showed me that there is nothing better in the world than helping and loving your neighbor.

Sharon Reid: This week I truly found that everyone you come upon in life is fighting a harder battle. These battles shape our lives. For without these battles, we would never have met the people that help us to overcome them. I not only believed that I helped my fellow workcampers, but they helped me overcome one of the greatest battles - figuring out how to live my life. I have arrived on one solid answer as the week closes—fully rely on God.

Emily Wescott: This week at workcamp, I learned more than how to hammer and saw. I learned how lucky I am, and that I want to give more time and energy to serve the Lord. It was amazing to see what six strangers could do to show an old woman the love of God.

Tom McPherson: While immeasurable good was done in the Greenville community, the fruits of our physical labor pale in comparison to the real achievement of the workcamp. Our workcampers built significantly on the foundation of their faith. They formed new relationships with the resident of their particular project and with their assigned crew members. Furthermore, they built in their relationships with fellow Potomac campers and their relationship with God. This experience will give them a touchstone for the rest of their lives.

Marilyn's Message Workcampers Have a Wonderful Week!

After almost a year of planning, fundraising, and wondering, ten youth and two adults loaded up Rich McPherson's Durango and the Rudnic's Suburban on Saturday, June 19th and headed west, not knowing exactly what to expect, but knowing that this was going to be an experience. We stopped just north of Youngstown, Ohio, to spend the night at the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center, a Presbyterian camp similar to Camp Glenkirk. The people there were very nice and accommodating, and we were able to make a campfire and *attempt* to build S'mores.

We got an early start on Sunday (although not as early as we planned because the alarm clock mysteriously got turned off!), and headed to our destination, Greenville, Michigan. When we arrived at Greenville Middle School, the place was a flurry of activity with teenagers everywhere. Many youth groups including ours, had identifying T-shirts, and it was fun to see where the different groups were from. That evening we learned that there were close to 500 people at this camp, the largest of the summer. We met our work crews, who were as nervous as we were about these strangers we'd be spending a good bit of our week with, and assigned crew responsibilities.

The next morning, after a commissioning of the crews, we all headed off to our worksites. Some of us worked on trailers, others on houses. Some worked in dark basements, others worked outside the whole week. Some did roofing, others painted, some built wheelchair ramps, others hung drywall. We talked with our residents, many of whom were older people, or single mothers. We all learned some new practical skills, and also learned some important relational skills. At some point during our workday every day, we stopped for devotions, which kept our focus on God. The theme for the week was "Supernatural God," and each day developed a different "supernatural" theme (compassion, life, joy, forgiveness, power). These themes were further developed throughout the evening in the program and in youth group devotions.

Reflections of workcampers:

Carl Atwood: When I first signed up for going to workcamp, I was thinking, “Hmmm...cute idea. Sounds like fun. Why not? When I got to Greenville, my thoughts about the trip were the same. As the week continued, I gradually realized what I was actually doing for God, my resident, and myself. I can’t explain this change in words, except that I had an experience; a religious experience. This experience changed my whole thinking about me, my work, and my religion. I came back to Potomac in a whole new way.

Courtney Chapin: When workcamp was first mentioned to me I thought that I would just be working all week on houses for people who needed help. But to my surprise it was that and much more. It was an experience that let me overcome my fear of shining like a star while singing in front of 480 people, realizing what my strengths are, and meeting some amazing people who taught me a lot about myself. The openness and compassion from the town, campers, and residents changed me and made me realize what I had taken for granted. And that with God’s grace I know I can do anything I put my mind to.

Catherine Dorman: Workcamp was a wonderful experience for me. I met so many new people all there for the same purpose. I’ll never forget the feeling it gave me making a difference in someone’s life.

Erin Dunlop: When asked to write about my workcamp experience I didn’t know where to start. I learned so much, including how lucky I am and also how it feels to help people. Workcamp was a lot of fun, and I look forward to next year.

Andrew Grier: This week allowed me to view God from a different perspective. The other workcampers and my group leader, Brother Bob, opened my eyes to all facets of Christianity.

Liz Johns: As this was my fourth workcamp experience, I thought that I would not be surprised by what I saw, either at the worksites or at the camp. I was pleasantly surprised, however, at the differences between this year and years past. This year was, by far, my favorite year, due to a wonderful youth group who got to know each other a lot better in the course of a week, and my wonderfully close-knit crew, who met each other for the first time on Sunday

The evening programs were full of singing, prayer, skits, slides, and fun. Five hundred people in a gym with a couple of ceiling fans was an interesting experience, but no one seemed to mind too much. Michigan weather proved to be interesting, with generally pleasant temperatures in the morning, and sweltering heat and humidity in the afternoon and evening. We also had thunderstorms several times during the week, but only one was during work time.

All told, there were 81 six-person crews who worked on 69 homes. Four hundred eighty-six people became fast friends with at least five people they’d never met before. At least 69 residents have a new respect for teenagers and for their commitment to God. The whole community of Greenville was involved in this important ministry, and it was a delight to see looks of appreciation on the faces of the people in this small, rural town (the out-of-town plates and the large group of teenagers gave us away!).

Our group was also very excited to be a part of Potomac Presbyterian Church while we were at workcamp. Many of you sent cards and packages, and it kept us feeling connected to you even though we were far away. Special thanks to all of the deacons, who “took us on as a project.”

I was bursting with pride all week with the behavior of our youth. They followed the rules, and there have to be rules when that many people are together in that small place. They participated fully in all the programs. They took our youth group evening devotion time seriously. They were great! I know they are excited about sharing their experiences with the other youth in our church who were unable to go, and with the adults. The entire workcamp will be presenting an adult education class on October 11. Please make plans to be there.

As a preview to that, I asked each of the workcampers to write a few sentences about their experience at workcamp, during the 13 hour trip home, (partly to give them something to do, and partly to capture thoughts while they were still fresh). Here are the reflections of our workcampers: (continued on page 9)

WELCOME

to our new members

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS, WHO JOINED POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN ON JULY 11.

Meg and Norm Augustine
9826 Sorrel Ave., Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 983-2681

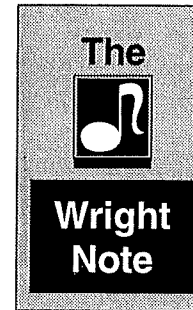
Meg was born in Stockholm, Sweden and emigrated to America when she was 19 because she had always thought of America as the land of opportunity. Over the years she has lived in Maryland, Texas, Virginia, Colorado, New Jersey and California... with frequent stops in Florida during the winter! She has started several businesses, including a fashion eyeglass import firm and a custom stationery supplier. Norm was born in Colorado where he lived until attending Princeton University. He is an aerospace engineer and has worked on various projects relating to national defense and the space program. His work has included stints with the government, industry, academia and volunteer roles with several charitable organizations. An avid adventurer, he has stood on both the North and South Poles. Meg and Norm have two children, a son Greg, now deceased, and a daughter Rene, and a granddaughter, Isabella.
Deacon: Carolyn Ewells

Alice Belden
Manor Care
10714 Potomac Tennis Ln., Potomac, Maryland 20854

Alice is a long time friend of the congregation and a resident of Manor Care. She joins our congregation by reaffirmation of faith. Alice is one of the oldest living graduates of Welsley College, having recently celebrated her 76th reunion.
Deacon: Ann Eagleson

Say "Cheese"

Photographs of our PPC members on the wall of Fellowship Hall will be updated this summer. Your new photo, if you desire, will be taken by Joe Curry or Bob Plumb on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, before or after the 10:00 AM Worship Service. Please sign up for a convenient Sunday on the board in Fellowship Hall or just tap Joe or Bob on the shoulder and smile. Please do not miss this opportunity for an updated photograph for the membership photo wall. *The Outreach Committee*



During the week of July 11th, I am taking a step back in time as well as a step forward. The step back refers to the horse and buggies outside my open dorm room window at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Air conditioning was not an option in the dorms or in the chapel. Enough said about the hot step back in time. The step forward will be in the new ideas and techniques I learn in classes and worship services at the Presbyterian Conference on Worship and Music.

Hundreds of church organists, choir directors, handbell ringers, choir singers and ministers will gather to attend rehearsals, seminars and worship services to stimulate the participants to come back to our home churches and revitalize our own programs.

Last year the Rev. Tom Troeger was our worship leader. You have heard Kerry quote his thought-provoking hymn texts on many occasions. This year Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Princeton Theological Seminary, is the preacher for the week. Clinicians in organ, adult choirs, children's choirs, youth choirs, handbell choirs and liturgical dance will teach and rehearse groups all week to participate in the innovating worship services. I will be very busy attending classes and going to worship twice each day. (I will be too busy to mind the heat.) I thank this congregation for giving me this opportunity to learn and grow in the field of church music.

Cindy

Golf Day To raise funds to help those in need of affordable housing, Robert Pierre Johnson Housing Development Corporation (RPJ), a nonprofit housing organization supported by Presbyterian Churches in the greater Washington area, including our church, is holding a golf day on **August 13, 1999** at the Lake Arbor Country Club in Mitchelville, Maryland.

This is an opportunity for **golf players** to have fun and at the same time help to raise money for a Presbyterian-inspired charity that assists those in need regardless of their faith. **Business Sponsors** are also sought.

For further information and registration, call (202) 767-2428.

CE News - A New Model for Children's Church School

The Christian Education Committee has been hard at work looking for ways to make our church school program more interesting and relevant to the children. After study and discussion, we have decided to begin a new model for children ages 4 through grade 6.

