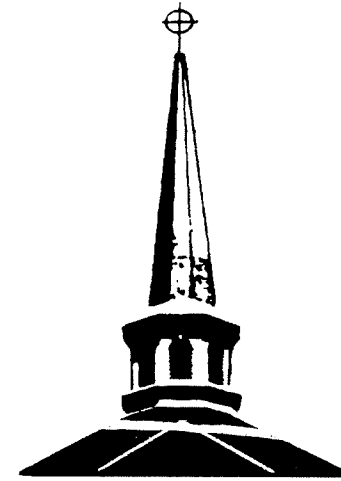


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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

January

2007

## KERRY ON ...

Thank you for your kind and generous gift to the "Kerry L. Stoltzfus Scholarship." It is truly an honor to be recognized in this way and to know that students will be helped in their preparation for ministry in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Thank you to Ed Clark for his enthusiastic effort on the scholarship fund.

I am also grateful for "Living Faithfully, Selected Sermons" and how God has spoken to listener and preacher over the years. Thanks to John Clouse, Mary Ann Cookerly, Jon Hawley, and Karen Wise.

All of you have been extraordinarily supportive of the ministry to which God has called me. In the years ahead, I trust you will join me in asking God for energy, intelligence, imagination, and love as we seek to serve in Jesus' name.

Grace and Peace,

Kerry

---

## New Steeple Society Members

Two new couples have joined the *Potomac Presbyterian Church Steeple Society*, bringing the total membership now to 15. The new members are:

David and Jackie Fowler      Jon and Peggy Hawley

The Steeple Society is an organization of PPC members and friends who have continued their Christian stewardship beyond their lifetime by including the church in their estate plans, whether in their wills, trusts, gift annuity, or other designations. All may join!!

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*

# January 2001

1	Happy New Years. Administrative offices closed	17	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Bible Study, led by Kerry Stoltzfus Primary Choir Adult Study, led by Tom Miles
2	1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends	18	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Confirmation Class Sanctuary Choir
3	4:00 p.m. Primary Choir Adult Study, led by Tom Miles	19		
4	12:00 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Handbell Choir Sanctuary Choir	20		
5		21	9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Sunday School Worship Fellowship Manor Care <b>Congregational Dinner and Annual Meeting</b>
6	8:30 a.m. Deacon Retreat, PPC	22	7:30 p.m.	Deacons
7	8:00 a.m. New Officer Breakfast and Session meeting 9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Worship/Ordination and Installation of new officers 12:00 4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group Junior/Senior High Youth Groups dinner 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Committees	23	10:00 a.m.	Presbytery meeting held at National Presbyterian Church Bible Study, led by Kerry Stoltzfus Primary Choir Stephen Ministry Adult Study, led by Tom Miles Handbell Choir Confirmation Class Sanctuary Choir
8	8:00 p.m.	24	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Junior/Senior High Youth Groups meet to build supersubs Children's Choir Sunday School Worship/Sacrament of Communion Fellowship/Super Sub Sale No Youth Groups
9	9:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m. Christian Living Group Christian Living Group	25	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class Sanctuary Choir
10	9:30 a.m. 2:45 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Adult Study, led by Tom Miles Handbell Choir Maryland Ornithological Society Sanctuary Choir	26		
11	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	27	2:00 p.m.	Junior/Senior High Youth Groups meet to build supersubs
12		28	9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Children's Choir Sunday School Worship/Sacrament of Communion Fellowship/Super Sub Sale No Youth Groups
13		29	12:00	
14	9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Session	30		
15	8:00 p.m.	31	9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Bible Study, led by Kerry Stoltzfus Stephen Ministry leader meeting Primary Choir Adult Study, led by Tom Miles
16	10:30 a.m. Men's Book Club			

## Steeple to People Deadlines

Beginning January 2001, the Steeple to People deadline will be noon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. This is a change (from the third Sunday) and should end confusion about the deadline, eliminate late articles, and provide church members with their newsletter **on or before the first of every month**. (Since there is only one issue in the summer, that deadline will be announced later.) Late articles will not appear until the following issue. You will receive monthly issues of Steeple to People from January through June, one summer issue in July, and from September through December. If you have any questions, please call Margie Bedingfield at 301-299-4801 or e-mail her at [mbedingfield@hotmail.com](mailto:mbedingfield@hotmail.com).



## In the Church Family

*We rejoice in the births of...*

Kevin Donald O'Neal, son of John and Laurie O'Neal. Kevin's proud sister is Caitlin; his proud grandmother is Sally O'Neal;

Edward Charles Cleary, son of Laura and Tim Cleary. The proud grandparents are Charlie and Gloria Leber.

*We celebrate with joy the baptism of...*

Mia Margaret Zucchi on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We rejoice with Mia's parents, Anne and Nando Zucchi, and with grandparents, Jon and Peggy Hawley.

*Congratulations and God's blessing on...*

Susan Hawley and Matthew Thomson married on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jon and Peggy Hawley.

*Our prayers are with...*

Ralph Mitchel and family. Ralph's mother is recovering from surgery;  
Bob King and family. Bob's mother, Charlotte Simpson King, died recently;  
Karen Karch and family. Karen's father, John D. Karle, died in December;  
Gloria Leber and family. Gloria's mother, Lillian Harris, died in December.

## ***KERRY STOLTZFUS SCHOLARSHIP***

Our tribute to Kerry establishing a scholarship was overwhelming. My September 5 kick-off letter said: "It is the spirit and the statement---not the amount that counts." What a statement we made with our gifts: creating a \$22,100 endowment--- exceeding the original \$10,000 goal significantly---ranging from \$1 to \$1,000 each---coming from over 300 individuals in 19 states. Yes, and the \$1 gift was as touching as the \$1,000 gifts. The significant gift from Potomac Presbyterian Church, on behalf of all of us was beautiful, too. The gift from the Erin Presbyterian Church Session in Knoxville, Tennessee, where Kerry served from 1970 -1985 before coming to Potomac, was very gratifying and a further compliment to Kerry.

Your gifts created an endowment that will provide a \$1,000+ scholarship each year, in perpetuity, for a Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary student preparing to serve in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Also, each year the Seminary will provide us with the satisfaction of knowing who the recipient is and what his or her goals are. In a very real sense we have established a new mission. We truly made a significant statement to ourselves, the seminary, its students, and to other churches.

I thank every one of you from the bottom of my heart for making my role as coordinator so rewarding, Ed Clark

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

The 2001 confirmation class will begin on January 18 for those students in grade 8 or older. The class will continue through the middle of May, and confirmands will be received as members of the church on Sunday, May 20. Kerry and Marilyn will be joined by Olivia Mabeus and Frank Bond as the leadership team for the class. Please include the confirmation class in your prayers as they learn about their faith, and prepare to make a commitment to the church.

## **COMPUTER LAB**

Stop down and take a look at our newly renovated computer lab. We now have six computers with printers (thanks to generous donations from church members), and appropriate furniture (thanks in part also to a generous donation) which helps to block sound while still allowing children to receive instruction. The children are learning Bible stories in new, high-tech ways, and are loving every minute of it! The computer lab is located in the lower classroom level, Room 1.

## **Lines from Marilyn**

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 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!

## **NEW ADULT EDUCATION CLASS BEGINS!**

On Sunday, January 14, a new adult class will begin in the parlor. "Parenting by Heart" is a six-week video and discussion series for parents of any age child. While there may be some material that you already know or have encountered, you may also learn some new strategies for effective, loving parenting. Classes are:

1. How to Really Love Your Child
2. The Key to Discipline
3. Power Struggles
4. A Lasting Legacy
5. The B-I-B-L-E
6. Y2Kids

Join Beth Rudnic in the parlor at 9:45 a.m. for this interesting and important series. The class will run through February 25, with February 11 off to welcome our special speaker from Princeton Seminary.

# January and February Sermon Series

## The Great Commandment Plus One

Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:30-31, Luke 10:25-37

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Jan 7  | Do Christians Have to be Emotional About Our Faith?<br>ORDINATION OF OFFICERS                                       |
| Jan 14 | Do Christians Have to be Spiritual?   |
| Jan 21 | Do Christians Have to Think?  |
| Jan 28 | Do Christians have to Work so Hard? COMMUNION   |
| Feb 4  | Tom Miles preaching   |
| Feb 11 | Guest: President Thomas Gillespie from Princeton Seminary<br>Celebration of Tom's 50 year anniversary of ordination |
| Feb 18 | Do Christians Have to Love Our Neighbors as we Love Ourselves?  |
| Feb 25 | To be Announced   |

## “Super Bowl Sub” Sunday

January 28

Back by popular demand!!! The Youth Group is offering their delicious sub sandwiches for sale after church on Super Bowl Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. For only \$5.00 each, you can relax for the afternoon and enjoy an Italian style sub with all the fixings. Look for the Youth Group table in Fellowship Hall during January and pre-order your subs. (Special orders don't upset us.) Don't be left out! Proceeds will go toward Workcamp 2001. Thank you, as always, for your support.

## Deacon's Corner

The Deacons would like to thank all of you who joined us for yet another successful Williamsburg Breakfast. As usual, the goodies were delicious and the fellowship enjoyable.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Deacons who will be coming on board in January 2001. They are Carl Atwood, Janet Dunlop, Ann Niskanen, Susan Pereles, Elizabeth Rudnic and Chip Shooshan. We are especially looking forward to our association with Carl and Elizabeth, as they will be our first Youth Deacons. We will begin the New Year with a Deacon's Retreat scheduled for Saturday January 6, 2001 at 8:30 AM in the church library.



When you read this article, the Advent season and Christmas celebration will be a treasured memory. But as I write these lines to you, it is just Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and the excitement and enthusiasm of coming events is still building. One of the mothers of a Primary Choir singer, who will be a singing shepherd in tomorrow's pageant, said, "My daughter is more excited about the pageant than she is about Santa Claus." What an affirmation of my mission as a choir director!

Walking into the Sanctuary Choir rehearsal last Thursday, one of our couples greeted me cheerfully and said, "We have been singing songs from last Sunday's cantata all week long." I couldn't have asked for a more gratifying reaction to the choir's many weeks of careful preparation of "How Sweet the Sound," given on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

I know that you all will share further thoughts of appreciation and enthusiasm after tomorrow's pageant in the morning, the music celebration in the evening and the Christmas Eve services that follow. I want to thank all of you who have planned and participated in our wide variety of worship and fellowship activities during Advent. As my husband shared with me as we left church on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, "Cindy, this is a GREAT church." As usual, his comment was right on target.

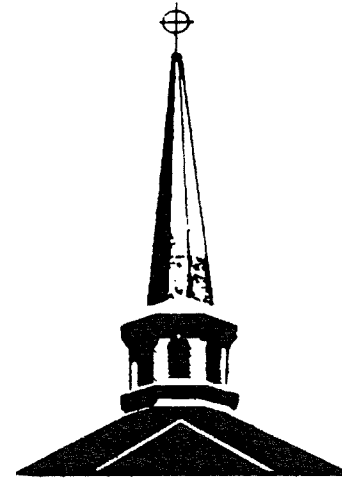
*Cindy*



Living Faithfully, the collection on 22 sermons by Pastor Kerry Stoltzfus, is available through the church office if you have not already picked up a complimentary copy for your family. Additional copies may be available at \$5.00 per book, depending upon a possible re-printing. If you would like to purchase copies, please advise Flo Casper; she will accumulate such requests and a determination ultimately will be made on the re-printing, and the availability of those additional copies. Jon Hawley

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

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February

2001

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## KERRY ON...

I am proud of you! Whenever I have the opportunity to host a visiting minister or tell about our ministry to colleagues I am always able to speak enthusiastically about you. When Associate Pastor Harry Winsheimer was with us for the Deacon Retreat I was so grateful for the warm faith and dedication to caring that they shared with him. On the day of Ordination and Installation I was moved by the personal faith and intellectual depth of our new officers as they made presentations to the Session on the Ordination questions. I know I was very happy during our worship service as Ruthanne and I were celebrating the birth of our first grandchild, but our blessing was doubled by your expressions of joy for us.

I am proud of you every time I hear from one of our members how you visited them or called or delivered a pot of homemade soup. New leaders continue to emerge and we can all be proud of two of our new Deacons, who were nominated as "youth" Deacons, but now take on their role Ordained Church Offices in full standing. Everyone of us can with full confidence invite a friend or colleague to come to worship, knowing that we will hear God's Word, and inspiring music in a warm and caring congregation. By God's grace we know that we go out into our communities, schools and vocations to do God's work. When we experience sorrows they are lightened and when we know joy our church family multiplies it.

I am proud to be your Pastor and I miss no opportunity to tell others about you. At the same time I do so with a deep sense of gratitude for the grace of God that makes it all possible. May God continue to give us that grace for faithful living.