In our well intentioned efforts to have the children learn the whole Bible in three years, they are getting quite a bit of quantity, without necessarily getting a deep understanding of the more important Bible stories. In the new model, we will slow the process down considerably. Instead of one week on, say, the Prodigal Son, it will be explored for four weeks, using different teaching methods, media and people. One week might have the children making costumes and acting out the story. One week might be a computer game about the Bible story, and in another week the children might create a song about God's faithfulness to us. A fourth week might be the children preparing a feast to welcome the prodigal home. This is only an example, but it gives you an idea of how creative and exciting this program can be. And those children will know the story of the Prodigal Son inside out!

One of the great concerns of our time is that many children do not attend Sunday School every week. Many children spend every other weekend with their other parent, many people (in this area especially) travel often on the weekends, many families just have busy schedules. If one Bible story or concept lasts an entire month, most children will experience in at least one form, rather than missing it altogether if they missed that particular Sunday.

It is also our hope that this model will utilize the gifts and talents of a wider segment of our congregation. We are blessed with the talented artists, musicians, computer wizzes, and many others who might not want to commit to teaching a whole year of Church School, but would be willing to give one week a month, or one month a year to help. While each class will still have two primary teachers who will be there on a regular basis, we hope that for at least one or two weeks a month there is a "guest teacher" who can bring their expertise to the class.

How can you help this model be a success? We need LOTS of help! First, we need to have a **design team** willing to meet together a couple of times over the summer and at mid-year to plan the lessons for several months. Ideally, these would be teachers or others with an understanding of age-level characteristics of the children, and also artistic, creative people who can see

Church School continued...

possibilities. We also need some **classroom teachers**, particularly for the lower grades, who are willing to share teaching two or three times a month with another teacher. Our **guest teachers** are the key to the success of this model. If you have a little bit of time and are willing to share your talents (even the talent of showing a video!) on an occasional basis, we would like to know. We have had offers of donations of computers, and will be purchasing Christian software soon. Any "**techies**" out there would be appreciated in setting up our computer lab space, and getting the programs up and running.

The Christian Education Committee thinks this model is very exciting, and will make Sunday School a more inviting, interesting, educational time for our children. Our overall goal is to share the gospel with our children, so that when they are youth and adults they will want to embrace Christ in their own faith. There's no reason that goal cannot be accomplished in a fun and creative way. Please think of how you can help, and call Marilyn Johns at the church, or Elders Beth Rudnic (301- 869-4622) or Mary Ling (301-294-6388).

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF DDC

COME TO THE

CABARET

7:00 PM
SUNDAY
AUGUST 29,
1999

TO BENEFIT
THE
AMERICAN
CANCER
SOCIETY

\$Free Will Donations\$ (bring your checkbook!)

In Remembrance, in Honor of, and in Hope for friends and loved ones within our Church Family whose courage inspires us all. Help support the fight against this disease!

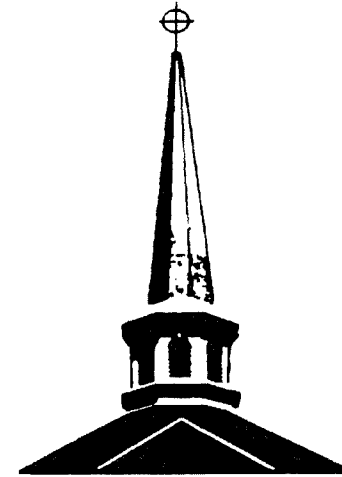
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

September

1999

KERRY ON...

What is it about being human that causes us to praise God? It must be something more than an obligation, because it is so often spontaneous. Think of the places you've been this summer. Maybe you stood with your toes in the sand and watched the waves crash onto the beach and you exclaimed, Praise God! Perhaps you watched the sun go down over a majestic mountain range and again, Praise God! You held your grandchild for the very first time and you whispered a prayer, Praise God. You visited a little country church while on vacation and as the pastor took the bread and broke it, silently the words formed on your lips, Praise God.

The capacity to praise cannot be earned. It is a gift of a gracious God. I do think it can be nurture and strengthened. Keep your eyes open and listen more attentively with your ears and praise will spill out. Take a enough time to be quiet and just observe what is going on around you. Spend some quality time with a friend. Listen to the Word of God being read on a Sunday morning and hear as if for the first time good news and you won't be able to hold in the praise.

I especially like Kathleen Norris way of talking about praise in her book, Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith.

We praise God not to celebrate our own faith,
but to give thanks for the faith God has in us.

May we celebrate that faith God has in us as we worship together this fall. I'll see you on Sunday.

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*

Workcamp 2000

September 1999

5 Sunday

10:00 AM Worship/Sacrament of Baptism
11:00 AM Fellowship

6 Office closed for holiday

7 7:30 PM Teacher Training with Saint
Mark Presbyterian Church

8 9:30 AM Bible Study

9 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

10 6:00 PM Mordant/Rosborough rehearsal

11 11:00 AM Cynthia Mordant / Jim
Rosborough wedding

12 Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Fellowship

13 7:00 AM The Monday Connection
12:30 PM CE Committee
8:00 PM Committees

14 9:30 AM Christian Living
7:30 PM Christian Living

15 9:30 AM Bible Study

16 6:30 PM New Handbell Ringer
Orientation
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

19 Sunday

9:00 Children's Choir
9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Fellowship
3:00 PM Manor Care
4:30 PM Youth Groups
Steeple to People deadline

20 8:00 PM Session

21 10:00 AM Men's Book Club

22 9:30 AM Bible Study

4:00 PM Primary Choir

23 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

26 Sunday

9:00 AM Children's Choir
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Fellowship
12:15 PM Workcamp meeting
4:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group
6:00 PM Jr./Sr. High Dinner
6:30 PM Sr. High Youth Group

27 7:30 PM Deacons

28 10:00 AM NCP Presbytery
Camp Glenkirk

29 9:30 AM Bible Study
4:00 PM Primary Choir

30 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

Preliminary plans are being made for Workcamp 2000. Youth and adult advisors will work for a week next summer to help those who cannot help themselves to repair their homes. Any youth, grade 8 or older, who would like to participate or would like more information, are invited to attend a planning meeting on Sunday, September 26, in the library following worship. Parents and adults who may be interested in attending as youth advisors are also encouraged to attend this meeting. We will review last year's workcamp experience, and decide on where we want to go next summer. Call Marilyn Johns for further information.

In Our Family

Congratulations and God's blessing on...

Jeff and Krista Karch Price who were married on July 31 in East Haddam, Connecticut

We give thanks for the lives of...

Arthur C. Hyde, when PPC was organized in the early 60's, Mr. Hyde donated the property to the congregation and our building has occupied this location since 1967;

Jim Bell, Janet Koonce's father;

Martha Scherer Stobie.

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."

Communion Schedule

October 3, 1999	World Communion Sunday
October 31, 1999	All Saints' Day
November 28, 1999	First Sunday of Advent
December 24, 1999	Christmas Eve Services 7:00 PM & 11:00 PM

Christmas International House

Come join others from the Gaithersburg area churches as we share our many blessings at Christmas with other college students from around the world. We need your help in preparing for our annual Christmas International House which will host about 15 foreign students who have been invited to spend two weeks in the Gaithersburg area from December 18 to January 1. Our goal is to provide a place for the students who otherwise would be in an empty dormitory on a deserted campus, and we enjoy sharing our love with people from other countries as we celebrate God's love for all people.

We need host families for 1 or 2 week periods, help with three all-day trips and three evening parties, dinner invitations for small groups, etc. It's not too early to start dreaming of a most unusual Christmas. For more information, call Eleanor Munch (301) 926-3728.

I just returned from a week at Montreat, North Carolina, one of our family's favorite places. It is a beautiful mountain setting, peaceful, serene and safe, where I can spend time reading, reflecting, and renewing my spirit.

We go each year for the Christian Education Conference, and this year's keynote speaker was Carol Bechtel, whom some of you know from her monthly column in *Presbyterians Today*, and others may remember from the recent Wednesday morning Bible study of her book, *Glimpses of Glory*.

The theme of the conference was "Teaching is Discipleship." When we think of discipleship, we often think of evangelism, as in "go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations . . ." Matthew 28:19. But the true meaning of the word *disciple* is "to learn."

This learning is a lifelong process for Christians. We never stop learning. We learn from the Bible and from sermons, but we also learn from one another, and from the world, and from the children.

As you carefully read this issue of Steeple to People, I hope you will find many opportunities to be disciples, whether by teaching, or by attending a small group Bible study, or by singing in the choir. Take the opportunities offered by the church as well as the serendipitous opportunities offered by God as you encounter people and situations outside the church. Listen to what God is trying to teach you. Keep learning!

CHRISTIAN ED

1999/2000 Education Programs

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure outlining the Christian Education programs offered by Potomac Presbyterian Church in the upcoming year. Please read it carefully and plan to participate in some way in education this year.

In the Literature Rack . . .

Check out a new resource for parents! In the literature rack in the narthex are *Faith Parent* brochures. The booklets offer concrete advice from experienced counselors, example stories, spiritual support for parents, and suggested resources to use. Each month we will add a new brochure to the rack, so check it often, and take one for yourself or a friend. Available in September: "Teaching Your Child to Pray."