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*

# February 2001

1	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
2		
3		
4	9:00 a.m.	Children's Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00	Fellowship
	4:30 p.m.	Junior High Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Junior/Senior High Youth Groups dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
5		
6	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education meeting
	1:00 p.m.	The Lord's Table
	7:00 p.m.	Compassionate Friends
7	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	4:00 p.m.	Primary Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Study, led by Tom Miles
8	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	8:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir
9		
10		
11		<i>Congregation-Based Shelter Program Week begins</i>
	9:00 a.m.	Children's Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship/President Thomas Gillespie of Princeton Seminary Celebration of 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tom Miles' ordination
	12:00	Fellowship
	4:30 p.m.	Junior High Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Junior/Senior High Youth Groups dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
12	8:00 p.m.	Committees
13	9:30 a.m.	Christian Living Group
	7:30 p.m.	Christian Living Group
14	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	2:45 p.m.	Collingswood
	4:00 p.m.	Primary Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Study, led by Tom Miles
15	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	8:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir
		<i>Steeple to People deadline</i>

16		
17		
18	9:00 a.m.	Children's Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		Inquirers' Class
	11:00 a.m.	Worship/Blanket Sunday
	12:00	Fellowship
	3:00 p.m.	Manor Care
	4:30 p.m.	Junior High Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Jr/Sr High Youth Groups Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
19	8:00 p.m.	Session
20	10:30 a.m.	Men's Book Club
21	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	4:00 p.m.	Primary Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Study, led by Tom Miles
22	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	8:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir
23		
24	8:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Retreat (until 3 p.m.)
25	9:00 a.m.	Children's Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		Inquirers' Class
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00	Fellowship
	4:30 p.m.	Junior High Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Junior/Senior High Youth Groups dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
26	7:30 p.m.	Deacons
27		
28	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday: Sacrament of Communion
	4:00 p.m.	Primary Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday: Sacrament of Communion
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Study, led by Tom Miles



*We rejoice in the birth of...*

Madeline Faith Shook on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, daughter of Emily and Mark Shook. Maddie's proud uncle is Josh Stoltzfus; her proud grandparents are Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus;

*Congratulations and God's blessing on...*

Bill and Pat King who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Our prayers are with...*

Al Cissel and family. Al's father, H. Alfred Cissel, Sr. died on December 25.

Tom Miles. Tom's cousin, Sid Seidel, died in January;

Larry Dinterman and family. Larry's mother, Frenzie Caroline Stottlemeyer, is at home recovering from surgery;

Donna Mecklenburg, recovering from surgery;

John Hummon and family. John's brother-in-law died in December.



**A Very Big “THANK YOU” to:**

The Decorators of the Church and  
Fellowship Hall for Christmas

**Decorators**

Patricia McMillen  
Betsy Dempsey  
Mary Margaret Smith  
Kathy McPherson  
Elysse Meredith  
Roberta Meredith  
Karen Wise  
Virginia Wise  
Hurdis Earl Wise  
Joan Cole  
Compton S. Jones, Sr.  
Bob King  
Renee Jochum  
Cecie Phair  
Larry Dinterman  
Tom Cole  
Bill King  
Bob Best  
Harriet Grier  
Cheryl King  
Joe Curry  
Kay Norvell  
Wilma Sharer

**Bow Makers**

Renee Jochum  
Janet Koonce  
Karen Wise  
Harriet Grier  
Cheryl King

**Donated Greens**

Anonymous  
Miriam Conley  
Janet and Calvin Koonce  
Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus

**Christmas Eve Decorators**

James Dart  
Jennifer Cannon  
Gail Cannon  
Olivia Mabeus  
Wilma Sharer  
Doug Grier  
Betsy Dempsey  
Walker Dempsey  
Carole Dempsey



**Lines from Marilyn**

Our new confirmation class has begun. Fifteen students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade make up the class, which is led by four adults. As we begin the confirmation process, we tell the students about what it means to go through the class and make a commitment to Christ and to the church. Confirmation is the fulfillment of the promises we make at baptism to nurture children in the Christian faith. When a young person is confirmed, the church can breathe a sigh of relief and say, “Whew! It worked! We have done what we promised to do, and the young person has made the decision to follow Jesus Christ!” It is something about which we can rejoice and be glad.

We can be especially glad when we have made a personal contribution to the life of these teenagers. We have taught a children’s Sunday school class, or substituted in Creative Enrichment when a teacher called in sick. We have prayed for the children in our church, or contributed to the budgetary needs for children’s and youth ministry. We treated a child with respect and caring, showing them that people in the church do love them, so maybe God loves them too.

Advertisements often remind us that investing in a child is an investment in the future. This is never more true than in the church, where we can help a child come to the place where as a teenager, he or she makes a decision to put Christ first in their life. If you would like to know more about how you can contribute your time and energy into the children’s and/or youth ministry of this church, I would be happy to talk with you about that.

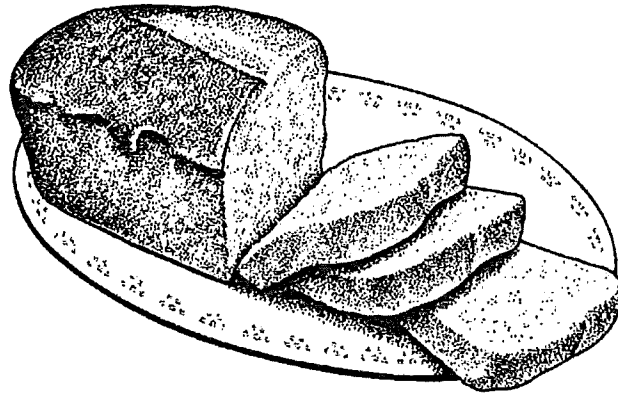
Each Sunday we see expectant faces come up for the children’s time, ready to drink in the message from the worship leader. We see those same faces, only slightly older, in the confirmation class. Thank you for your continuing presence in their lives, and your future involvement with our young people. Your help, and especially your prayers, are important!







# Community Based Shelter Program

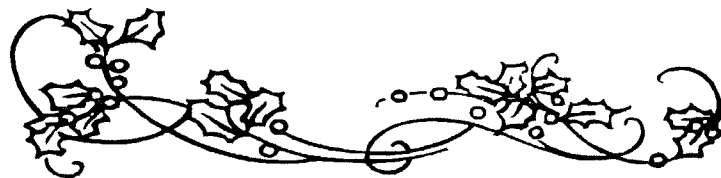


On Sunday evening, February 11<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our eight year of participation in the Community Based Shelter Program. Most of you are familiar with the program – but for our new members, this means that for one week our church will supply items used for breakfast; church members will supply 35 lunches per day; other members will cook dinners at home and then reheat food in the two microwave ovens at the shelter. (There is no stove/oven at the shelter.) Dinners are a team effort, as you will see from the sign up chart in Fellowship Hall on January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The shelter is located on Wilkins Avenue in Rockville – about 30 minutes from our church.

You will be getting much more information about our Shelter Week via announcements on January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup> prior to our Worship Service.

The Community Based Shelter Program is sponsored by Community Ministry of Montgomery County. Mary Reichley



Now that we are getting used to writing the number one in the year 2001, I wonder how many of us made and are keeping New Year's resolutions. Other than resolving to sort through and organize the many piles of musical resources I store in my music room at home, I really didn't make any specific statements about how I will approach my work here at our church. Instead, I am reviewing how I can better implement the mission statement of the Presbyterian Association

of Musicians, an organization whose membership I maintain through your church support. That mission statement reads as follows:

“Worship is the human response to God's grace and infinite love and holds a central place in the life of Christ's church. Music is one of the integral elements of our worship. Acting on these convictions, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians energetically promotes and teaches the language of faith through worship so that all of God's people ~ young and old ~ are vitally involved in singing, praying, proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

I pray that I have the inspiration, the energy, the enthusiasm, the tools, and the patience to guide you in your participation of our musical worship.

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## Year-end Report on the Kerry L. Stoltzfus Scholarship Fund

Your response continued to be overwhelming. The total at year-end was \$23,525. This means that over \$3,000 in donations were received following Celebration 30!!! I also want to apologize for an error, the largest gift was \$2,500 not \$1,000. Ed Clark



## THANKSGIVING IN FEBRUARY

Our church will once again this year on Tuesday, February 6, join other residents of Montgomery County in celebrating Thanksgiving in February. For both lunch and dinner, more than one hundred local restaurants ~ including some of your favorites ~ will donate ten percent of their gross receipts to the hunger relief drive run by Community Ministry of Montgomery County.

Last year Thanksgiving in February produced about \$25,000 that was distributed by CMMC to twelve helping organizations that provide food for the needy in our county.

Brochures listing participating restaurants will be included in the church bulletin on Sunday, February 4, or you may obtain a brochure from the church office. Each year many members of our church form parties to do a good deed while having fun at a local restaurant. Be sure to be among them! Jim Reichley

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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

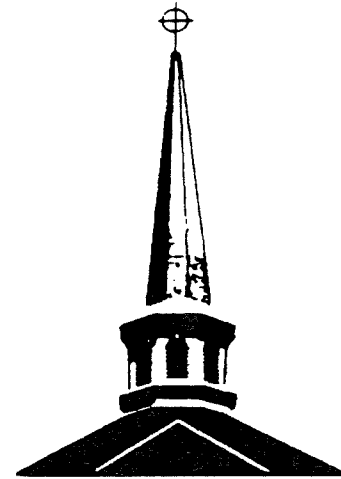
On Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate a very special day in the life of our church when we observe the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tom Miles' ordination to the Ministry. What better way to honor Tom than to have the President of Princeton Theological Seminary, Tom's alma mater, and his wife join us on that day! Dr. Thomas Gillespie will speak to the Adult Education Class at 9:45, and since we feel certain that so many of you will want to hear Dr. Gillespie's talk, we will gather in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Gillespie will preach the sermon during the Worship Service, and you will then be able to greet the Gillespies and Tom during the coffee hour. Come rain or snow, you'll want to be in church on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Come early for the Adult Education Class! Stay for the coffee hour to meet the Gillespies and to congratulate Tom!

### Inquirers' Series

For those people who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership at Potomac Presbyterian Church, a three-part Inquirer Series will be held on February 18, February 25, and March 4. 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, March 11, 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.

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

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March

2001

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## KERRY ON...

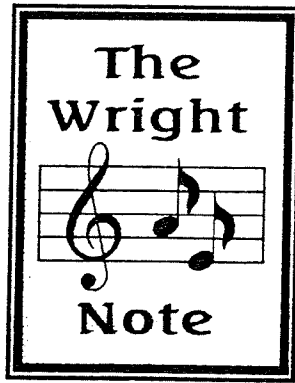
All of us continue to grieve the loss of our dear friend Flo Casper. Her sudden death on January 24 has left an empty place at the "table" of our faith family at Potomac Presbyterian Church. We will continue to miss her in so many ways and yet give thanks that we were privileged to share ministry with her for almost nine years. Personally I find it very hard to say that I am thankful that I was with her when she died. At the same time I am deeply grateful that she was not alone. In God's mysterious way her last moments were ordinary in every sense of the word. She had just completed what she told me, as we walked out the door, a very good day. She had enjoyed talking with so many folks in person and on the phone that Wednesday. Flo was excited about some of the new celebrations that are part of our life together. She was very joyful in sharing my joy as a new grandfather. Our new seminary intern had just been interviewed and Flo was looking forward to working with her this summer. She truly cherished her ministry with and on our behalf.

The Session will be talking about an appropriate memorial to help us as a congregation to remember with gratitude her years of ministry and will communicate with all of you soon.

What a good sense of humor she had and the memory of that will help us to recall our joyful times together. What if I miss counted and failed to discover one or two of the fifty hidden golf balls? Wouldn't Flo have the last laugh if one dropped out of somewhere in my office some day. If you don't know the golf ball story please pick up a copy of the words of remembrance that were given by the three pastors at Flo's memorial service. When I spoke at that service I referred to Hebrews 13:2 and said that I believed that Flo took these words to heart and lived them every day.

Continued on page 10

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*



One of the joys of my position is to offer hymn suggestions for our worship services. This week I am working on hymns that relate to Kerry's sermon "Do Christians Have to Work So Hard?" The first one that comes to mind is the one that mentions all the occupants: "I Sing the Song of the Saints of God." We love to sing the lilting, almost dancing melody of the Grand Isle tune coupled with the encouraging text portraying saints of yesterday and today who have spread the good news while doing their daily work.

As I read the stanzas of hymn #364, my thoughts turn to our good friend, Flo Casper. A fourth stanza is circling in my brain and seems to want to emerge. If you don't mind, I will share it with you:

I sing a song to the saints of God,  
One that I knew was Flo,  
She answered the phone with the friendliest tone,  
And shared what you wanted to know.  
So patient and kind, always lending a hand,  
Typing bulletins, reports, always meeting church demands,  
What a true, giving soul we were privileged to know,  
Praise God for the joy she shared.

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## Feel the Need!

We won't be serving popcorn...but we will be showing a movie!

On Saturday, March 18, please plan to spend a few extra minutes in church to hear about an exciting and unique program that will give our church the opportunity to spread the word of God and the work of God to some of our area's neediest.

This is a program that goes beyond mission...beyond stewardship...right to the heart of revitalizing and renewing what it means to be a Presbyterian. This is a program for our times.

Don't miss it!



*Our prayers are with...*

Lynn and Cindy Wright. Lynn's mother, Emma Wright, died on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Flo Casper's family and all of our church family;

Mary Shipley's family and friends, specifically Mary's husband Ed and daughter, Kathy Singleton;

Anita Machlin and family. Anita's sister-in-law died in a car accident.

*We give thanks for the lives of...*

Florence Casper who died on January 24<sup>th</sup>;

Mary Shipley who died on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

*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."*

*A note from Keith Casper...*

I want to thank all of Potomac Presbyterian Church for your kind words, cards, and gifts in support of our family. We all lost a truly magnificent angel and our lives will never be the same. The kids and I are trying to stay busy and keep our new lives on track. Deanna and Joanne are back in school and John and I are back working. The support from everyone who knew Florence has been wonderful and shows that she influenced many lives. I have heard from people all over the country who worked with her or just knew of her. Even I did not know the extent of the lives she touched in her too short life. Thank you for your prayers.

Keith Casper

# Deacon's Corner

Sunday March 11 will be a very busy day for the Potomac Presbyterian Church Deacons. During the fellowship hour following the worship service, the deacons will be hosting an **All-deacons' Coffee**. Each parish group will be represented at a table in Fellowship Hall and the deacons will supply the refreshments. The coffee provides a wonderful opportunity to meet your deacon if you have not yet had to occasion to do so and to chat with your fellow parish members. So, please stop by your parish table and support your local deacon!

On the evening of March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., the deacons will also be hosting the first **Lenten Home Communion Services** at the home of Deacon Susan Perales. Communion services will also be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Niskanen's home, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Swisher's and April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Jochum's. The home communion services offer PPC members the opportunity to worship together in a manner reminiscent of the earliest Christians. Joining together in the homes of our church members to pray, sing, read the Bible and receive communion is a stirring and inspirational reminder that wherever Christians gather together in God's name, God will be present.

## Mark your Calendar for June 2, 2001

### Komen National Race for the Cure

Once again PPC will form a **TEAM** to participate in the "Race"  
If you would like to help with the origination of this event, please  
contact: Bettie Ann Johnson at 301-963-5857 or  
bettieannj@msn.com  
More details to follow

**Kerry on...** continued from page 1.

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

To the extent that any of us follow her example we will honor her memory and give glory to God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for the life of Flo Casper.

## Lines from Marilyn

It is two days before Valentine's Day as I write this, and the air is filled with thoughts of declared love, sweet gifts and construction paper hearts. At this time of year, we especially think of those we love, and sometimes we remember with sadness love that has gone away, either by relocation, or death, or failure of a relationship to live up to our hopes and dreams.

I once served a church with a very transient congregation. Many of the members worked for the government, and they were young and just beginning their careers, so they were often transferred to other places after being there for two years or so. Right after I went to that church, I made good friends with two couples who were subsequently transferred, and who I knew I wouldn't see often, if ever, again. It was a very sad time for me. But then I realized that if I hadn't had those wonderful friendships, how less enriched my life would have been. I realized that one of the risks of loving others is that your heart will be broken, or at least cracked. But it's worth the risk!

Flo Casper and I were very close friends, in addition to being colleagues in ministry for PPC. We had lunch together most Mondays, and talked about everything, from parenting issues, vet schools, faith issues, churches we had been part of, and many other things. I delighted in seeing her smiling face every morning in the office, and she listened to me complain about my computer or having more to do than time to do it (chronic problems!). Her untimely death at such a young age was shocking to me, as it was to all of you.

For an instant in my grief, the thought crossed my mind that it's easier not to get close to people because it hurts so much when they leave. But, just as instantly, I knew that I wouldn't be the same person without having known Flo, and I'm sure that I'm a better person for knowing her. Yes, it's very sad, but what a blessing to have shared part of my life with this caring, faithful, funny, sharing person! I thank God for the opportunity to have known her and worked with her and loved her for the short time I did. I pray that God will give all of us the courage to open our hearts to others, even though we may suffer for it, because, in the long run, the blessings are so much greater than the pain will ever be.



# Christian Living Retreat

All women in the church are invited to participate in all or part of the Christian Living retreat on March 16 and 17. Part One is a dinner at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn in Montgomery Village at 7:30 p.m. Friday night. \$25.95 per person includes everything, even tax and tip, and the meal choices are wonderful. Part Two will be Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at Karen Wise's home, for discussion of the book The Red Tent, by Anita Diamant, and for a potluck salad lunch. **Please join us** for this fun and interesting time. Call Marilyn Johns at the church if you would like to attend, or for more information.

## Adult Education Schedule

March 2001

March 4	Dr. Alice Bellis ~ Apocrypha ~ Judith
March 11	Dr. Alice Bellis ~ Apocrypha ~ Deborah
March 18 and March 25	Dr. Chester Gillis, Georgetown University "Catholic Church Today"

## Endowments Established

Friends and relatives have established The Alexander Rozner Seminary Scholarship Endowment and The William Albright Theological Education Endowment Funds.

The Alexander Rozner Fund is to help a student who is studying for the ministry in the PCUSA. Ordinarily each of the seminaries that PPC supports will select a recipient on a rotation basis, as recommended by our Mission Committee, with first priority to a student from our congregation.

The William Albright Fund will support seminary student fellowships and internships plus special continuing theological education for PPC staff, and other theological education opportunities as may arise.

The Funds will be invested with the Presbyterian Foundation, with only the income to be used for their purposes. Both families have provided additional funds so that awards can be made in 2001.

## Introducing Carrie Smith

### Our Summer Intern

At their annual retreat, the session discussed the idea of calling a summer intern. It was felt that Potomac Presbyterian Church has an obligation to help train future Presbyterian ministers, and that our church is uniquely equipped for that role.

In a ten-week period, we will immerse Carrie in all aspects of PPC. She will assist with worship planning and preaching, working with committees, visiting our local missions as well as, hospital visitations with Kerry. She will also be working with the staff in order to understand their contributions.

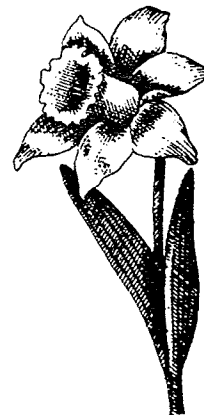
As a daughter of a Presbyterian minister, Carrie grew up in the church, and she says, "participating in everything." She graduated from Cleveland Institute of Art with a Bachelors in Fine Arts. Feeling called to the ministry, she enrolled in Union Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Next year she will graduate with a Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees. In two prior internships Carrie worked in a hospital with patients and their families, and spent a summer at Montreat Conference Center as part of the ministry team to the summer staff.

Carrie's faith, intelligence and enthusiasm will have a very positive impact on PPC. She will start around June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Summer Intern Committee members are: Gail Cannon, John Clouse (chairperson), Gayle Goff, James Hewson, Sandy MacFarlan, Bridget Newton and Cal Reid.

## We Need Your Help!!!

*Spring showers* are certain to bring spring flowers and WEEDS to our church gardens. Our annual Spring Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM** with a rain date set for April 7. Bring any well-marked tools you think will be helpful and a good pair of garden gloves. There will be plenty to do for everyone! Come early and stay as long as you can. Come join in the fellowship and fun making our church grounds ready for a beautiful spring! Contact Jim Dart or Bob Tietjen if you have any questions.



# HOME COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 11 7:30 PM	Host: Susan Pereles 301-299-4133 12029 Great Elm Drive in Potomac
	Co-hosts: Jackie Cronin, Janet Dunlop & Chip Shooshan
Tuesday, March 20 7:30 PM	Host: Ann Niskanen 301-258-7836 12114 Pawnee Drive in North Potomac
	Co-hosts: Carl Atwood, Kay McClaine & Matt Petti
Sunday, March 25 7:30 PM	Host: Rob Swisher 301-977-2650 6 Scottish Autumn Court in North Potomac
	Co-hosts: Ann Eagleson and Betsey Rudnic
Wednesday, April 4 7:30 PM	Host: Jim Jochum 301-309-0235 Six Starlight Court in Potomac
	Co-hosts: Tony Barnard and Barbara Garcia

## CAMP GLENKIRK

In 1959 a group of Presbyterians in the Washington D.C. area decided to find a place in the country for a retreat center and camp. Acreage was bought on the banks of Broad Run and was named Glenkirk which means church in the woods. A.T. and Doris Brown were hired to be the camp directors and plans were set into motion.

Over the last 40+ years Glenkirk has continued to change and reform itself in an effort to keep up with the needs of the Presbytery. Truman Nabors was hired to be the next camp director and along with Wayne Jones they continued to develop Glenkirk into a small group camp environment for the summer program and a rustic retreat center for the churches to use the rest of the year. During this time Lake Manassas was built in place of Broad Run leaving Glenkirk with over a mile of shoreline. Acreage continued to be acquired until it reached the current size of 230 acres.

Glenkirk currently has sleeping facilities for 89 people in heated buildings and another 20 people in the Loghouses. There is more room in the woods for those who like to camp in villages of treehouses and platform tents.

You are invited to visit Glenkirk on one of the Open House dates this spring. April 22 and May 6 from 2 – 5 p.m. have been set aside for you to come see Glenkirk for the first time or the 91<sup>st</sup> time. Refreshments will be served, you can visit a village and meet some of the staff.

## SHARING OUR MISSION

During the Lenten Season, our church will once again participate in ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. We join other Presbyterians in responding to Christ's love for all by sharing it in tangible ways with people in need through this ministry--emergency relief, refugee resettlement, and long-term development funds.

Since 1949, American Christian churches have joined together to raise funds for world relief efforts. By doing so in a united time and fashion, these church denominations (now ten) have proven to the world how great is the power for good that can be done when Christians unite in a common cause. The original radio broadcast, made on March 26, 1949, was called "One Great Hour." The annual campaign, referred to as "One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) since 1952, has retained its original purpose: to collect special gifts to help those in need.

OGHS funds enable our denomination, together with Church World Service, to provide immediate emergency relief for victims of natural disasters. Secondly, OGHS funds are used to help people improve their economic situation with vocational training and development activities.


Contributions to OGHS make a difference in the lives of people. It may be supplying a blanket, a tent or a warm meal in times of disaster, such as in the recent earthquake in India or the Mississippi Valley floods of several years ago; or vocational training for unemployed young Palestinians in the Gaza strip; or funds to operate a convalescent camp in Poland for children still suffering severe health effects from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in nearby Byelorussia; or the staffing of medical clinics in Somalia; or the purchase of sewing or knitting machines for poor women in Siberia so they can earn a modest living. In all these ways, Christians are present in the world, loving their global neighbors.

For over 50 years God has called us through One Great Hour of Sharing to go into the entire world and proclaim the good news. May each of us prayerfully consider what we can do as ambassadors of God's love and justice to hear our neighbors' cries and share their hopes for a better world. OGHS donation envelopes will be placed in the church pews in March.

The Mission Committee

Thank you

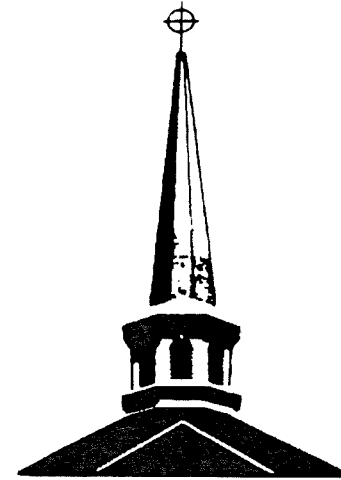
Thank you to Debbie McKune for serving  
as our temporary church secretary.  
She is doing a terrific job!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2001</h1> 						
				<b>1</b> 10:00am Christian Ed Committee Meeting 6:30pm Handbells 7-8:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm PTG
<b>4</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Inquirers 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship/Youth spaghetti 4:30pm Jr Hi Youth Group 6:00pm Jr/Sr Hi Youth Dinner 6:30pm Sr Hi Youth Group	<b>5</b> 7:00-10:00pm PTG	<b>6</b> 1:00pm The Lord's Table 7:00pm Compassionate Friends	<b>7</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:30pm Adult Study-Tom Miles	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Handbells 7-8:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>9</b> 9:00pm Jr Hi Lock In Begins	<b>10</b> 9:00am Jr Hi Lock In Ends 10:00am - 2:00pm PTG
<b>11</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Session-New Members 11:00am Worship/New Members 12:00 Fellowship 6:30pm Sr Hi Youth Group 7:30pm Home Communion	<b>12</b> 7:00-10:00pm PTG 8:00pm Committees	<b>13</b> 7:00-10:00pm PTG	<b>14</b> 9:30am Bible Study 2:45pm Collingswood 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Adult Study-Tom Miles	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Handbells 7-8:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir  PTG Dress Rehearsal	<b>16</b> Christian Living Retreat	<b>17</b> Christian Living Retreat 8:30am -12:00 Chorister's Guild 2:00pm Ulmer Memorial Service
<b>18</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship 3:00pm Manor Care 4:30pm Jr Hi Youth Group 6:00pm Jr/Sr Hi Youth Dinner 6:30pm Sr Hi Youth Group	<b>19</b> 8:00pm Session	<b>20</b> 10:30am Men's Book Club 7:30pm Home Communion	<b>21</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:30pm Adult Study-Tom Miles	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Handbells 7-8:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship 4:30pm Jr Hi Youth Group 6:00pm Jr/Sr Hi Youth Dinner 6:30pm Sr Hi Youth Group 7:30pm Home Communion	<b>26</b> 7:30pm Deacons	<b>27</b> 3:30pm Stephen Ministry Leaders 6:00pm Presbytery Meeting at National Presbyterian Church	<b>28</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Adult Study-Tom Miles	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Handbells 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00am - 12:00 Spring Clean Up



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

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

April

2001

## KERRY ON ...

Ann Lamott in her book, *Traveling Mercies*, tells a story about a little girl who was lost somewhere in her neighborhood. A policeman stopped and picked her up and they began to drive around looking for something familiar. Up and down the streets they drove and then finally she exclaimed,

“This is my church, and I can always find my way home from here.”