ADULT EDUCATION FOR FALL 1999

This year's theme for PPC's Adult Education program is "New Century - New Creation in Christ," based upon the II Corinthians 5:17 passage, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

Fall program includes:

- September 19 Dr. Craig Hill, Wesley Theological Seminary
September 26 Dr. Dean Hoge, Catholic University, Sociology Department
October 3 Becky Wagner, Director; Community Ministry of Montgomery County
October 10 Presentation by PPC Workcampers
October 17 Tom Miles - "Spirituality and the Art of Living"
October 24 Video
October 31 -
November 21 Louise Winfield, "Revelation"
November 28 "Giving Thanks: Bible Study"
December 5 Williamsburg Breakfast - No Class
December 12 Diane Hutchins, "The Holy Land"
December 19 Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas
December 26 No Class

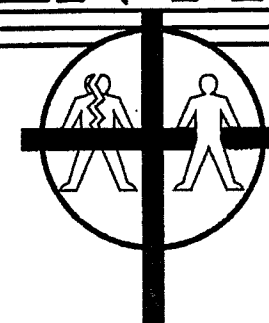
*Also, please save February 20, 2000
on your calendar for:*

Berger Lecture

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jean Betake Elshtain
University of Chicago Divinity School

Unless otherwise noted, Adult Education classes are held in the church library each Sunday from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. For further information, please contact Kathy McPherson, 301/765-1154.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



How mysterious and marvelous are God's ways!! The way He works in our lives constantly amazes me. One year ago I never thought I'd be living in Potomac and be a member of PPC. Last fall when I made the decision to marry Bob and move here, I asked God to let me know how I could best serve Him at this time. Little did I know that He would again lead me to be a part of Stephen Ministry!! It was all planned before I even arrived here.

Stephen Ministry has been close to my heart for about 12 years when I felt called to be in the first class at Noroton Presbyterian Church in Connecticut. After my two year commitment as a Stephen Minister, I became a Stephen Leader. Through Stephen Ministry I have received far more than I have given; and, it has helped me be more fully equipped for a ministry of service. The skills I have learned have benefited me in all facets of my life. I have learned how to be a better listener, more assertive and more sensitive to the needs of others. More importantly, I know that God is always with me and will guide me in all situations.

I am excited that Stephen Ministry is coming to PPC and I expect it to be a source of warmth, care and blessing for a long time. I pray that our congregation will continue to grow as a nurturing community where all are loved and cared for.

Kerry said in his sermon on August 8th, that we have to take time to be quiet and listen to God's leading. Maybe some of you are feeling His little nudges and leading to talk to Kerry about joining this first class. If so, give him a call to discuss if this ministry is for you.

My prayers are with all of you, Nancy Tietjen

DEACON DOINGS

Have you ever wondered about what it means to be a Deacon? One of our past Deacons, Jackie Evans, described it in part by saying, "Deacons serve as representatives of the church, facilitating communication between church leadership and parish members."

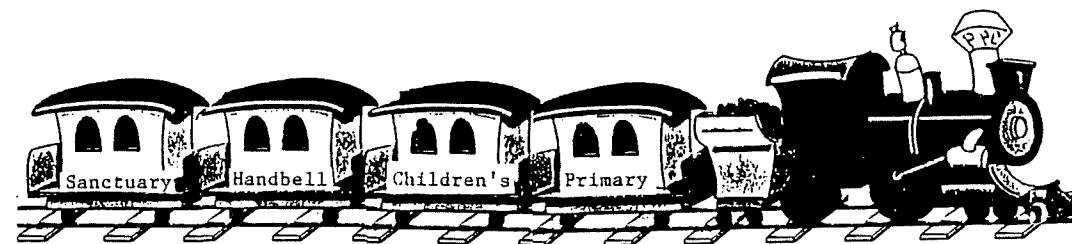
Are you interested in a rewarding experience? The time is coming for the appointment of church officers for the year 2002. If you get a phone call asking you to be a Deacon, please accept the nomination. You'll be glad you did! It is a wonderful opportunity to work with and get to know other members of the church. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as a Deacon and is highly recommended. Miriam Conley

V Son Castle Faire Vacation Bible School

Son Castle Faire Vacation Bible School was a fun filled week of learning for thirty-three children from our congregation and the community. The children learned of the talents they have and how to use them to serve The King through skits, performed each morning by the youth; Bible stories, told by men from our congregation; crafts; singing; recreation and classroom time. There were two very successful mission projects for the week. A food castle was built in the narthex with donations from every family. Hand to Hand distributed the food to several needy families in the area. The second mission project was collecting money for the Medical Benevolence Foundation. For each quarter donated, an inoculation is funded for a child in a Third World country. Our donations bought 457 inoculations.

The finale of the week was a Castle Feast on Friday night. The children entertained their guests with a slide show of the week's events, a skit, songs and a feast fit for a King.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that made the Son Castle Faire such an exciting time for our children. Watch this spot for the date of Vacation Bible School 2000. We will let you know as soon as the CE Committee decides so you can make plans to attend.



All aboard the musical train,
All who sing in Jesus' name,
Let us all enjoy our ride
As we sing our songs side by side.

Choir Train Schedule:

Sanctuary Choir - Starts Thursday, Sept. 9 at 8:00 p.m.

Children's Choir - Starts Sunday, Sept. 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Primary Choir - Starts Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir - Starts Thursday, Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

*New ringer orientation on Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Passenger Description:

Sanctuary Choir - Adults who love to sing the great music of the church.

Children's Choir - Grades 3 - 6 who discover the joy of singing and reading music together in a Christian setting

Primary Choir - Grades K - 2 who come together to "find" their singing voices through musical games and songs

Handbell Choir - Any age with knowledge of rhythmic musical notation.

Ticket Information

Seats available in all choirs. No charge. Only requirement is regular attendance and commitment to the cause of good singing or ringing to the glory of God.

Conductor, Engineer: Cynthia Wright (call 301-926-7015 with questions or indications of interest)

Memories and Thanksgiving

Fifty years ago the then Brooklyn-Nassau Presbytery on Long Island, New York, employed a retired Presbyterian minister to survey the new Levittown development. His task: determine the possibility of establishing a new Presbyterian church in that community. The minister visited over 5,000 of the final more than 18,000 houses built by The Levitt Company on land once used for duck and potato farms. The U.S. government, faced with a post-war national shortage of home building materials, restricted purchasers of the homes to U.S. war veterans. Almost all veteran purchasers served in the armed forces of World War II.

The Presbytery purchased a tract of a little over two acres on which stood three old structures: a potato storage barn, a fodder storage barn, and a frame farm house. A contractor converted the potato storage barn into a chapel-sized church with a multi-purpose sanctuary/fellowship hall, two first-floor church school rooms, and several rooms in a windowless basement. The fodder barn proved unconvertible and suffered the fate of demolition. As the church school grew, the house became a church school annex.

Because the church grew by about 250 new members each year, the congregation built a sanctuary with class rooms and other facilities. As the church school reached about 1,200 members and the congregation about 1,100, the congregation constructed a fellowship hall and expanded the parking lot. This comparatively young congregation of World War II veterans conducted three successive and successful building fund campaigns to pay for the construction costs. By that time, the staff consisted of two ministers, Tom Miles and Jack Callender.

Tom Miles, our Parish Associate, was the first installed minister of this First Presbyterian Church of Levittown, New York. He began his ministry there in May 1951 immediately after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration by the congregation, all previous ministers preached one Sunday at the church, beginning last February. Because Tom was the first minister of the Levittown Church, he will preach last, on Sunday, September 26. The congregation will celebrate fifty years of ministry on Saturday and Sunday, November 6th and 7th. Tom will attend the celebration for the weekend. The present Moderator of the denomination's General Assembly will preach on November 7th.

An interesting note: our own Lew and Alice Smith were members of a Dutch Reformed Congregation in Levittown while Tom was there; however, the Smiths and Tom did not meet until they did so here in our congregation in Potomac.

Rally Day

Sunday, September 12, is RALLY DAY, where we *kick off* our new Sunday School year! It will be a *ball*! The education and music staff *team* up for a fun morning of songs and celebration, and children and youth will be able to meet their new teachers. Adults will score a *touchdown* when they hear the plans for this year's Adult Ed.

Players are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 12, and be ready to be *receivers* of God's blessings in 1999/2000 Sunday School. You'll be *running back* for more all year!

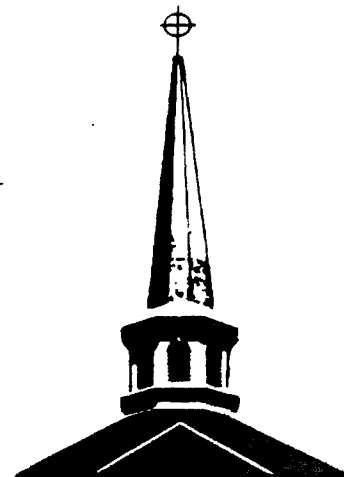
Can you guess our Rally Day theme?

Inquirers' Class Series *October 3, 10, 17 and 24, 1999*

INQUIRERS' CLASS - For those people who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership at PPC, a three part Inquirer Series will begin on October 3rd and will continue on October 10th and 17th. The Sunday morning 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 on Sunday, October 24th and then be recognized as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please contact Louise Plumb (301) 762-2769 or Pastor Stoltzfus (301) 299-6007 with any questions.

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

October

1999

Kerry On . . .

I've just started reading a book by Richard Morgan entitled, Remembering Your Story: A Guide to Spiritual Autobiography. He invites us to recall the past without clinging to what has been. Soren Kierkegaard once said, "Life can only be understood backwards; but must be lived forwards."

Moses said to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8:2, "remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness." He was urging them to let the same God lead them into the future and the promised land.

Why not try out this remembering at the family dinner table? It might work especially well with teenagers who tire of the question, "How was your day?" or "How was school?" Tell a story of something that happened to you in the past that is still important to you today. How does this story shape who you are today? See if you can discern God's grace in the story and how God's hand continues to guide you into the future. Perhaps you could identify a Bible verse or story that brings light to your story.

If you are the listener you have a precious gift to offer the story teller. Morgan writes,

There is probably no service we can render other persons quite as great as or important as to be listener and receiver to them in those moments when they need to open their hearts and tell someone their story.