I have thought about that a lot and what she said is a profound spiritual and theological insight. We are not alone on our faith journeys. Our church is a place and a people who help us to know who we are. They welcome us as we are and they challenge us to be more than we are by the grace of God. There is comfort and compassion for our pains and sorrows. At the same time we are pushed to explore that which is beyond the familiar. Christian education and worship that asks good questions helps us to grow. Mission and outreach nudges us to be engaged in something larger than ourselves.

Our church is a beacon in a sometimes dark world that points the way toward home. Someone said that living in God’s grace means being at home in your own skin. In the grander scheme of things of course church points to what the Apostle Paul called, “a home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” At Easter we celebrate the One who lives and give us a true home in the here and now, and a glorious home in the life to come.

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*

# THE FLORENCE CASPER MEMORIAL FUND

In Loving memory and gratitude for the life and ministry of Flo Casper, The Session has established a memorial fund. Gifts to the fund will be used to commission the writing of a choral anthem and to establish a scholarship for certification study for church secretaries.

The commissioned anthem will be premiered by our choir and presented as a gift to the choral libraries of St. Mark, New Hope and Darnestown Presbyterian churches. The anthem, featuring a printed dedication to Flo Casper, will be written on a text based on service and may be submitted for national publication for wider use.

The scholarship will be offered to church secretaries seeking certification through study offered by the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church. Flo received her certification in 1999 and continued to be an active member and leader in the association.

Checks may be given to Potomac Presbyterian Church in memory of Flo Casper.

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## REMINDER:

Vision 2010 pledges are due by April 22<sup>nd</sup>

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From Naomi Ulmer:

I want to thank most sincerely the good folks in the Wednesday Bible Study class for all their support during the long, long struggle we endured during my husband's illness. You are truly Righteous Christians. Thank you all for the food, flowers, cards, enfolding arms and hugs during the final days. Also, thank you for the colossal help with the memorial service.

Your neighbor and friend,

Naomi



### *Congratulations to...*

Susan Toerge. Susan has been named "Maryland's Mother of the Year 2001," by American Mothers Incorporated;

Janet Harrison, who became a great-grandmother recently. Her granddaughter, Elizabeth, had a baby girl, Samantha Catherine;

Pat Ferrara who celebrates the birth of a new grandchild, Natalie Elizabeth, born on February 25<sup>th</sup> to proud parents, David and Leah Tidler;

Alice Belden who will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 29. Cards may be sent to her at: Manor Care  
10714 Potomac Tennis Lane  
Potomac, Maryland 20854

### *Our prayers are with...*

John Colligan and family. John's father died on February 17, 2001;

Barbara Garcia, recovering from surgery at home;

John Mindnich and family. John's mother, Jean Mindnich, died in March;

Larry Dinterman. Larry is recovering from shoulder surgery and his mother is in the hospital suffering from heart problems;

Bob Conley, recovering from surgery;

Naomi Ulmer. Naomi's husband, Melville, died in March;

Vivian Teets brother, David Brearley, who is recovering from chemotherapy;

Ed and Janet Clark during their six weeks in Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt where Ed will be serving as a volunteer consultant on a USAID Project.

E-mail for Ed and Janet: [edclark@worldnet.att.net](mailto:edclark@worldnet.att.net) and  
[janethullclark@WMALfreemail.com](mailto:janethullclark@WMALfreemail.com)

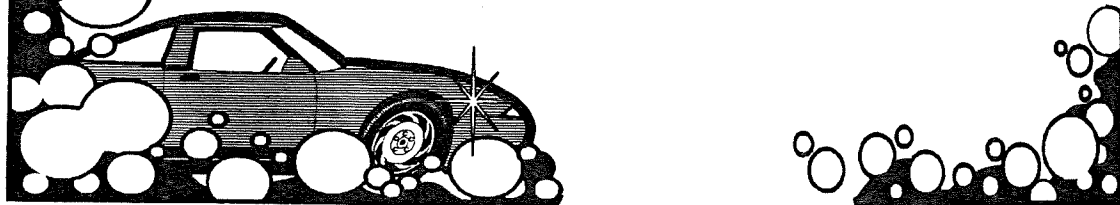
## Horizons House Opens

Community Ministry of Montgomery County has recently announced the birth of a new program for physically disabled homeless women. Horizons House was opened on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. On-site management, treatment planning, mentoring, community service opportunities and emergency services will be provided in a supportive home environment. Kitchen table and chairs, night tables, televisions, radios, baking pans, canister set, towels, sheets and food donations are needed. If there is any way you can help, please call Nancy Tietjem at 301-299-3272.

## Youth Group Car Wash April 29

Back by popular demand!!! The youth group will hold our popular Car Wash and Bake Sale on Sunday April 29. We will have an early worship service and we'll be ready to start washing when you arrive for Sunday School and Church. Please, let your cars get dirty and bring them to us on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We're well on our way to our fundraising goal for our summer work camp and we thank the entire congregation for helping us get there.

Note: We would appreciate donations of rags for drying the cars. They can be dropped off in the Junior High Sunday School room any time before the 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



## Lines from Marilyn

During Lent, we often think about giving something up. Many people (try to!) give up chocolate, or desserts, or meat. The idea is to feel some semblance of sacrifice to remind us of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross for us. We are to suffer, on a much smaller scale, and focus our attention on Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Here at PPC, the emphasis in our children's and youth programs has not been on "giving up" as much as on "giving to." The children's Sunday School just completed a two-week service project in which they made small gifts to be given to children who are in the hospital. The gifts are sure to brighten the day of a child whose days might be filled with needles and tests and fear.

The emphasis for this year's Vacation Bible School is heavily on mission. The children's craft time will be used to make "welcome bags" for children who are put into short-term foster care. These bags will be given to the welcoming families as a way to calm fears and make them feel at home. (Be sure to put July 9-13 on your calendar for this fun and exciting week!).

The Senior High Youth Group was given a donation at the end of last year, and is in the process of purchasing stuffed toys for needy children. They didn't really consider using the money for themselves; they were anxious to use it to help someone less fortunate than they.

It seems as if "giving up" and "giving to" are pretty similar. Both involve some degree of sacrifice. Both exemplify the way our Lord Jesus Christ lived his life. Both fulfill God's call to us to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Come to think of it, "giving to" might be a little easier than "giving up." There is great joy in giving to someone in need. Our focus is on their needs and we get a good feeling knowing that we are helping. The simple act of giving is something we know pleases God, and what could be more pleasing to us?

I urge you in this Lenten season, to find ways to give to others. Let giving be a part of your Lenten devotions. The rewards are great and God will smile, knowing that those of us who are blessed in so many ways are willing to help those less advantaged.

The **Stephen Ministers** have just celebrated the first anniversary of their commissioning. Approximately 400 hours of one on one caring has taken place in the first year.



## Parking for Palm Sunday and Easter

Additional parking spaces will be available for:

April 8 ~ Palm Sunday and

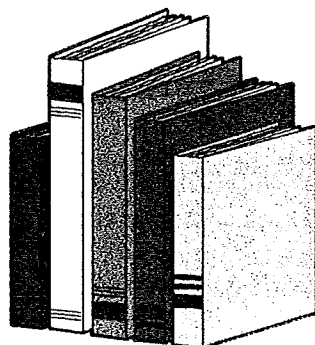
April 15 ~ Easter Sunday

On both of the above dates, the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which has been meeting at the Potomac Elementary School, will be conducting their Easter holiday services at another location. They will return to Potomac Elementary School on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Work on their church building (across the way on River Road) is progressing, but is not likely to be completed before sometime this summer. We will keep you posted with further updates in future newsletters.

## Adult Education for April

- April 1 Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
- April 8 Tom Hougen and Jim Jochum
- April 15 Easter Sunday / no class
- April 22 Tom Miles
- April 29 Richard Cannon – Tom Miles  
Medical Ethics



New members continued...

*Welcome*

**Adam Singleton**  
9810 Carter Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
301 469-0197

A junior at Churchill High School, Adam is a sports enthusiast, especially basketball and soccer. He enjoys playing the guitar with friends. His parents, Kathy and Dick Singleton, are members of PPC. Adam has two older sisters, Mary and Sarah.

**Greta and Eric VanBrunt**  
15161 Winesap Drive  
North Potomac, MD 20878  
301 987-7017

Greta and Eric relocated to North Potomac recently from Upstate, New York with their boys, McCartney, 5, and Nathan, 3. They are now close to their families and join Greta's parents, Judy and Larry Dick, as members of PPC. Eric is a software systems engineer with Lockheed-Martin and Greta works as an au pair coordinator at EF Au Pair. The couple enjoy skiing, hiking, biking and travel.

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## Christmas is coming...

Christmas in April, that is. Once again our congregation will assemble a crew of skilled, semi-skilled, and entirely unskilled volunteers to fix up the home of an elderly, disabled, low-income homeowner in our county. On Saturday, April 28, we will meet at the home of Minta (she likes to be called "Rocky") Triebull, a recently widowed 77-year-old resident of Rockville, who has lived in her home for 39 years. We will paint her home inside and out, replace light fixtures, install kitchen cabinets, perform kitchen area repairs and hang a utility room door, as well as spruce up the yard. Be on the look out for the sign-up table and display in Fellowship Hall beginning April 8. Come join us on April 28 and see what a difference we can make in someone's life in just one day!

**Richard Cannon – House Captain**  
**Larry Dick – House Co-Captain**  
**JoJo Kovaks – Deputy House Captain**

**WELCOME**  
*to our new members*

*Welcome*

**Roberta and Elyse Meredith**  
12910 Esworthy Road  
North Potomac, MD 20878  
301 963-8666

Roberta and her daughter Elyse recently moved to Potomac from the San Francisco Bay area. Elyse is a high school sophomore who has a special interest in horseback riding and music. She participates in PPC's youth fellowship, sanctuary choir and handbells. Her mother, Roberta, a home educator, also sings in the choir, participates in handbells and serves on the Fellowship Committee.

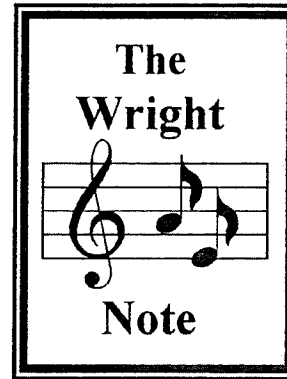
**Heather and Bob Rosecrans**  
13012 Mimosa Farm Court  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301 294-3181

Heather and Bob are the parents of Peter, 15, a freshman at Wootton High School and Robbie, 11, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Lakeland Elementary School. Bob is an executive at Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and Heather is a scientist at the Food and Drug Administration. They both enjoy participating in their children's sports activities. The couple met at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia, when they were in youth fellowship.

**Catherine (Kitty) Cowie  
and Keith Rust**  
9228 Fall River Lane  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301 299-9446

*Welcome*

Kitty and Keith are the parents of Elizabeth, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Seven Locks Elementary School. Keith is originally from Australia and Kitty is from West Bloomfield, Michigan. Kitty is an epidemiologist at NIH and Keith is employed as a statistician at Westat, Inc. In addition to their involvement in Elizabeth's activities, Kitty and Keith enjoy gardening, cooking, travel and music, especially opera.



Very few people look forward to doing homework. Yet, if the homework assignment is reasonable, and if we do it carefully, we are usually more prepared to participate in the next day's related activity. Well, I am about to give you some information about our Palm Sunday worship service. Your assignment is to read the following description of the Children's Choir and Sanctuary Choir's call to worship and hymn introduction. As you read, picture yourself sitting in the pew, listening to the triumphant Palm Sunday prelude. You have a palm branch in your hand, and you can't wait to proceed to the

next portion of the service during which you will wave that branch and join in on the catchy musical introduction to the first hymn, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!"

At the time when the Sanctuary Choir normally sings an introit, the Children's Choir will instead walk down both central aisles, chanting in rhythm the speech phrases alluding to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. When they finish, they will be lined up in the front of the church. You will hear them say these words, "Raise high your branches. Hosannas raise!" Here you may raise your palm branches, as well.

Next you will hear the Sanctuary Choir enter with a recurring musical theme, "And the people cried Hosanna, Hosanna to the King. Bless Him who comes in the name of the Lord". They will sing this two more times in response to phrases sung by the Children's Choir concerning the crowd, the colt and the throwing of garments on the road. When the Sanctuary Choir comes in on a third and final response, the children will give the congregation a signal to sing along. Trust me, the theme is very easy to follow.

Following your enthusiastic musical response (which will include raising your own palm branch), the organ will play an introduction to the first hymn, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!". You will stand and sing the hymn from the hymnal, as you do any other Sunday. The Sanctuary Choir will provide a special descant during the third verse and a coda written by Robert Lau in his anthem, "And the People Cried Hosanna".

Now, this isn't a bad homework assignment, is it? I look forward to hearing your joyful voices and seeing your waving palms on April 8.

*Cindy*

*Thank you all for sharing our joy and thanksgiving in the birth of our first grandchild, Madeline Faith Shook. We are blessed to have her and her loving parents.*

Kerry and Ruthanne

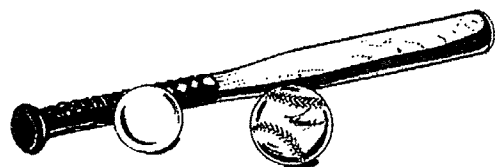
# Komen National Race for the Cure

Once again the Health Ministry Projects of the Mission Committee will support our **Team** from **PPC** in the "**Race**" on **June 2, 2001**.

Our **Team** has been registered with the Race office and we will have the registration forms in early April. Last year we had 44 members and friends of Potomac Presbyterian Church on our team and we all had a great day being part of a special effort to find a cure for Breast Cancer. We hope to have at least 50 members this year who will run or walk through the streets of Washington carrying our team sign.

Breast Cancer is so common that it has the unfortunate distinction of touching nearly every man, woman, and child's life in some fashion. Because this disease has touched so many members of Potomac Presbyterian Church, we are counting on your support again this year.

If you have questions or would like to help with the organization of this event, please contact Bettie Ann Johnson 301 963-5847, E-mail: [bettieannj@msn.com](mailto:bettieannj@msn.com)



## Save the Date

Save the Date! Join PPC friends and see an Oriole's baseball game on Friday June 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are just \$17.00. Call Bob Best at 301-469-5458 or Maggie Fahs at 301-365-2395. We've reserved only 20 tickets, so order early!

# Easter Flowers

## Memorials and Tributes

An Easter tradition at PPC is the opportunity to contribute to our Easter Sunday sanctuary flowers. Flowers decorating the sanctuary will be remembrances of loved ones, and their names will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. All surplus funds will be donated to the Montgomery Hospice Society.

Please use the flower envelopes located in the pews and fill out the information exactly as you wish it to be listed in the bulletin. Put your check or cash inside the envelope, seal it, and place it in the offering plate. If you wish to mail in your contribution, please include the exact wording of your memorial and /or tribute and mail it to the church, attention Debbie McKune. Also, write Easter Flowers on the outside of the envelope. All contributions must be in the church office no later than Sunday, April 8. *Sponsored by the Worship Committee*

# Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday April 12, 2001

Fellowship Meal and Communion Service

Everyone is encouraged to attend a fellowship meal and worship experience focused on Christ's journey to the cross. The evening will begin in Fellowship Hall with a light supper, for a nominal fee of \$3.00/adult and \$1.00/child. The service will include scripture readings, a special communion service, and an anthem highlighting aspects of Christ's journey. The evening will conclude around 8:30 p.m. Please sign up in the Narthex for the meal and indicate the number of persons attending.



## Deacon's Corner

When I was chosen to serve as a deacon, I was very honored although I had only a vague understanding of what it involved. According to my Encyclopedia Britannica, a deacon is a lay official who shares in the ministry and governance of a congregation. I wondered, what special talents are needed? What are the qualifications for the job?

I have since learned that to minister in our faith, God doesn't require an extensive resume. Just to be equipped with a heart full of loving kindness, a supply of imagination in assisting in various ways, a current of energy to perform kind deeds, and the intelligence to pull it all together.

This reminded me of that cute saying: "God couldn't be everywhere, so He created Grandmothers" ~ except with a twist: "The Pastor couldn't be everywhere, so he created deacons." But the truth of the matter is, God is everywhere and He works through all of us ~ even unbeknownst to us.

I have an interesting story to share with you...

My neighborhood consists of homes that practice several different faiths/religions ranging from Catholic to Mormon; one neighbor in particular is a professed atheist. Presently, one of my neighbors is fighting a rare form of cancer. Upon learning of this, many of us have started a chain of events to

assist her family during this difficult time. These include preparing meals, shopping, giving gifts, child sitting, etc. But what is most ironic is that the one who "professes no faith" is one of the most active in the ministry to this ill friend. She has no clue that God has entered her heart and is caring for His beloved child through her. She may not think of her actions as Christian witnessing, yet they are. Every act of loving kindness reflects God's love for His people. We give to others because God has so freely given His love to us. He is the example we follow. I pray that next time, she will knowingly and willingly open her heart for Him.

Ann Niskanen

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.

Galatians 6:10

## The Magnetic Church

A Conference Presented by  
*Andrew D. Weeks*

Friday April 27 and  
Saturday April 28

*Practical evangelism to help your  
own church attract, welcome and  
retain new members*

For more information:  
Call Joe Curry at 301-309-1313

## Meet Carrie Smith Our Seminary Intern

Carrie Smith will be with us on Palm Sunday and will be introduced to the congregation during worship. You will have an opportunity to greet her personally during the coffee hour. The internship will begin in late May and conclude in August. Carrie will also be a seminary advisor delegate to the General Assembly meeting in Louisville, June 9-16. Let's be sure to give her a warm welcome and to remember her in our prayers as she finishes the school year and prepares to be with us this summer.

## Camp Glenkirk

What does the future hold for Glenkirk as the outdoor ministry of National Capital Presbytery? As part of the Vision 2010 program of National Capital Presbytery, Glenkirk plans on continuing towards becoming a more adult friendly facility. We continue to upgrade and make improvements.




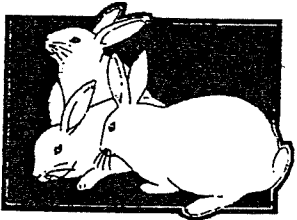
A new Meditation Garden was built between the parking circle and cabins giving guests a quiet place to sit, think, pray, converse and enjoy. It features a 15 foot high cross, a 12'x20' pond, benches and swings. It is already becoming a gathering spot for people.

A bathroom has been added to the Adult Meeting Room. Along with new carpet and the addition of a small kitchen, this building is now a cozy meeting room. A new soundproof divider has been installed in the Lodge meeting room making it possible for two groups to meet in that space without noise from the other group bothering them.

The old vesper dale area near the Adult Meeting Room is being restored creating an outdoor sanctuary, which will hold up to 200 people on wood benches and is outfitted with an electrical outlet at the old stone pulpit. The Cross at the lake now has seating for about 75.

We invite you to come be a part of Glenkirk's future!

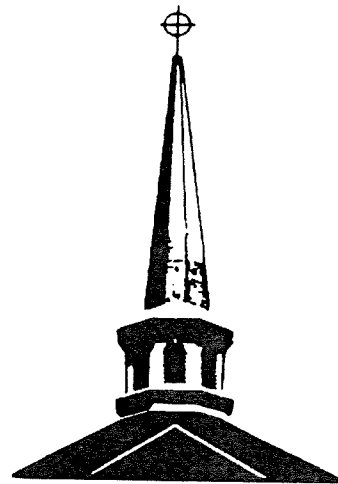
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2001</h1>						
<b>1</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship 4:30pm Jr Hi Youth Group 6:00pm Jr/Sr Hi Dinner 6:30pm Sr Hi Youth Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30am Christian Living 1:00pm The Lord's Table 7:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:30pm Christian Living	<b>4</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:30pm Adult Study with Tom Miles 7:30pm Home Communion	<b>5</b> 12:30pm CE Committee Meeting 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Confirmation Class 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship	<b>9</b> 8:00pm Committees	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>11</b> 2:45pm Collingswood	<b>12 Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00pm Dinner - Worship - Communion	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
<b>15 Easter Sunday</b> 9:00am Youth Worship 10:25am Egg Hunt 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship 12:00 STOP Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:30am Men's Book Club	<b>18</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Adult Study with Tom Miles	<b>19</b> 7:00pm MOS 7:00pm Confirmation Class	<b>20</b> 9:00pm Jr Hi Lock In Begins	<b>21</b> 9:00am Jr Hi Lock In Ends
<b>22</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship 6:30pm Sr Hi Youth Group	<b>23</b> 7:30pm Deacons and Session	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Study with Tom Miles	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Confirmation Class 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Christmas in April
<b>29</b> 8:00am Worship 8:45am Youth Car Wash & Bake Sale 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship	<b>30</b>					



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

Non-profit Org.  
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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

May

2001

## KERRY ON...

Every 40 seconds in this country a baby is born into poverty.

Every 37 seconds in this country a baby is born to a mother who is not a high school graduate.

Every 17 seconds in this country a child is arrested.

Every 12 seconds in this world a young person is infected with HIV

Every 10 seconds in this country a child is a victim of maltreatment.

Every 9 seconds in this country a high school student drops out.

Every 5 seconds in this world a child dies from hunger.

Every 3 seconds in this world a child dies from a preventable or curable disease.

Every second in this country a public school student is suspended.

**Every second of every day, God loves each of these children. \***

Dear God, we join our hearts and voices in prayer for all of your children. Help us to have compassion for real children and not be made numb by statistics. Give us energy and courage and generosity to help those in need and help us to teach our own children to care. Out of our extraordinary blessings give us grateful hearts and strong hands and courageous voices. May we express our love for you in caring for your children. We pray in the name of the One who took the children in his arms and blessed them. Amen.

\* From: Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Year of the Child Study Document

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*

## SUMMER CREATIVE ENRICHMENT

Adult teachers and youth helpers are needed for Summer Creative Enrichment. This is the time for children ages 4 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade, during the worship hour, where they are given more age-appropriate learning than they would get in the regular sermon.

Lessons are prepared for you, and can be given to you at the beginning of the summer so you can prepare ahead of time for your lesson. If you have any questions about this responsibility, please call Marilyn Johns.

A sign-up poster is in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up for one or two weeks this summer. You will have a great time with our children!

## WORKCAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Group Workcamps is asking for adult male and female volunteers to attend the Country Roads Workcamp in Fayette County, West Virginia with the workcampers from PPC. Volunteers work as troubleshooters, traveling from worksite to worksite to give advice to the workcampers, and as helpers in the tool room, and kitchen, as photographers, and as general helpers. You stay in the high school with 450 workcampers, but you do not chaperone or sleep in the same rooms with the youth. There is no cost to you, and your mileage to the camp and while you are at the camp are reimbursed.

Check your calendar to see if you could get away the week of June 24-30. It will be an experience you will not soon forget! Call Marilyn Johns for further details and application forms, or go to the workcamp website at [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com).

## ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. George Pera, Pastor Emeritus of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, is a distinguished scholar and lecturer. He is a close friend of Kerry's, and known to many in our congregation as he led the most recent Elder retreat.

He will be with us during the month of May. On the first Sunday, he will speak on the general topic of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. On the following Sundays, he will deal directly with the class' theme for the year ~ putting on the whole armor of God ~ Ephesians 6 - vs. 11.

## *The Florence Casper Memorial Fund*

In Loving memory and gratitude for the life and ministry of Flo Casper, The Session has established a memorial fund. Gifts to the fund will be used to commission the writing of a choral anthem and to establish a scholarship for certification study for church secretaries.

The commissioned anthem will be premiered by our choir and presented as a gift to the choral libraries of St. Mark, New Hope and Darnestown Presbyterian churches. The anthem, featuring a printed dedication to Flo Casper, will be written on a text based on service and may be submitted for national publication for wider use.

The scholarship will be offered to church secretaries seeking certification through study offered by the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church. Flo received her certification in 1999 and continued to be an active member and leader in the association.

Checks may be given to Potomac Presbyterian Church in memory of Flo Casper.



*We rejoice in the birth of...*

Gracie Harrison, daughter of Alan and Crystal Harrison. Gracie's proud grandparents are Doris and Larry Dinterman.

*Congratulations to...*

Bob and Karen Karch, recently celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;  
Ed and Cathy Rudnic, recently celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

*Our prayers are with...*

Doris Dinterman. Doris' mother is seriously ill;

Larry and Doris Dinterman. Larry is recovering from shoulder surgery and both Larry's mother and Doris' mother are seriously ill;

Hugh Thuerk. Hugh is at home recovering from surgery;

Bob Conley, recovering from surgery;

Vivian Teets brother, David Brearley, who is recovering from chemotherapy.

## Miles to Travel ~ Miles for Memory & Merit

Being a man of tradition, Tom Miles, our Parish Associate, will travel to Princeton Theological Seminary on May 23 to be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of his 1951 graduation class. Tom will have an opportunity on Thursday evening, May 24, to participate in a special dinner prepared in the class's honor ~ which will put everyone in a mood to applaud President Gillespie's speech with toasts and cheers to fellow alumnus/alumnae who have survived 50 years ~ a celebratory event in itself.

However, Tom should not be considered a man only of the past. Having re-unioned he will move forward and westward to San Anselmo, California, for the baccalaureate service of the San Francisco Theological Seminary on May 25 and graduation ceremonies the next day at which time he will become "Dr. Tom" when he receives his doctorate.

As we will all want to have a detailed report of these two "MILES ~ stones," Grace Shepard has promised to keep a journal with photographs so we can all share in this "time of Tom's life."

Congratulations and well done!!! Tom.



**ARE YOU  
BEING  
CALLED?**

Are you being called to Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry is a confidential, caring relationship with someone in crisis or transition.

Have you ever had someone call you to talk about a problem, and you did not know how to respond? There are basic skills and insights that you can learn to care for hurting people. Would you like to learn to help others while growing in your understanding of yourself? If the answer is yes, and you are interested in knowing just what is involved with this commitment starting in October, speak to Kerry of one of the Stephen Leaders at coffee hour or call Ruthanne Stoltzfus, 301-424-8492, Kathy Mcpherson, 301-765-1154, Gail Cannon, 301-365-8632 or Nancy Tietjen, 301-299-3272

## Lines from Marilyn

It's baseball season, and one of the striking (pun not intended!) things about watching a baseball game is seeing the inevitable signs in the stands – JOHN 3:16. What does this mean? Why do people always have that sign?

John 3:16 is one of those foundational verses that we all had to memorize as children. I remember my children having races to see who could say it the fastest. It is a fairly short verse, but it contains so much!

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

The verse first reminds us that God is the one who takes the initiative in our salvation. It is dependent on God's love for us, not on how good we are or how much we deserve God's favor. Salvation is simply based on God's love.