May your story telling and your listening be grace filled.

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*

October 1999

3 Sunday

- 9:00 AM Children's Choir
 9:45 Sunday School
 Inquirers' Class
 11:00 Worship / Communion
 12:00 PM Fellowship
 4:30 Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 Junior / Senior High dinner
 6:30 Senior High Fellowship
 4 7:30 PM Adult Ed. Committee, parlor
 5 1:00 PM The Lord's Table
 6 9:30 AM Bible Study, led by Kerry
 4:00 PM Primary Choir
 7:00 Stephen Ministry Training
 7:30 Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 8:00 Stewardship Committee
 7 10:30 AM Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 Sanctuary Choir
 9 5:30 PM Hayride, Homestead Farm

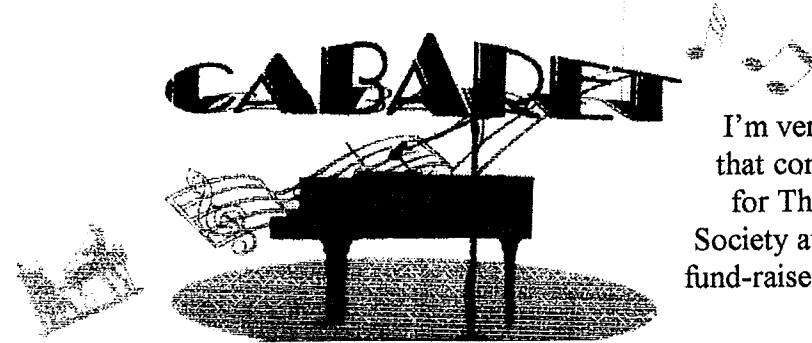
10 Sunday

- 9:00 AM Children's Choir
 9:45 Sunday School
 Inquirers' Class
 11:00 Worship
 12:00 PM Fellowship
 4:30 Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 Junior/Senior High dinner
 6:30 Senior High Fellowship
 11 12:30 PM Christian Ed. Committee
 8:00 Committees
 12 9:30 AM Christian Living
 7:30 PM Christian Living
 13 9:30 AM Bible Study, led by Kerry
 4:00 PM Primary Choir
 7:00 Stephen Ministry Training
 7:30 Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 14 10:30 AM Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 Sanctuary Choir

17 Sunday

- 9:00 AM Children's Choir
 9:45 Sunday School

- 9:45 AM Inquirers' Class
 11:00 Worship
 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting
 12:05 Fellowship
 3:00 Manor Care
 4:30 Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 Junior / Senior High dinner
 6:30 Senior High Fellowship
 Steeple to People deadline
 18 8:00 PM Session
 19 10:30 AM Men's Book Club
 20 9:30 AM Bible Study, led by Kerry
 4:00 PM Primary Choir
 7:00 Stephen Ministry Training
 7:30 Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 21 10:30 AM Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 Sanctuary Choir
 22 9:00 PM Senior High Lock-In
 23 9:00 AM Senior High Lock-In ends
 24 **Faith at Work Sunday**
 9:00 AM Children's Choir
 9:45 Sunday School
 Inquirers' Class / Session
 11:00 Worship / New Members
 12:00 PM Fellowship
 4:30 Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 Junior High dinner
 25 7:30 PM Deacons
 27 9:30 AM Bible Study, led by Kerry
 4:00 PM Primary Choir
 7:00 Stephen Ministry Training
 7:30 Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 28 10:30 AM Bible Study, led by Tom Miles
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 8:00 Sanctuary Choir
 30 10:00 AM October Days
 31 **Remembering the Saints Day**
 9:00 AM Children's Choir
 9:45 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship / Communion
 12:00 PM Fellowship
 4:30 Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 Junior / Senior High dinner
 6:30 Senior High Fellowship



I'm very pleased to report that contributions received for The American Cancer Society at the Cabaret Night fund-raiser totaled \$6,640.00
 Ann Hazard



In the Church Family



We rejoice in the birth of...

Jillian Catherine Reichley, daughter of Douglas and Cheryl Reichley, sister of Jonathan and granddaughter of Jim and Mary Reichley, born on September 9.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

Casey Priscilla Kendall, daughter of Charles and Rebecca Kendall on September 5. Proud grandparents are Cliff and Camille Kendall.

Congratulations and God's blessing on...

Cynthia Mordant and Jim Rosborough, married on September 11.

We give thanks for the life of...

Sadie Nannen, who died on September 13.

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 Sadie's family and friends.



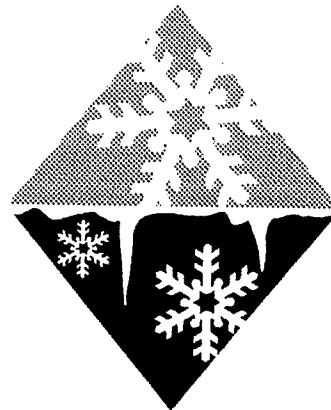
SAVE THE DATE

- **Christmas Caroling**

Manor Care and Collingswood Homes
Sun., December 19 starting at 4:00

A time to share the joy of the season with those friends of ours who cannot get out and want to share too! A heartwarming experience not to be missed! For more information call, Carole at (301)990-3048 or Gail at (301)365-8632.

Christmas International House



Was something missing from your Christmas last year?

Perhaps it was the opportunity to share our many blessings with those who are unable to be home for Christmas or even to know what Christmas is like in an American home. Every year there are thousands of foreign students in the U.S. who would be happy to be invited to an American home rather than spend two weeks in a lonely dormitory. During the last twenty years, about 400 students have shared Christmas with families in this area. Many of the students formed lasting friendships with the host families and churches.

For more information, call Eleanor Munch (301) 926-3728.

MARILYN'S MESSAGE



**"I Sing a Song of the
Saints of God"**

is a favorite hymn of mine, which is often sung in late October as we approach All Saint's Day. Besides the easy melody and child-friendly lyrics (who doesn't imagine Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* as you sing about the "fierce wild beast" in verse 2?), I am especially intrigued by the ending of each verse in the call for each of us to be saints of God. If you are like me and grew up in the Roman Catholic/Episcopalian tradition, the term *saint* has a connotation that couldn't possibly imply that a regular person could ever be one. In that understanding, a saint was someone beyond reproach who walked around with a halo above their heads, and was immortalized in statues and medallions.

I looked up the word *saint* in a Bible dictionary, and the definition surprised me: "a person set apart to God by virtue of a personal relationship with him." Well, that doesn't seem to limit sainthood to only the most pious, or to martyrs. It seems that the requirements for being a saint of God are faithfulness, obedience to God's call, and a deep and abiding love for God. Think for a moment about the people you have known and know now. People who have influenced your faith in meaningful ways. People who remained faithful to God even in dire circumstances. People who were willing to put their comfort on the line for the sake of their faith. These are the saints in our lives. These are the people we look to for strength in our own faith journey.

Could you be a saint? One of the greatest honors one can receive is for someone to look at their lives and say, "I want to be like you." What a wonderful goal for each of our lives: to have someone look at our life and want to emulate it!

The last verse of the hymn includes the following: "They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will. . . For the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too." This All Saint's Day, reflect on the qualities of the saints who influenced you, and seek out ways to be a saint of God to others.



Sunday School

The new model for children's Sunday School is off and running, and preliminary reports are very positive! Many parents, especially visitors, have mentioned how much their children love coming to Sunday School! Our theme for September and early October is *creation*, and the children have enjoyed learning through art, video, music and puppets. Special thanks to Kay Mitchel and the Senior High Sunday School class who created and performed with puppets, and to Ralph Mitchel and Ann Hazard, who were our guest teachers for music. We are blessed here at PPC to have many talented people who are willing to share their gifts with our children!

Many thanks to all who donated computer equipment, software, and other equipment to the Sunday School. Our computer lab should be up and running sometime this month.

More good news: Our 7th/8th grade Sunday School class has become so large that they are now meeting in the Fellowship Hall! If you happen to be in that area during Sunday School time, please respect their class and try to move about quietly.

Christian Living Groups

Christian Living Groups for 1999/2000 have begun with a new format. Each month we will be discussing a video that we have watched outside of the group, searching for theological themes. Our video for October is *Tender Mercies*, starring Robert Duvall. If you are interested, please watch this movie sometime during the month, and join us on the second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. for a discussion. The group is open to women who are members or friends of our church. Child care is provided for the morning group.

Did You Know...?

If you happen to be shopping at the Family Christian Store in Gaithersburg, ask them for stamps when you make your purchase. Each stamp is worth a nickel toward the purchase of books for our library. Drop your stamps in Marilyn Johns' mail slot in the office.

Join the Team...

PPC members Renee Jochum, Pat King, Janet Koonce, Charles and Nancy Miller and Barbara Perry spend the first Tuesday afternoon of each month at the Lord's Table, St. Martin's Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, preparing and serving supper for our guests.

Sound like we already have enough team members to do the job? Not really - our group likes to travel, baby sit and entertain house guests so all of us aren't always there. Thus, we need some more team players on the roster! We welcome the services of men and women of all ages.

Call Barbara Perry, (301) 299-6067 for more details and to join the team! (If you get the machine, please leave a message.)