God gave the ultimate sacrifice because of that great love for us – his Son, Jesus Christ. We have just experienced the agony of Holy Week and the triumph of Easter Sunday. God sent Jesus to earth to live among us, to understand us and help us to understand him. Then Jesus had to die a painful and horrible death. And all because God loved *us* so much!

The second part of the verse is often emphasized at memorial services. It reminds us that if we believe in Christ, our life is not over at the time of our death, but continues into eternity with God. What could be more comforting! What greater gift could God have given to us?

So why the sign at the baseball game? I think that the people who bring those signs think that if even one person who doesn't know what John 3:16 says goes to a Bible and looks it up, it might be a life-changing experience for them. Jesus delivers this verse as part of a lesson he is giving to Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council who meets Jesus in the dark of night to ask him some questions. Perhaps non-believers today can benefit from Jesus' teaching in the same way that Nicodemus did, at their own pace, and when they are ready to ask the question.

Take a moment to revisit John 3:16 and the verses surrounding it. We who are in the church sometimes lose our focus and forget why we do all the things we do. John 3:16 can help us to remember what our faith is all about. God loving us, and sacrificing his Son, so that we might have salvation and eternal life in heaven. Hmmm, you might call it a home run!

# WELCOME CARRIE SMITH

Carrie will begin her summer internship on May 31 and be with us for worship on June 3. We hope many of you met her on Palm Sunday. She will be with us for eleven weeks, including one week as a seminary delegate to General Assemle along with Youth Advisory delegate Rich McPherson. The internship will provide a rich opportunity for growth in ministry for Carrie, our congregation and our staff. Please be prepared to extend a warm welcome to Carrie during her time with us this summer. Our first challenge may be to determine which Carrie/Kerry you wish to speak to when you call the church office.

## Treasure or Trash

Do a good deed - get valuable information - - have fun! Find out what that silver bowl or cameo pin is worth. Antique dealers from Kensington's Antique Row will be at Cedar Lane Church (9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda) June 6 from 7 to 10 PM to provide verbal appraisals. Tax-deductible entry is \$10 in advance (tickets will be held at the door) or \$12 at the door. One verbal appraisal per ticket - each additional appraisal \$5.

## Silent Auction- Door prizes

Proceeds go to Interfaith Housing Coalition which provides transitional housing to formerly homeless families helping them become stable and self-sufficient.

Send checks to: IHC

7611 Claredon Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

## Komen National Race for the Cure

June 2, 2001

Just a reminder, all registration forms must be returned to Bettie Ann no later than May 9, 2001 in order to be turned into the Race office. This is necessary so we can pick up tee shirts and bib numbers on May 23, 2001.

Joyce and I will be in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday to accept your registration forms and donations. We will also have additional forms for anyone who may need them.

Please feel free to call with any questions.

Bettie Ann 301-963-5847 or Joyce 301 424-6288

## WAY TO GO!

Good Neighbor Tours will be departing July 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. Board our tourmobile and travel daily to adventures where children will meet people from the Old and New Testaments who become unexpected neighbors. These people understood that the Way to Go is to love God and their neighbor as themselves and to become a neighbor by helping, sharing, inviting, giving and telling the good news of Jesus Christ.

Way to Go stories, games, crafts, and fun will help our children know the Way to Go to love God and make a positive difference in the world around them.

Watch your mail for the Way to Go Travel Brochure for more information.

## YOUTH GROUP FLOWER SALE

(For Mother's Day!)

Show Mom you care and at the time support our youth as they continue to raise funds for their work camp experience in West Virginia this summer. We will be selling beautiful annuals in clay pots in early May - just in time for Mother's Day! Watch for more information and THANK YOU for all your wonderful support!



# Deacon's Corner

Before last summer, I knew very little about autism. Then in July, my 2 ½ year old nephew who lives in Boston stopped talking, playing with his toys and interacting with his three siblings and parents. He was diagnosed as autistic and suddenly I had personal knowledge of the pain and anguish of this disease.

Although I have never known someone with autism, it affects 1:500 children, typically in the first three years of life. Children with autism experience severe impairment in language, social interaction, cognition, and communication. It is more common than Down's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, or cystic fibrosis. There are no known causes and no effective treatments at this time.

I felt helpless, hopeless, and despondent when I thought about my nephew who seems all but lost to us now. The distance between Potomac and Boston might as well have been thousands of miles because I felt like I was useless to my family as they try to help my nephew.

In an effort to make a difference for him and others, I decided to organize a 5K Run/1 mile walk to raise money for a cure for autism. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will kick off the first Cure Autism Now - Run 2001 to benefit Cure Autism Now. Cure Autism Now is a national non-profit organization of parents, clinicians, and scientists working together in their dedication to finding effective biomedical treatments and a cure for autism and related disorders. It is the largest private funder of autism research and resources in the country. The Mid-Atlantic chapter is headquarters right here in Potomac.

I began my efforts in October as one individual and since then the outpouring of support has been tremendous. I'm fortunate to have some wonderful friends who agreed, early on, to serve on my race committee. To raise financial and in-kind support, I have reached out to family, friends, and the community. I have been blessed by many but particularly from friends at the church who brought my efforts to the attention of the Mission Committee last month. I was pleased and honored to receive their support as a child health mission. To date, we have raised over \$50,000 for this cause.

I am excited about the upcoming race that is geared to families with children of all ages. It will take place in Potomac Village and promises to be a wonderful way to kick off the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with an early celebration. I hope many of you can join us either as participants or volunteers. Together, we can make a difference in the search for a cure for autism. For more information, please call me at (301) 299-4133 or log onto [www.cureautismnow.org](http://www.cureautismnow.org).

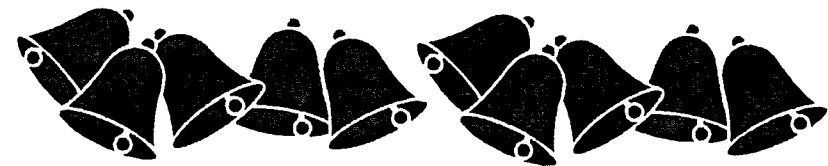
Susan Pereles



You hear them, but rarely see them. They spend hours at the church- during the week as well as Sundays. They practice for many weeks to support the musical portions of the worship services. They are willing to share their talents in very cramped spaces. They continually learn new literature that challenges their skills. They feel the joy of Christian fellowship in the pursuit of singing and ringing great music of the church. They have great patience with their director. They contributed to a Holy Week and Easter celebration that still inspires us. Who are these faithful servants? Read the names of the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs and rejoice in what they bring to our worship:


## Sanctuary Choir Members


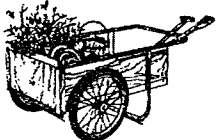



Diane Chapin, Donna Mecklenburg, Gail Yates, Marnel Williams, Kristen Stewart, Wendy Petti, Pat McMillen, Gloria Leber, Kara Sopko, Roberta Meredith, Elysse Meredith, Ann Hazard, Marcia Boogaard, Sheila Hanson, Sally O'Neal, Marilyn Shankland, Chan Chung, Patty Dunnavant, Joel Miller, Jackie Tillson, Kenny Kent, Alan Beck, Jon Hawley, John Hummon, Bob Mecklenburg, Charles Miller, Dave Moquin, Walter Stewart, and George Ligler.



## Handbell Choir Members

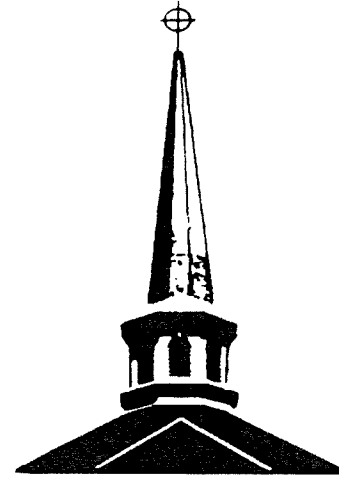
Elysse Meredith, Alice Smith, Margaret Fahs, Susan Mitchell, Sonia Russo, Wendy Petti, Mirian Conley, Carl Atwood, Roberta Meredith, and Mary Margaret Smith.

 Cindy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2001</h1> 						
		<b>1</b> 1:00pm The Lord's Table 7:00pm Compassionate Friends	<b>2</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Study with Tom Miles	<b>3</b> 12:30pm CE Committee Meeting 6:30pm Handbells 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>4</b> Confirmation Class Retreat	<b>5</b> Confirmation Class Retreat
<b>6</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship 6:00pm Sr. Hi Movie Night	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30am Christian Living 7:30pm Christian Living	<b>9</b> 9:30am Bible Study 2:45pm Collingswood 7:00pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Adult Study with Tom Miles	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm MOS 7:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>11</b>	
<b>13</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship ~ Youth Sunday 12:00 Fellowship ~ Plant Sale	<b>14</b> 8:00pm Committees	<b>15</b> 10:30am Men's Book Group 12:00 Steeple to People Deadline 3:30pm Stephen Leaders	<b>16</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Study with Tom Miles	<b>17</b> 7:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Confirmation Class 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:00am Confirmation Breakfast 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship, Confirmation & Communion 12:00 Fellowship 4:30pm Jr. Hi Youth Group 6:00pm Jr./ Sr. Hi Dinner 6:30pm Sr. Hi Youth Group	<b>21</b> 7:30pm Deacons 8:00pm Session	<b>22</b> 10:00am National Capital Presbytery Mtg.	<b>23</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Stephen Ministry No Adult Study	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Handbells 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Congratulations to Tom Miles Upon receiving D. Min from San Francisco Theological Seminary!!
<b>27</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 Fellowship 4:30pm Jr. Hi Youth Group 6:00pm Jr./ Sr. Hi Dinner 6:30pm Sr. Hi Youth Group	<b>28 Memorial Day</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Study with Tom Miles	<b>31</b> 6:30pm Handbells 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir  Welcome Summer Intern, Carrie Smith		

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

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June

2001

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## KERRY ON...

I would like to write a few words to our graduates and invite all of our church family to listen in.

Commencement is a good word and more helpful in thinking about what comes next than the word graduation. The first implies that we are about to begin a new adventure on the journey of life and the second suggests that we have completed something. Of course it is good to celebrate what we have accomplished. We applaud our graduates who have completed high school or college and we are pleased to recognize their hard work and the support of their families.

When we think about commencement we have to answer the inevitable question put to us by relatives and friends, "What are you going to do next year?" If you say, "I'm going to college" you may have to consider a follow up question, "Why?" Now that's a bit harder to answer. We don't really want to say, "Well the college I'm going to is a 'hot' school," or, "My parents want me to go to college," or even "I hope to get a good job when I graduate."

The next question might be, "How will that be an expression of your Christian faith?" By this time you may want to say, "Can I get back to you on that?" This is a good time to call Pastor Kerry. I won't be able to answer the question for you and that wouldn't be very helpful anyway, but I think I might be able to help you think about your journey of faith. Many experiences you have had in this congregation including Youth Group, Sunday School, Worship and Work Camp, will help you to form an answer. It only needs to be the beginning of an answer for the journey of faith is for a lifetime. **Congratulations to all our graduates!** See page 9.

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*

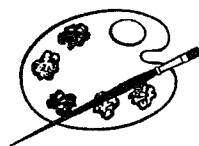


Last month I wrote about our wonderful serving friends in the Sanctuary and Handbell choirs. This month I am honoring our Primary and Children's choirs. The Primary Choir, grades K-2, finished its singing season in mid April. Coming faithfully on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m., these young singers astounded me with their alertness, energy and quick grasp of the musical techniques I introduced. When they sang in worship, their attendance was usually 100%, and intonation and diction quite accurate for children so young. The following children participated during this past 2000 - 2001 season: MeiLi Sohl,

Luke Pereles, Allison Srour, Kayla Mason, Charlotte Mecklenburg, Samantha Klein, Angelica Klein, Colleen Cronin, Molly Miller, Lucy Miller, Emily Petti and Lara Fu.

In our Children's Choir, grades 3-6, we have two members who were singers in our very first Primary Choir organized in 1996. They are fifth grader, Thomas Niskanen and sixth grader, Carole Dempsey. They have supported our choir program for a long time. Other members of this early morning Sunday singing choir are William Hewson, Jennifer Cronin, Kelly Stewart, Sarah Mecklenburg and Christa Sohl. These seven children have contributed meaningfully and faithfully in many of our worship services this year. They are well on their way to being responsible musical leaders in worship. I thank them all for their loyalty, friendship, senses of humor and lovely voices. Jesus said, "Let the children come unto Me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Amen

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES



We are beginning to assess our needs in the Sunday School Resource Room. As we discover things we need that you might have at home, we will let you know. At the moment, we are in need of small margarine tubs, which the children use for painting. If you have any to donate, please leave them in the Resource Room in the lower Sunday School level. Check the church bulletin for the scheduling of a clean-up day in mid-June. Many hands make light work!

## Vision 2010 Campaign Update

We are concluding phase 1 of the campaign on June 30; so please make your pledges by that time if you have not already done so. For those that have pledged, we thank you very much. We have now raised \$40,000 which enables initiation of our Potomac Project for establishing a mission-ministry to the Hispanic community. Many members asked important and tough questions about this new Vision 2010 campaign and mission project, which deserve thoughtful answers. Please watch for a "Q&A" letter from Diane Chapin in your mailbox very soon.

## In the Church Family

*We rejoice in the birth of...*

Eric P. Traband, son of Eric and Christina J. Traband born on May 4, 2001. The proud grandfather is Bill Malone;

Baby Clodfelter, daughter of Gregory Lynn and Trey Clodfelter born on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The proud grandparents are Ed and Lynda Tennent.

*Congratulations to...*

Alice Belden celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 29, 2001.

*Our prayers are with...*

Donna Mecklenburg who is at NIH undergoing chemotherapy.

*Godspeed to...*

Jim and Kay McClaine. Their new address as of May 18<sup>th</sup> is: 1413 Oak Street, Oakmont, PA 15139. Their phone # is: 412-820-0255;

John and Peggy Hawley. Their new address as of Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> is: P.O. Box 806 Frankfort, MI 49635 (403 Forest Avenue).

*New Address...*

Alice Smith recently moved. Her new address is: 407 Russell Avenue, Apt. #509 Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Her phone # is: 301-216-4834.



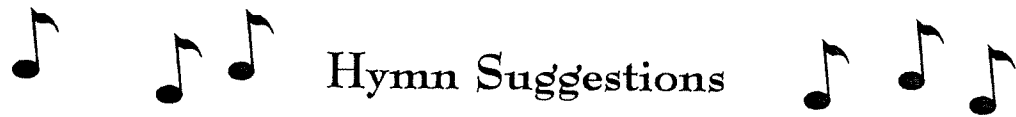
# Summer Creative Enrichment

Leaders are still needed to sign up to teach one or two sessions of Creative Enrichment this summer. The theme is "Bold Bible Kids," and curriculum packets will be provided. This is a great way to help out and give the regular teachers a summer break. Please check your calendar, find a week or two you will be in town, and then sign up on the poster in the Fellowship Hall. Youth helpers are also needed for each week.

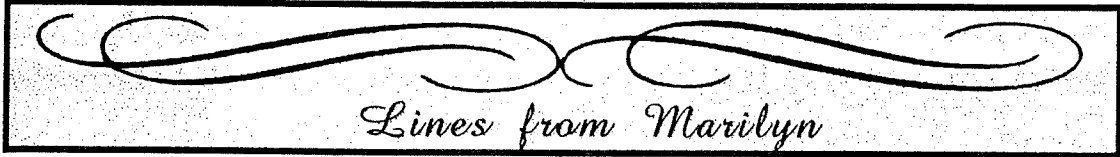
# Summer Hymn Service

One Sunday worship service later this summer will focus on the hymn – a song of praise to God. Each element in our worship service will be a hymn (or part of a hymn or hymns) spoken or sung by an individual or the congregation. The congregation is invited to submit hymn suggestions.

HYMN suggestions should be submitted by June 24 in the offering or to the church office. Please list up to 10 hymns that have been the most meaningful to your Christian life, faith and/or spiritual growth. As many hymns as possible will be included; use the following form. Thank you.



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



Well, it's that time of year again; spring is here (finally!), we're down to the last few weeks of Sunday School and youth groups, and we all breathe a collective sigh of relief that another successful year has passed in Christian Education ministry in our church. And the members of the Christian Education Committee can take a vacation. Well, not exactly. This is the time of the year when we begin recruiting teachers and helpers for *next* year's education program!

A new Search Institute study shows that although the vast majority of American adults (at least 70%) believe it's critically important to be active in the lives of children and teenagers, only about one out of 20 members are actually engaged in kids' lives. That's only 5%. I suspect that the number in this church is closer to 10%, but it is still a serious concern.

We have several ways that you can put your belief into practice. We have need for committed leaders in the following positions:

- Age 4 - Kindergarten Sunday School Teachers
- Shepherds for 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade rotation classes
- Rotation leaders for 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Teachers for Junior and Senior High Sunday School
- Creative Enrichment teachers
- Youth group advisors

Job descriptions are available for each of these positions. If you are called, I heartily urge you to say yes. The time commitment for any of these positions is usually once to twice a month, and curriculum is always provided. Surely our children and youth education is important enough to give of yourself, which is the most precious gift you can give them. Who knows? You might even have fun!

## Confirmation

On Sunday, May 20, 2001, we celebrated Confirmation Day and the following young people made their affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

Brittney Bernstein	Ashley Burnett	Kimi Cissel	Jennifer Dart
Damon Dowd	Katherine King	JoJo Kovacs	Beth MacFarlan
Katie MacFarlan	Jeff Machlin	Jenny Machlin	Jackie McMahon
Hadden Mindnich	Kyle Newton	Peter Rosecrans	David Wescott

# PRAY for our WORKCAMPERS

On June 24, 33 youth and adults from PPC will travel to Fayette County, West Virginia, to help those unable to help themselves. We will rebuild and repair roofs, build ramps for handicap access, paint inside and out, and numerous other jobs to improve the quality of living in this depressed part of our country.

The contributions from PPC have been overwhelming, and we give you our heartfelt thanks. We have raised over \$11,000 for this trip, due largely to your support of our fundraisers. Our recent car wash alone raised over \$1000. We thank you, and the residents of Fayette County thank you.

If you would like to write a note or send a care package to one or more of the workcampers, the address is listed below. Please send things no later than Tuesday to ensure that they will be received while we are there. Cards, notes, goodies, encouragement are all very much appreciated.

Send to: Valley High School  
P.O. Box 459 (US Route 60)  
Smithers, WV 25186

Please also begin now in praying for the workcampers listed below. Pray for their safety, as well as for the solidifying of their Christian faith through service to others. Pray that our group will be strengthened, and that the residents of Fayette County will be impacted in a positive way by our presence.

Paige Appleby	Carl Atwood	Joe Bernstein	Kelli Cissel
Joe Curry	Jennifer Dart	Brian Dunlop	Erin Dunlop
Janet Dunlop	Andrew Grier	Mira Guo	Jim Jochum
Renee Jochum	Liz Johns	Marilyn Johns	Rachel Johns
Kara Karch	Jeremy Knighton	Beth MacFarlan	Katie MacFarlan
David McKune	Megan McKune	Jackie McMahan	Katherine McPherson
Rich McPherson	Elysse Meredith	Betsey Rudnic	Meggie Rudnic
Peter Russo	Chris Teets	David Wescott	Emily Wescott
Rob Wescott			

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will begin Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> and run through Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Watch your mailbox for the "Good Neighbor Tour" travel brochure. VBS is for children pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

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We are happy to announce that Teresa Garcia has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant for Potomac Presbyterian Church and will begin to work in the church office in June.

Teresa received her Bachelor of Music degree from Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music and is currently the organist at the Idylwood Presbyterian Church in Falls Church, Virginia where she is also an Elder.

In addition to teaching piano, she has worked in several secretarial positions including Secretary/Administrative Assistant at the Fairfax Christian Church.

Teresa is originally from Hinton, West Virginia and has lived in this area for 13 years. She has a daughter, Carmen, who will soon be 5 years old.

We are delighted that Teresa will be joining us soon. We are also grateful that Debbie McKune has agreed to work with Teresa to familiarize her with our office and that Debbie will return to work in our office on special projects and when Teresa is on vacation.

## Congratulations to our Graduates

### Graduate

Chris Atwood  
Rebecca Curry  
Caitlyn Curtis  
Catherine Dorman  
Adam Ligler  
Erin Lyons  
Sharon Reid  
Jennifer Russo

Matt Teets  
Jeff Toerge

### Graduate

Sharon Hougen  
Doug Reid

### High School

Churchill  
Churchill  
Bullis  
Whitman  
Churchill  
Churchill  
Churchill  
Richard Montgomery,

### International Baccalaureate Program

Churchill  
Churchill

### College/University

Skidmore College  
Duke University

### Future Plans

Carnegie Mellon University  
Montgomery College  
University of Maryland  
Towson University  
Furman University  
University of Chicago  
Syracuse University  
University of Maryland

University of Colorado  
Roger Williams College



## Stephen Ministry

Have you heard the call? Are you one of the men or women who are willing to answer Jesus' call to serve as Stephen Ministers? It is a two-year commitment that begins with 50 hours of stimulating and useful training in Christian caring skills. When this training is completed, you will be commissioned and ready to begin ministry. After commissioning, the Stephen Ministers will be available to meet weekly with persons needing a confidential friend because of a difficult time in their lives. We also meet twice a month for continuing education and supervision. While this requires a big commitment of time and effort, it also brings many rewards. The skills you learn will help you in all your everyday relationships with family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. Think and pray about this exciting opportunity and let Kerry or one of the Stephen leaders know you are interested. To plan effectively, we have to know by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Intergenerational Pentecost Event

All ages are invited to attend the Pentecost learning event held in the downstairs Sunday School hall promptly at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday June 3. There will be fun and activities for everyone, and you might just learn something at the same time! We will

end the event at 10:30 and convene in the Fellowship Hall to appreciate our teachers.

## Deacon's Corner

I'm Carl Atwood. I am fifteen years old and am a sophomore at Winston Churchill High School. I am an active participant in PPC's youth group and handbell choir.

When asked if I wanted to be a deacon, I was somewhat surprised for one main reason: I'm fifteen years old. Numerous questions started floating around in my head. Am I qualified to be a deacon? What is a deacon anyway? Do I want to do this? Should I do this? As I lay in bed that night I realized that God was calling me to action. He was asking me to act on my faith. All my doubts and fears went away at that moment and I made a solemn promise to serve God and the congregation to the best of my abilities.

I am pleased to be one of PPC's two youth deacons. So far it has been a fun and rewarding experience, and I look forward to the coming months with excitement.

Work camp will be in a few weeks, and I would like to ask for "goody bag" items. Each year the deacons give the workcampers a bag of miscellaneous necessities. We are looking for people to donate toiletries, bug spray, various treats, tic tacs, etc. If you would like to donate some of these items, please contact your deacon or Marilyn Johns.

## Church Picnic!



Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 10 for our annual PPC Church Picnic. There will be fun and food for the entire family. Best of all, you'll be helping support the youth workcamp at the same time!

The summer schedule begins on June 10<sup>th</sup>, so get out at 10 a.m. for worship and 11 a.m. for good eating and fellowship!

See you there!

## Welcome Carrie

Hello everyone! I'm looking forward to my summer with you here at Potomac Presbyterian Church. I had the opportunity to meet many of you on Palm Sunday, and I hope to meet the rest of you soon. I'm looking forward to working and learning alongside you, as part of your church family for a little while.

I'm currently a student at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. I'm studying for a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education, a four-year program, and have now nearly completed my third year. I'm not from anywhere in particular anymore, having moved several times in my life. I grew up primarily in the Midwest, and attended college in Ohio, but I've since enjoyed my time in Virginia very much. I love exploring the uniqueness of each place that I've lived, and I look forward to spending some time in the D.C./Maryland area. I love to read, spend time outdoors, hike and make art in my spare time.

The past few summers have been wonderful opportunities for me to learn alongside others in settings away from the classroom. I am excited about this summer and the chance to be involved in your church community – your work and worship – for an extended period of time. I will have the opportunity to participate in many aspects of church leadership, and I look forward to being challenged, and to growing in skills and in relationship with you. Thank you for your warm welcome, and I'll see you soon!

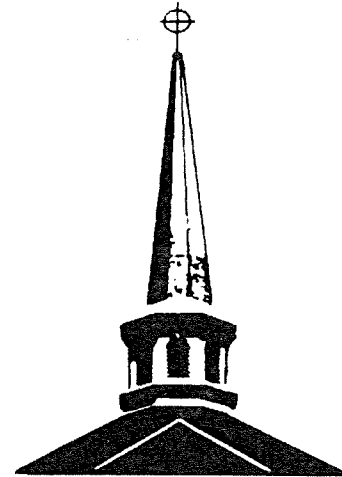
## Steeple to People deadline

The deadline for the summer issue of Steeple to People is July 15<sup>th</sup>. For those of you that like to plan ahead ~ the September deadline is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<h1>June 2001</h1>				
<b>3 Pentecost</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Intergenerational Sunday School for Pentecost 11:00am Worship/Communion 12:00 Fellowship 12:00 Jr/Sr Hi Youth- Washington Mystics Game	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 1:00pm The Lord's Table 7:00pm Compassionate Friends	<b>6</b> 1:00pm VBS Teacher Meeting	<b>7</b> 12:30am C.E. Committee 6:30pm Handbells 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> General Assembly Convenes God Speed to: Rich McPherson and Carrie Smith
<b>10 Summer Schedule Begins</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Church Picnic Work Camp Meeting Following Picnic	<b>11</b> 8:00pm Committee Meetings	<b>12</b> 12:00 Christian Living Luncheon	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> General Assembly Ends
<b>17</b> 10:00am Worship Father's Day Chorus 11:00am Fellowship	<b>18</b> 8:00pm Session	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Oriole's Baseball Game	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Work Camp Begins</b> 8:00am WorkCamp Worship 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	<b>25</b> 7:30pm Deacons	<b>26</b> 6:00pm National Capital Presbytery Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Work Camp Ends 

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

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Summer

2001

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## KERRY ON...

Mystery is not the absence of meaning, but the presence of more meaning than we can comprehend.\*

This is a good definition of mystery as used by the Apostle Paul when referring to the mystery of Christ or the mystery of the Gospel. It also applies to the mystery of God. Peterson talks about the distinction between approaching life as a problem and entering it as a mystery. We certainly live in a problem solving culture and tend to expect “experts” to solve our human problems.

But life does not always yield to problem solving and certainly death does not. The birth of a child is a profound mystery as is the death of a loved one. I think we stand before a problem, roll up our sleeves and find a solution. In the presence of a mystery we stand in awe and may even take off our shoes and declare the ground holy.