ADULT EDUCATION FOR FALL 1999

This year's theme for PPC's Adult Education program is "New Century - New Creation in Christ," based upon the 11 Corinthians 5:17 passage. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

Fall program includes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| October 3 | Becky Wagner, Director; Community Ministry of Montgomery County |
| October 10 | Presentation by PPC Workcampers |
| October 17 | Tom Miles - "Spirituality and the Art of Living" |
| October 24 | Video |
| October 31 -
November 21 | Louise Winfield - "Revelation" |



Fellowship Fall Events

• **Family Fall Hayride**

Sat., October 9 at 5:30 pm
Homestead Farms



Another hayride not to be missed!
\$5 per person (children under 5 free)
Includes hayride, pumpkin, bonfire and
Picnic style dinner complete with 'smores.
**Call (301) 365-8632 or e-mail
lcannon@erols.com for reservations
and more information ASAP!**

• **Family Holiday Craft Fair**

Friday, November 12 from 7-9
Fellowship Hall

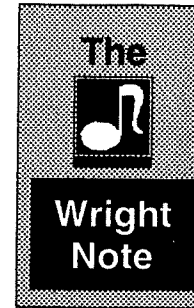


Join your friends in a fun evening of creativity
In preparation for the holidays.

- Learn how to tie beautiful bows
- Create original tree ornaments
- Enjoy punch and cookies

Volunteers are needed to supervise craft tables –
No talent necessary! See Gail, Carole or Miriam.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS are busy this time of year completing college applications. If you would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for them to your Alma Mater, please contact Kay Mitchel, (301) 340-7768. The Senior High Sunday School Class will post an updated list of volunteers and their Alma Maters.



I delight in writing songs that help children enjoy the process of singing, and especially singing in church. One of those ditties appeared last month in conjunction with the musical train campaign to alert our church family to the choir opportunities here at PPC. Our Primary Choir is currently singing it and playing the train whistle part on choir chimes.

The response to all our fall start-up rehearsals is gratifying. Yes, we even have three new handbell ringers! We have one important challenge, however. Not too many boys have come forward to sing in our two children's choirs. We know how much our men's sections mean to the Sanctuary Choir! The ground is laid for meaningful adult singing when we are children. Because I am a mother of two sons and a grandmother now of a grandson, I think I know about boys interests and hang-ups. I construct choir rehearsals to be fun and meaningful to both boys and girls. I wrote the following to be used as a responsive warm-up spoken with expression by a leader and repeated line by line by the singers in their speaking voices. In a speech chant in four-four time with the rhythm of each measure being four eighth notes followed by two quarter notes. The only exception is in line six where "thing" is a dotted quarter and "when" is an eighth note. Try it with the young men in your house and let them know they are invited to participate in our choir program.

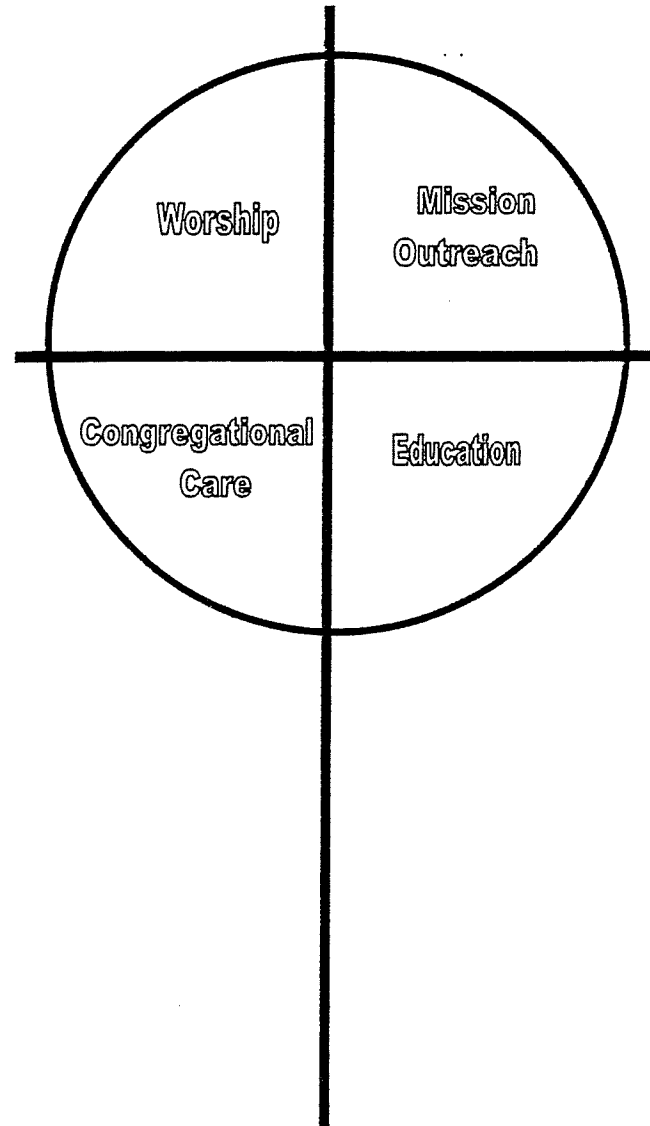
Singing is a BOY thing.
Singing is a GIRL thing.
Singing is a YOU thing.
Singing is a ME thing.
Singing is a GREAT thing.
(When) Singing is a WE thing.
Singing can be LOWER.
Singing can be HIGHER.
When we sing TOGETHER.
We become a CHOIR

Singing is a BOY thing.
Singing is a GIRL thing.
Singing is a YOU thing.
Singing is a ME thing.
Singing is a GREAT thing.
(When) Singing is a WE thing.
Singing can be LOWER.
Singing can be HIGHER.
When we sing TOGETHER.
We become a CHOIR.

I look forward to seeing all you boys and girls at the choir. Call me if there are questions.

Cindy

Potomac Presbyterian Church
Ministry



Through the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit
We are called to __

Stewardship for the things we do in Jesus Christ name!

What do we as a community of faith do? Praise God, teach and learn, and help others in our congregation, in the surrounding area and throughout the world. These things that we do are made possible by congregational members' donations of time, financial contributions and other resources. The major callings of the membership of Potomac Presbyterian Church are:

Worship is formally conducted each week in our sanctuary with the leadership of Kerry and Tom, complemented by the music and choir under the guidance of Cindy. Many other special services offer us opportunities praise God, seek forgiveness, and ask for God's help.

Education is a lifelong experience starting with the front row children's sermon and growing through Sunday School, confirmation, adult education, Bible studies and many other activities of the church. We are truly blessed to have a wonderful facility and Marilyn's leadership helping our families learn and grow in faith.

Mission and Outreach are the activities that we do to help others spiritually and physically. Though our mission work we serve God by helping those most in need and spreading the Word. By sharing our faith with others our outreach programs continue to bring more people into PPC community of faith. Did you know that almost one-third of our financial resources are directed toward mission activities?

Congregational Care is provided by all the members of the church through the love and support that we provide each other. A major portion of Kerry's and Tom's time is spent in nurturing us in times of sorrow, trouble and joy. We recently initiated a Stephen Ministry group that provides trained caregivers to broaden the ability of the church to help members in time of need..

Once a year, the members of Potomac Presbyterian Church are asked to make a financial pledge to support the activities of our church. These annual pledges fund approximately eighty percent of expenses for the church's activities and programs. Your annual commitments provide the foundation for the session to plan budgets for ongoing programs and a significant commitment to mission activities. The Stewardship committee has set a goal of a ten- percent increase in annual pledges. We expect there will be modest increases in the operating activities of the church and most of the increased pledges will go to additional mission work.

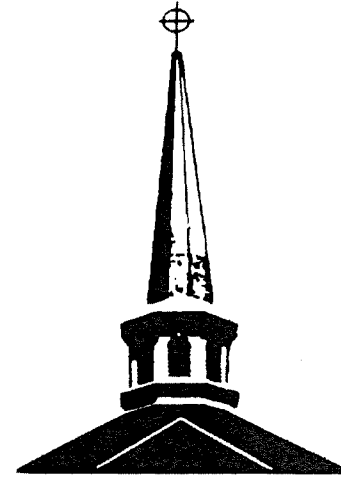
You will receive your pledge cards around the end of October. Please plan to attend worship on stewardship Sunday, November 14, and bring your completed pledge card. If you are unable to attend that Sunday you may mail in your pledge or drop it by the office.

On behalf of the session and the entire membership I thank you for your continued support of Potomac Presbyterian Church and the many things we do.

Rich McMahon, Chairman,
Stewardship Committee

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

November

1999

KERRY ON . . .

One of my favorite authors never fails to give engaging and intriguing answers to nagging doubts and questions. One of the big questions concerns our own death. Christians sometimes say, "I'm afraid to be nothing after all these lovely years of being something." When he hears a question like that, Robert Farrar Capon says,

Let me see if I understand you, you're bothered by the thought that you will be non-existent in, say the year 2025. Has it ever occurred to you that you were likewise non-existent in the year 1825? Of course it hasn't: for the simple reason that, by the forces of nature alone, you got bravely through that first attack of nothingness and were born. Well, all the Gospel is telling you is that your death - your second bout of nothingness - is going to be even less of a problem than your first. By the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, you will get bravely over that too, and be reborn. In fact, you already have been; so go find something more dangerous to worry about.

We are beloved by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and we are in God's loving hands before what we call time begins for us. Likewise we remain in God's merciful care in what we name beyond time. Perhaps God simply wants us to make the most of the precious gift of life that is measured by our years on this earth. The lines from the hymn say it well,

Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

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*

November 1999

- 2 1:00 p.m. The Lord's Table
 3 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, led by Kerry
 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir
 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
 7:30 p.m. Study, led by Tom Miles
 4 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 6 8:30-4p.m. Session Retreat; St. Francis
 Episcopal Church
 7 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/Committees
 Coffee
 4:30 p.m. Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 p.m. Junior/Senior High
 Fellowship dinner
 6:30 p.m. Senior High Fellowship
 8 12:30 p.m. Christian Education
 Committee
 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee
 8:00 p.m. Committees
 9 9:30 a.m. Christian Living Group
 7:30 p.m. Christian Living Group
 10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, led by Kerry
 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir
 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
 7:30 p.m. Study, led by Tom Miles
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 12 7:00 p.m. Holiday Craft Fair
 13 Stephen Ministry Dinner
 14 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship/Stewardship
 Sunday

- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
 4:30 p.m. Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 p.m. Junior/Senior High
 Fellowship dinner
 6:30 p.m. Senior High Fellowship
 Steeple to People deadline
 15 8:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee
 Personnel Committee
 16 10:00 a.m. Men's Book Club
 17 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, led by Kerry
 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir
 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
 7:30 p.m. Study, led by Tom Miles
 18 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 20 Help the Homeless
 Walk-a-Thon
 21 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
 3:00 p.m. Manor Care
 4:30 p.m. Junior High Fellowship
 6:00 p.m. Jr. High Fellowship dinner
 6:30 p.m. Senior High Fellowship
 23 6:00 p.m. National Capital Presbytery
 meeting at National P. C.
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 24 9:30 a.m. No Bible Study
 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir
 No Stephen Min. Training
 No Study, led by Tom Miles
 25 Happy Thanksgiving
 28 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship/Advent I
 Sacrament of Communion
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
 No youth groups



In the Church Family



Our prayers are with...
 George Adrouny, who is ill.

We give thanks for the life of...
 Theresa Conley, Bob Conley's mother who died on October 13th.
 Our prayers are with Bob and Miriam Conley and family.

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."

The following members of our congregation began Stephen Ministry Training on Wednesday, October 6th:

Gail Cannon	Jon Hawley	Pat King	Cal Reid
Lew Chapin	Renee Jochum	Anita Machlin	Elsie Reid
Jean Fisler	Betty Ann Johnson	Kathy McMahan	Sue Toerge
Bill King	Donna Mecklenburg	Peggy Hawley	Gail Yates

Our Stephen Ministry Leadership Team is:

Kathy McPherson Kerry Stoltzfus Ruthanne Stoltzfus Nancy Tietjen

Please keep the Stephen Ministry participants and leaders in your prayers.

HOMELESS 5K WALKATHON

The 12th Annual Walkathon to Help the Homeless will take place November 20, 1999 in Washington D.C. About 25 years ago, our Presbytery established the Robert Pierre Johnson Housing Development Corporation to assist the homeless. RPJ has participated in the Annual Walkathon as a means of raising funds for its own projects and those of others.

Here is how it works. Walkers sign up donation (adults \$20 and youth \$10), or contributors make a pledge or write a check, and we take the money to the Walkathon with thousands of others at Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. between 13th and 14th. RPJ has a banner to carry in the walk.

The Fannie Mae Foundation will match dollar to dollar the funds raised. Any youth group bringing \$500 in pledges of donations will get another \$500 for RPJ from Fannie Mae Foundation.

Potomac Presbyterian Church has participated in the past with youth. We have a great opportunity to support the effort again this year and support RPJ's many projects, including the half-way houses for men, the low-income apartments, and special needs for needy families in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C.

Young and old are invited to join the PPC team this year. First, make a gift or a pledge, and then if you can participate in the walkathon by driving a group to the Mall on November 20, contact Bill Skinner at (301) 762-5483 home or (301) 762-3784 work, to get a registration form and volunteer to assist.

New Adult Sunday School Class

Beginning on Sunday, October 31 at 9:45 a.m., a new adult Sunday School class will be offered in the parlor called, *What It Means to Be Presbyterian*. This class will look at the history, theology and polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and compare our denomination to other Christian denominations. This class is perfect for someone who is new to the church, or is unfamiliar with the Presbyterian church. We will move at a slow pace, answering lots of your questions. The class will run until November 28. Call the class leader, Marilyn Johns, if you have any questions about the class.

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

Last month I shared a hymn that related to saints in the church. All day today the song, "Give Thanks" has been running through my mind. This one is not in our hymnal, but is a well-known youth group song. The Lord often speaks to me through music, particularly by putting songs in my mind. I take these messages seriously.

If I am having an especially stressful day (or week, or year!), the Lord will often remind me to be thankful for all that He gives to me, even the stresses. In light of the fact that November is Thanksgiving month, I decided to use my column this month to share with you some of those things for which I am especially thankful:

... for my children, who God has trusted me to raise, who delight me often and distress me hardly at all,

... for my friends, who love me even when I'm unlovable, and who cry with me when I cry, and rejoice with me when I rejoice,

... for my coworkers, especially Kerry and Flo and Cindy, and all the volunteers with whom I work daily, who remind me that it's not just a job, it's an adventure!

... for the children of our church, who laugh and live so joyously, and remind me that this is how God wants me to be,

... for our youth, who ask tough questions and want straight answers, who are practicing being adults while still needing to play,

... for the generous gift of smiles, encouragement, and kind words from the adults of our church, who show the world what it means to be a community of faith,

... most of all for the love and comfort and security I feel in Jesus Christ, who is always there, who does not change, who always challenges me to be more than I am, whose love I feel every moment.

To whom would you like to give thanks?

????????????

DID YOU KNOW?

Printed copies of the Pastor's sermons are available in the literature rack in the narthex.

Communion Class for Children and Parents

Last year, a four-week class was offered for children grades 2-6 and their parents to learn about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The Christian Education Committee would like to see if there is interest in another class this year. The classes may be one evening a week for four weeks, or once a month for four months. If you would like more information, or if you are interested in such a class, please call Marilyn Johns by November 15 so plans may be made.

Enhancing Your Talents for God's Work

National Capital Presbytery

Leadership Fall Training for All Church Leaders

Sponsored by the Congregational Support and Resourcing Committee

Workshops for New and Continuing Elders and Deacons, Pastors
Educators, Committee Members, aspiring Future Leaders, Lay People

Saturday, November 13, 1999

held at **Trinity Presbyterian Church**

651 Dranesville Road

Herndon, VA 20170

Workshops include:

- Book of Order: Everything You Need to Know in 2 Hours
 - Churches in Transition
 - Developing Youth as Leaders
- The Journey into Older Adulthood: Celebrating the Gifts
 - Fundamentals of Christian Stewardship
 - Book of Confessions
 - Deacons: Their Roles and Responsibilities
 - Overcoming Imaginary Barriers to Prayer
 - YAD Training

For more information, please contact church office.

HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH

Plans for the Advent/Christmas decorations for our church are well under way; we hope everyone will be a part of the excitement and joy. This year, our Sanctuary will be decorated with ivy topiaries, tree and shrub evergreens (magnolia, holly, pine, spruce, ivy, etc.), wreaths, potted flowers, cranberry colored candles and ribbons, with wreaths and swags outside.

EVERYONE CAN HELP!!! YOU MAY:

1. Donate greens on December 1, 15 and December 23
2. Help decorate at church: December 3 - 1:00 PM Make swags
December 4 - 9:00 AM Decorate
December 23 - 9:00 AM Sanctuary
3. Give MONEY Cash or checks should be put in a "Sanctuary Flower Fund" envelope from the pew rack; place in the offering or turn it into the church office with "Christmas Decorations" written on the outside.
4. Purchase a "Sanctuary Blessed" topiary after Christmas.

We are not selling poinsettias or wreaths this year to defray decoration costs. Rather, donations should cover expenses and excess funds will be donated to Montgomery County Hospice.

To volunteer or ask questions contact Mary M. Smith, (301) 299-3331.

We are Blessed with a vital church that is growing and seeking to be more faithful to our Lord. The first elder officers that have answered God's call to serve as the first Elder officers to be ordained in the new millennium are:

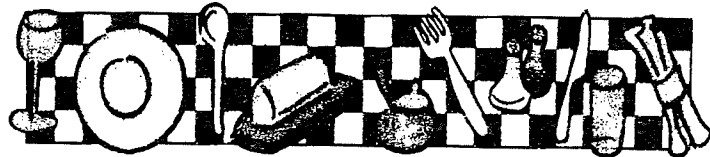
Joe Curry	Maggie Fahs
David Fowler	Tom McPherson
Betty Yadowsky	

The first Deacon officers that have answered God's call are:

Jackie Cronin	Barbara Garcia
Jim Jochum	Matt Petti

Their leadership will contribute to Potomac Presbyterian Church's ministry for years to come.

Dine with Nine in 2000



You are cordially invited to dinner and an evening of fun and fellowship at the homes of some of your fellow Potomac Presbyterians. These informal dinners will take place once a month from January through April. You will be asked to be host/hostess and to plan the meal and provide the main course one time. The other 3 months you may provide an appetizer, salad or dessert. Groups should schedule at their convenience. Please call Janet Koonce (301)469-7975 for more information.

Please complete the form below and turn it into the church office.

NAME _____

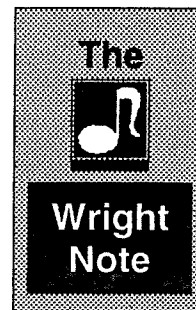
ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

_____ *I am willing to be the first host/hostess.*

_____ *I can only accommodate 8 individuals.*

_____ *I cannot sign up for the entire season, but please put me on a list of substitutes to be called as needed.*



Worship, to me is a celebration. We come together to praise, to pray, to confess, to share, to sing, to listen, to learn, to reflect and on October 31, to remember. On this All Saints Sunday we will remember and honor our beloved members and friends who have died. The **Monumental Brass Quintet** will be musical guests for this service.

This professional ensemble of trumpets, trombone, horn and tuba are artists in residence at the Levine School of Music. On Sunday they will play a prelude beginning at 10:55, share special music during the anthem time, play during the offertory and communion, and inspire us with a rousing postlude. The Monumental Brass will also accompany our Sanctuary Choir and congregation for two hymn anthems, NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD and FOR ALL THE SAINTS. This music will bring a new dimension to our service of joyful remembrance. Set your clocks back one hour and bring a friend to our service dedicated to celebrating friends of the past.

A CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION

December 19 7:00 PM

Has it been a long time since you've enjoyed a casual Sunday evening with friends listening to live Christmas music and eating delicious Christmas cookies? Don't you want your children to experience this wonderful Christmas tradition?

Come to the 7 p.m. A CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION on December 19th. The "Jesus Birthday Band", the Men's Chorus, and other solo and ensemble instrumental and vocal performances will be enjoyed. The program will be followed by delicious Christmas cookies and beverages.

If YOU (all ages welcome) have an instrumental or vocal talent you will share on December 19, please call Mary M. Smith at (301) 299-3331. It will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Christmas spirit, renew and make Christmas memories; bring a friend.



Support our Youth!!!

Salad Bar Sunday November 14th

Don't go home after church and wonder what's for lunch!! The Youth Group is hosting their first Work Camp Fund Raiser of the year immediately after the morning worship service on Sunday, November 14! Join them for a delicious Salad Bar Lunch in Fellowship Hall. They promise a variety of interesting, appetizing and totally edible salads, breads and beverages. Join in the fun and fellowship AND help our youth go to Work Camp next summer!!!

Adults - \$7.00

Children ages 4 to 10 - \$2.00

Children under 4 - Free

"To Go" orders also available. Sign up during the coffee hour on October 31st and November 7th. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

The Computer Lab is Coming!

We have three donated computers in hand (we would like a fourth!), we have a room for our computer lab, we have received the software, and we're in the process of determining what else we need to make our computer lab for Christian Education functional. Thanks to all who made generous donations of time, computers and money for this dream to become a reality. If you would like to help with set-up or would like to assist children occasionally in running programs, please let anyone on the Christian Education Committee know. Beth Rudnic and Mary Ling are elders.

* Fellowship * Fellowship * Fellowship *

Fun 'n Fellowship Falls into November

FUN

Family Craft Fair

Friday, Nov. 12 7-9 pm

In Fellowship Hall. Bring family,

friends, or neighbors. Choose amongst 13

unusual ornaments to make for your gift list.

Crafts range from very easy to somewhat difficult.

Perfect activity for all ages. No charge, but **reservations are appreciated.** Watch for sign up during coffee hours or call

Gail at

(301)

365

8632

• Christmas Caroling

Manor Care and Collingswood Homes

Sunday, December 12th* starting at 4:00 p.m.

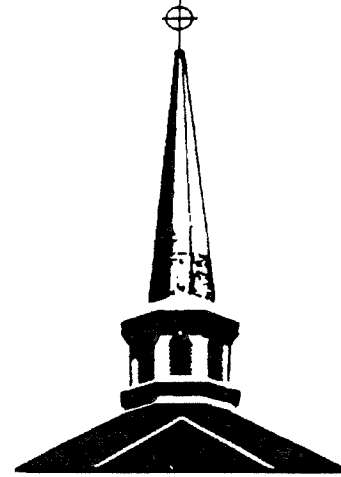
A time to share the joy of the season with those friends of ours who cannot get out and want to share too! We need more than the 12 wonderful voices we had last year. We'll meet around 4:00 p.m. at Manor Care and travel by car to Collingswood. Afterwards we will share a pot luck supper at someone's house, to be announced. A heartwarming experience not to be missed!

For more information call - Carole at (301) 990-3048 or Gail at (301) 365-8632.

* **This is a date change!**

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

December

1999

Kerry On . . .

In the next few weeks we will celebrate New Year's two times. We will join Christians all over the world in marking the beginning of the Christian Year on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28. It is the beginning of our preparation to receive and welcome the Christ child on Christmas. In these four weeks we intentionally wait, even long for the coming of the promised One. We compress hundreds of years of waiting, from prophecy to Bethlehem, into four short weeks. Often it seems that waiting for a joyous celebration is half of the joy and it gives us time to reflect on the gift that is promised. Many of us enjoy a family Advent calendar and Advent wreath that heightens our awareness of God coming to this earth to be one of us. I encourage you to treasure this time of waiting.

On the last day of the year we will, anticipating the New Year of our Lord, 2000 "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." At 5:00pm on December 31 we will celebrate a special communion service. It will be a time to remember all that the Lord has done for us and look with hope to the future. Is it not a holy opportunity to eat the bread and drink the cup one last time in this century, this millennium?

May God bless our times together as we remember our Lord Jesus.

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*

At the
Williamsburg
Breakfast on December 5th,
the Mission Committee will again
have a **Christmas Sharing Tree**. On
the tree will be tags with the names of needy children
and families with whom you are asked to share your Christmas
joy. Be sure to pick one of the tags, purchase a present for the child
or a food basket for the family, and bring your gifts to Fellowship Hall before
the Worship Service on December 12th. If you would like to participate in the program
but will be unable to attend the Williamsburg Breakfast,
call Kay
Norvell,
(310)
948
3095

WORKCAMP 2000

The date and location have been chosen for youth Workcamp next summer. We will travel to Sherburne, New York, the week of July 9-15. This is a farming community in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, once known for its prosperity, but which now is facing unemployment and hopelessness. There are many older residents with neglected homes, and our workcampers, along with youth from many other places, hope to be able to make a big difference in this community. We anticipate a large group this year, with five adults and about 20 youth. Each person must pay \$335 for the week. We hope to raise \$200 per youth, plus some extra for possible vehicle rental. A list of workcampers will be published in the next *Steeple to People*.

Our first fundraiser was a huge success! A salad bar luncheon was enjoyed by over 100 people on Sunday, November 14, and the profit was \$809! Many, many thanks to Vivian Teets, Janet Dunlop and Joe Curry, who coordinated the efforts, and to all youth and parents who provided food for a delicious and plentiful lunch. Special thanks to all members and friends of our congregation who supported the lunch.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPER'S SITTER SERVICE

On Saturday, December 11th, from 1-5 p.m., members and friends of PPC are invited to bring their children to the church for **FREE** child care, including games, crafts and videos. This is a gift from the youth groups to the parents of our church family who may want a day of Christmas shopping without the little ones present. Sign-ups will be taken by youth in the Fellowship Hall on November 28 and December 4. If you feel you **MUST** make a donation, proceeds will go to summer workcamp.

J
O
Y

Remember the Christmas Joy
Offering which will be collected
during the holiday season. This
offering has been a Presbyterian
tradition for over sixty-five
years. The Joy Offering goes
to support both retired
church workers and their
spouses and to promote
education in Presbyterian
Racial Ethnic schools
and colleges. Please
support this worthy
program generously.



In the Church Family



Our Prayers Are With...

Miriam Sass; Miriam's sister, Matania Smiley, died on October 28th.

Walter Maxwell, former member, hospitalized at Hilton Head, NC.

WELCOME

to our new members

James and Marillyn Hewson
8800 Potomac Station Lane
Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 983-2123
David, William

Maitland and Sandra MacFarlan
11200 Hurdle Hill Drive
Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 765-9527
Katie, Beth

Bob and Laurie Parr
13610 Mount Prospect Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 975-9599
Brandon, Courtney, Dylan

Erin Dunlop
11912 Hunting Ridge Court
Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 838-0583

Bert and Cassidy Klein
9404 Falls Bridge Lane
Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 765-0234
Angelica, Samantha

Susan and (Robert) Mitchell
15525 Quince Ridge Lane
North Potomac, MD 20878
(301) 926-2997

Gayle Goff and John Sohl
9401 Thrush Lane
Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 765-7645
Christina, MeiLi, Lia

Jean Granum
9336 Reach Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 309-2852

*Look for new member biographies in the January, 2000 Steeple to People!

STEPHEN MINISTRY



This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation! An exciting adventure in learning how to be an effective Christian caregiver began for sixteen people on Oct. 6th. These Stephen Ministers have begun the task of studying, discussing, experiencing and trying out new skills involved in sharing God's love and compassion with those in need of receiving these gifts.

These sixteen people will multiply both the amount of caring ministry that goes on in our church and the participation of these people of God in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Let us thank God for them and ask His continued help and blessing in their adventure!

MARILYN'S MESSAGE

One of the most exciting things that has been happening in many different areas of our church (and maybe this is new, or maybe I just noticed it!), is that there have been many interesting theological questions being raised in many different settings. The Wednesday morning Bible study always has difficult questions on "troublesome" Bible passages. The beginning Presbyterian class on Sunday mornings got a taste of Calvin's theology, and had some issues with some of it. The youth groups are struggling monthly with "tough questions," such as *if Jesus was a Jew, why aren't we also Jews?* and *is it important to have Christian friends?* The session met for a retreat and discussed Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright's book, *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, and had serious and thought-provoking discussions. Tom Miles' studies continue to challenge our thinking.

I think this is exciting because unless we struggle with some of these tough issues, we will never grow. Our faith will be stagnant, and the light will go out. But when we stretch our thinking, look at another viewpoint, and wrestle with those tough questions of faith, we are in a growth spurt, and that can only be a good thing. We may not like what we hear, but it will cause us to think a little more deeply and examine some of those doctrines and assumptions we always took for granted. If we are worried that God might not look favorably about our exposure to different ideas, I think we are not giving enough credit to God. God can take the heat. In fact, I think God wants us to challenge our belief systems and confirm what we have believed or look at it differently.

I hope that as the new year approaches, you will take advantage of the opportunities available to you: the sermons, Sunday School classes, youth groups, weekday and weeknight studies, our library, and our human resources in this church to stretch your spiritual and theological muscles and give them a good workout. As one elder remarked after the discussion at the retreat: "It's sort of like going to the gym: it's hard to get motivated to do it, you don't like it when you're in the middle of it, but you feel so good after having done it!"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2000

What? An article about Vacation Bible School in *December*??? Yes, we are already in the early planning stages for VBS 2000. The date has been set, so get your calendar out now and reserve the week of **July 17-21, 2000** to help with, come to, and have fun in Vacation Bible School. Kay Mitchel is our coordinator for VBS 2000, so if you would like to help in the planning, please give Kay a call at (301) 340-7768.



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

Williamsburg Breakfast

Sunday, December 5
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Bring:



a breakfast bread or pastry to share



a small bell from home to ring during carol singing

Children will be served first and go to their classrooms

Come catch the
spirit of Christmas!

HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH

Plans for the Advent/Christmas decorations for our church are well under way; we hope everyone will be a part of the excitement and joy. This year, our Sanctuary will be decorated with ivy topiaries, tree and shrub evergreens (magnolia, holly, pine, spruce, ivy, etc.), wreaths, potted flowers, cranberry colored candles and ribbons, with wreaths and swags outside.

EVERYONE CAN HELP!!! YOU MAY:

1. Donate greens on December 1, 15 and December 23
2. Help decorate at church: December 3 - 1:00 PM Make swags
December 4 - 9:00 AM Decorate
December 23 - 9:00 AM Sanctuary
3. Give MONEY Cash or checks should be put in a "Sanctuary Flower Fund" envelope from the pew rack; place in the offering or turn it into the church office with "Christmas Decorations" written on the outside.
4. Purchase a "Sanctuary Blessed" topiary after Christmas.

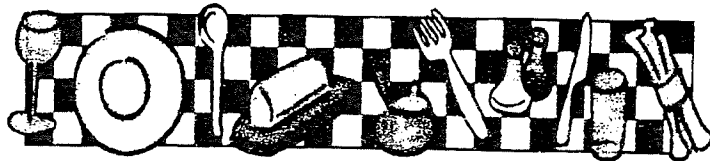
We are not selling poinsettias or wreaths this year to defray decoration costs. Rather, donations should cover expenses and excess funds will be donated to Montgomery County Hospice.

To volunteer or ask questions contact Mary M. Smith, (301) 299-3331.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our first three rotations are at an end, and we are beginning a study on "Waiting for the Birth of Jesus." It is exciting to see and hear children re-tell the story of Abraham and Sarah, and worship together in a study of the Psalms. We are grateful for the help of our "guest teachers," including a special visit from Abraham and Sarah themselves (who looked amazingly like Jean and Pete Fisler!), help from Cindy Wright with the worship experience on Psalms, and Kathy McMahan showing the children what David's harp might have looked like. If you have a special gift or talent you would be willing to share with our children for one or two weeks, or if you just want to be involved in this exciting new program, please call Marilyn Johns at the church.

Dine with Nine in 2000



You are cordially invited to dinner and an evening of fun and fellowship at the homes of some of your fellow Potomac Presbyterians. These informal dinners will take place once a month from January through April. You will be asked to be host/hostess and to plan the meal and provide the main course one time. The other 3 months you may provide an appetizer, salad or dessert. Groups should schedule at their convenience. Please call Janet Koonce (301)469-7975 for more information.

Please complete the form below and turn it into the church office.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

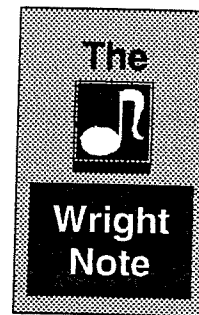
PHONE _____

Deadline is Sunday, December 26

_____ I am willing to be the first host/hostess.

_____ I can only accommodate 8 individuals.

_____ I cannot sign up for the entire season, but please put me on a list of substitutes to be called as needed.



Music is always a vital part of our Advent celebration and meditation. On each Sunday our choirs will help us prepare for Christ's birth. I would like to highlight two Sunday morning worship services in particular. One is December 12th when the Sanctuary Choir will present "Child of Wonder," a Christmas cantata by Samuel L. Forcucci based on the poem by Christina Rossetti. The other is December 19th when the Children's Choirs and children from Sunday School will present "Calling All

Angels," a delightful Christmas musical written by Helen Kemp.

"Child of Wonder" is a somewhat haunting musical composition which sets the bleak midwinter scene for Jesus' birth. This musical treatment of a very strong text will view the Christmas events from the physical setting, the presence of God, the stable participants, the angels, the joyful praise and the meaning it has for us in terms of our personal gift to the Christ Child. The Sanctuary Choir will be singing from the front of the church. A four-hand piano accompaniment will guide the choir through this beautiful Christmas musical journey. Please join us on December 12th for this sermon in song.

The second date of December 19th is what we call Pageant Sunday. This year the pageant will be the same, yet different. As has been the custom, members of the Sunday School classes will have the opportunity to wear costumes to portray animals, shepherds, kings and the Holy Family. Since all the classes will be studying the Nativity, they will research their roles more thoroughly and even contribute to making scenery and special costumes. The different aspect of the pageant will be the manner in which the story is told. It will be musically presented by the Primary and Children's Choirs who in the play are called the Cherubim and Hallelujah Choirs. They are chosen by soloist, Gabriel, to announce Jesus' birth. The spoken and musical dialogue of "Calling All Angels" is compelling and at times, humorous. The choirs are working hard in their weekly rehearsals to prepare this musical drama. Note to the parents: The Primary and Children's Choirs, soloists, readers and accompanists will have a special practice together on Saturday, December 18th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The rehearsal with the Sunday School participants will be the next day, December 19th, during the Sunday School hour. The musical play will be presented during the early portion of the 11:00 o'clock worship service that same morning. Come, hear the angels sing!

Cindy

A CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION

December 19 7:00 PM

Has it been a long time since you've enjoyed a casual Sunday evening with friends listening to live Christmas music and eating delicious Christmas cookies? Don't you want your children to experience this wonderful Christmas tradition?

Come to the 7 p.m. A CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION on December 19th. The "Jesus Birthday Band", the Men's Chorus, and other solo and ensemble instrumental and vocal performances will be enjoyed. The program will be followed by delicious Christmas cookies and beverages.

If YOU (all ages welcome) have an instrumental or vocal talent you will share on December 19, please call Mary M. Smith at (301) 299-3331. It will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Christmas spirit, renew and make Christmas memories; bring a friend.



ADULT EDUCATION for DECEMBER and JANUARY

Dec. 5	No Class	Williamsburg Breakfast
Dec. 12	Diane Hutchins	"The Holy Land"
Dec. 19	Class Participation	"Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas"
Dec. 26	No Class	Christmas
Jan. 2	No Class	New Year
Jan. 9 - 16	Dr. Alice Bellis	"Isaiah - God Instills Hope Among the Exiled"
Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6 & 13	Dr. Dewey Wallace	Book Study - <u>A Jonathan Edwards Reader</u>

Classes meet in the library each Sunday from 9:45 - 10:45 AM.
For further information contact Kathy McPherson, (301) 765-1154.

I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said, "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call.
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

Revelation 19:11-16



Judy Bernstein

DEACON DOINGS

I hope all of you are experiencing good health during this very busy time of the year. Running around to the point of exhaustion has become a sure sign that Christmas is just around the corner. Perhaps if you're like me, you tell yourself every year that this year will be different; this year I will not allow myself to get caught up in the chaos of the season but rather focus on the true meaning of our celebration.

So you might want to take a few minutes and pour yourself a hot drink, sit by the fire and enjoy the following verses written by an anonymous author. Let us reflect on what Christmas truly means to all of us.

'Twas the night before Jesus Came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray

*Sing Out with the Spirit of Christmas
at our traditional PPC Caroling Event*



Participants will sing for the residents of the
Collingswood and Manor Care nursing homes

Sunday, December 12, 4 p.m.

The evening ends with a potluck supper
hosted by Bill and Pat King

Please RSVP for this special heartwarming event and offer to
bring a dish to share for the gathering afterwards. Maps and
directions to all the right spots will be available upon calling
Carole Hudgings at 301/990-3048 or Gail Cannon at 301/365-
8632.

Sing for your supper OR just sing.

All voices welcome!

November 28

First Sunday of Advent

9 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Sunday School Adult Seminar, topic – <i>Giving Thanks</i>
11 am	ADVENT WORSHIP I <i>Communion</i>
Noon	Fellowship



Saturday, December 4

9 am	Decorate the church
2 pm	Deacons set up for Williamsburg Breakfast



Saturday, December 11

1 - 5 pm	Christmas Shoppers' Sitter Service
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December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

9 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Sunday School Adult Seminar, " <i>Holy Land</i> " led by Diane Hutchins
11 am	WORSHIP ADVENT III Sanctuary Choir presents <i>Child of Wonder</i>
4 pm	Caroling and light supper

December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

9 am	Children's Choir
9:30 am	Williamsburg Breakfast <i>Bring a bell!</i>
9:45 am	Sunday School for children and youth
11 am	WORSHIP ADVENT II
Noon	Fellowship

December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Adult Seminar, <i>Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas</i> Pageant rehearsal in sanctuary
11 am	WORSHIP ADVENT IV <i>Pageant: Calling All Angels</i> presented by children's choirs and Sunday School
7 pm	Christmas music celebration and refreshments

Thursday, December 23

9 am	Decorate the Sanctuary
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December 24

Christmas Eve

5 pm	Family service
7 pm	Candlelight <i>Communion Service</i>
11 pm	Candlelight <i>Communion Service</i>

December 26

First Sunday After Christmas

11 am	WORSHIP <i>College students lead service</i>
Noon	Fellowship



December 31

New Year's Eve

5 pm	WORSHIP <i>Communion</i>
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