The meeting of two strangers in an act of compassion is a mystery. Finding tears running down our face during the singing of a hymn is a mystery. Discovering that we are beloved by the Creator of the universe is a mystery. Waking up in the morning to a new day and new possibilities is a mystery. Being cared for by a friend beyond any deserving on our part is a mystery. Hearing the words of Jesus, “I no longer call you servants, but friends” is a mystery beyond our imagining.

Thanks be to God!

\*Denis Covington, Salvation on Sand Mountain, as quoted in Eugene Peterson and Marva Dawn in The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call

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 this time of year it is not unusual to receive a postcard with the words, "...having a wonderful time. Wish you were here." I could easily say that to you because at this moment I am writing from a park bench in the middle of the Westminster College campus where I am attending a Presbyterian Conference on Worship and Music. I am attending seminars on adult, youth and children's choirs, organ service playing, hymnody and handbell ringing. I attend worship each morning at 9:00 a.m. where I sit in the pew and am inspired by invigorating congregational singing, challenging sermons, refreshing styles of worship, new vocal responses and organ playing that literally stirs my soul. I also rehearse daily as a soprano in the 300-voice adult choir directed by Dr. Eric Nelson, a dynamic choral musician, professor at Emory University, and a dedicated Christian.

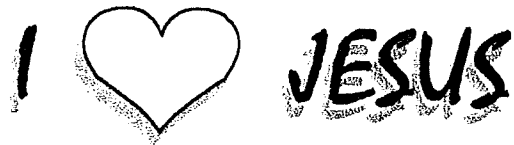
I am attending this conference as part of the continuing education category in our church budget. I thank you for this opportunity to learn, renew my faith and participate in this stimulating week of study. I hope that I will be a more effective leader in our PPC congregation after being a participant in this great Westminster congregation this week.



Gratefully,  
Cindy



Dear Children of the  
Sunday School,



Thank you very much for the beautiful bookmark that you gave to me in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination as a Pastor. I am using it in a special book I am reading each day called Amazing Grace: Hymns for Devotional Use. I will use it for special books and always remember you and your kindness to me.

May God Bless you Always,  
Pastor Kerry

### *In the Church Family*

*We rejoice in the birth of...*

6-15-01

Christian Augustine Alarie, son of Mark Alarie and Rene Augustine born on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Christian's proud sister is Isabella; proud grandparents are Norm and Meg Augustine;

Lynda Gregory (Laney) Clodfelter, daughter of Gregory Lynn and Trey Clodfelter born on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Proud grandparents are Ed and Lynda Tennent;

Andrew Hall Kline, son of Richard and "Alex" Kline born on May 24<sup>th</sup>. His proud brother is Ashton and proud sister is Victoria.

*Congratulations and God's blessing on...*

Michael Leber and Susan English who were married on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fairfax, Virginia. Michael's parents are Charlie and Gloria Leber;

Tom Gimer and Ece Uran who were married on June 16<sup>th</sup>;

Carol Cookerly and Robert Beal who were married on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Linville, North Carolina. Carol's parents are Tom and Mary Ann Cookerly.

*Congratulations to...*

Abby Clouse. Abby received her Master of Arts degree from the University of Arizona in Comparative Cultural Literary Studies. She will be working now on obtaining a PhD;

Lynn and Bill Bigler on the birth of their granddaughter, Kacey Leigh, to their daughter Janis and son-in-law Mark on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Our prayers are with...*

Sheila Hanson. Sheila is laid up at home;

Donna Mecklenburg. Donna continues to recover at home;

Elsie Reid. Elsie is recovering from surgery at home;

Marilyn Shankland. Marilyn is recovering from surgery at home;

Grace Shepherd. Grace's mother died recently.

*Godspeed to...*

Solvejg Rozner who moved to Hamburg, Germany. She will be living near her sister.

*We give thanks for the life of...*

Alice Belden who died at the age of 100 on May 19, 2001.

*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."*

## Deacon's Corner

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Betsey Rudnic and I will be a senior at Quince Orchard High School. I am very involved with the church and recently attended workcamp in Smithers, West Virginia. It was truly a life changing experience for me. I went last year as well, and my faith gets stronger and stronger with every time I go.

You are placed in a crew with no one that you know and assigned a house and a resident with which you will work for the entire week. My resident was a woman named Charlotte who had been a carnie (worked in a carnival) for over 10 years but was out of work with an injury. Through her openness and willingness to help we could see God, and it was truly amazing.

I was also able to learn a lot more about the Bible from the adult in my group, a man named Rob Hileman. Because I was the devotion leader for my crew, we talked a lot about the Bible while we were on the job. Rob's passion for God and the Bible were so inspiring to me. Also, kids that I knew who were not very sure about their faith would be asking him questions and joining in the discussions, which was what it was all about, really.

At night we would attend the evening programs with our youth groups, and we would focus on God and working through Him. This part of workcamp was also very inspiring to me because of the different takes they focused on. Afterwards, we would have devotions with our youth group a chance to relate the Bible to our everyday lives and the residents we were working with. If anything from

workcamp made my faith stronger it was the devotions we did twice a day (once with our crew and once with our youth group). Seeing how strong the faith was inside my peers made me see God in a totally different way.

Also, the gratitude we received from our residents made my faith stronger. Charlotte made us dessert every day that we were there and even offered a baby kitten to each of us (she had 3). When we arrived she had even power washed the house for us. But without any of these things, we still could tell she knew we were there to make living better for her, and mostly because of God. I am truly blessed to have been able to have such a life changing experience.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Jim and Kay  
McClaine

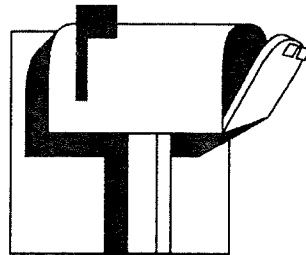
1413 Oak St.  
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15139

Tel: 412-820-0255

Edward Tennent (Jr.)  
1414 Hamorton Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205

Sandra Frazier  
11452 Assateague Road  
Berlin, Maryland 21811  
410-629-0638

Ed Shipley  
8100 Connecticut Ave., Apt. 719  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20814  
301-657-2868



## Lines from Marilyn

This month I will begin class work on a Doctor of Ministry degree at Virginia Theological Seminary. For some time, I have been wanting to further my formal education with the pursuit of another degree that would help me to develop new skills in ministry, sharpen the skills I already have, and give new insight and energy to programs I lead.

Virginia Theological Seminary is located in Alexandria, Virginia, and is affiliated with the Episcopal Church. Their program, however, is intentionally ecumenical, and they have several Presbyterian faculty members. The education received at VTS is highly regarded in our denomination. There are only eight candidates in each D.Min. class at VTS.

The program is designed to allow those who are working in ministry to continue in that ministry while pursuing the degree. I will be in residence at VTS for three weeks each summer for the next three years. During that time I will be 1) participating in and leading worship, 2) taking an intensive class in some aspect of the Bible, 3) presenting and receiving feedback on case studies I have written, and 4) taking classes in a variety of aspects of ministry. For the rest of the year I will have some reading to do, but will not be required to take classes or be away from the church. In addition, I will be designing, implementing and evaluating projects at PPC and at the presbytery/GA level that will enhance the ministry of our church and of other levels of the PCUSA in which I am involved. During the final year, there will be a major thesis project due, which I must research, prepare and defend.

For this year, I will be away from the church from July 2 to July 20. This follows directly on the heels of workcamp, so I will actually be out of the office for four consecutive weeks. Vacation Bible School falls during this time, but our intern, Carrie Smith, has agreed to oversee the activities that week - the majority of the work is done ahead of time, and we have two wonderful co-directors, Kay Mitchel and Judi Miller. In addition to my absence, another way PPC will be impacted is that the projects will introduce some new models or programs into the church's ministry. I hope that this is a very positive experience for all of us, and that the ministry of PPC will grow.

Many have asked if I will be a pastor after completion of this program. The answer is no. I will have a Doctor of Ministry degree, but I am still called and committed to educational ministry. I am confident that this educational experience will help me to be better equipped to do the work God has called me to. I appreciate your prayers during this time away, and look forward to sharing my experiences when I return.

# W E L C O M E

to our summer intern

Carrie Smith...

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." Paul wrote these words to the church at Corinth. They remind me of the experiences I've had so far this summer at Potomac Presbyterian Church. I'm enjoying this opportunity to meet many of the people that make up this part of the body of Christ. I'm gradually learning about more of you: who is on what committee, who has been on vacation recently or is excited about going soon, who is related to whom, what your jobs and interests are, what you think about scripture and the church in the world. Often you've told me what you love about your church. I, too, have come to appreciate the friendliness and warmth I've experienced here, as well as your willingness to share your experiences ~ whether they are in Sunday School, worship, Vacation Bible School, youth group, Stephen Ministry, as an elder or deacon, or a volunteer for mission or special projects. I appreciate the exchange of ideas and experiences, and the sharing of individual gifts.

Paul writes in I Corinthians that each person has gifts with which they can build up the church, the body of Christ. This week I've particularly enjoyed seeing the interaction between the adults and young adults of the church who have put so much time and energy into an awesome week of VBS, and the children who have participated, learning and playing with us. Older and younger alike bring many individual gifts and ways of looking at the world. I have the sense that despite our inevitable human failings, here there is genuine attempt to listen to one another in love, to encourage each other in the upbuilding of the church, and to make PPC a welcoming church home. I've experienced this at VBS, but also on Sunday mornings and in meetings with you. Thanks for inviting me in, to work and play with you these few months! Have a wonderful week, and may the peace of Christ be with you.

Carrie

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### Note for Elders and Deacons:

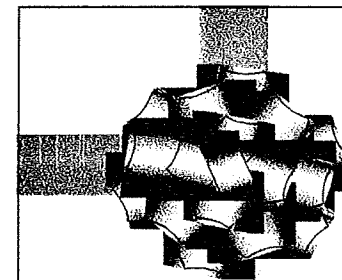
August 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Session Meeting  
August 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting

## "CLOTHING-RECYCLING BIN FOR PPC"

We now have a new large green clothing-recycling bin at the rear door to our kitchen at PPC, ready and waiting for all of our reusable clothing. This bin has set up by the Clothing Recycling Company to allow members of PPC to donate their no longer needed clothing, shoes, blankets, sheets, and towels. The Clothing Recycling Company will pick up these items each week, clean them if necessary, size them, and deliver them free of charge to the Interfaith Clothing Center in Rockville. The Interfaith Clothing Center is a part of Community Ministry of Montgomery County's efforts to help the needy in our county. Since 1965 the Interfaith Clothing Center has distributed donated clothing to low-income families in Montgomery County and is the largest provider of such clothing in Montgomery County.

So, as you go through your summer closet changeover, put your reusable items into shopping bags and place them in our recycling bin. If you need a receipt for these items, the forms will be available in our church office or by calling the Clothing Recycling Company at 703-204-1040.

If you have other "gently used" items such as toys, games, children's books, dishes, flatware, pots and pans that you wish to share with low-income families in Montgomery County, you can deliver these items to the Interfaith Clothing Center, 751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville MD 20851. The telephone number is 301-424-3796. You can be sure that all of these items will bring much joy and comfort to our neighbors in need.



### Charitable Gift Annuity

*Make a future gift to the church and its mission while receiving payments for life!*

A charitable gift annuity is an option to fulfill your charitable goals without sacrificing personal income. The gift annuity pays you, or a loved one, a fixed payment based on your age when the gift is made. After your lifetime, the charitable remainder of the annuity is distributed to the charitable beneficiary you select.

Contact Bill King, Endowment Chairman, or Pastor Stoltzfus for more information.



## Komen National Race for the Cure

On the cool morning of June 2, 2001 the team members from Potomac Presbyterian Church joined 72,000 from the Washington area and all across the country to participate in the world largest 5K race.

This year we had our largest "PPC" team with 51 team members and we raised a total of \$4585.00. Someday we will find the "cure" for Breast Cancer, a disease which has affected so many of us.

A hearty "well done" to the team members who walked or ran on Saturday June 2.

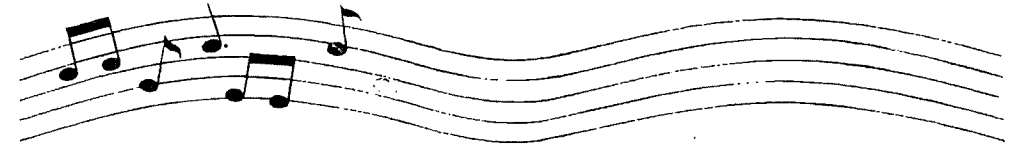
Carrie Smith	Roberta Meredith	Carol Hudgins
Janet Koonce	Elysse Meredith	Gail Cannon
Taylor Johnson	Marisa Macias	Ralph Mitchell
Carolyn Smith	Ruthanne Stoltzfus	Wendy Petti
Gary Niskanen	Kathy McPherson	Carl Atwood
Kay Norvell	Katherine McPherson	Maitland MacFarlen
Carol Garvey	Gail Yates	Sandy MacFarlen
Marie Richart	Maryann Forward	David McLaughlin
Elizabeth Kent	Marnel Williams	Mary McLaughlin
Christopher Kent	Elizabeth Barton-Whatmoor	Ann Eagleson
Stephen Kent	Dean Whatmoor	Nelia Chichester
Tricia Kirchner	Vivian Teets	Elizabeth Gustafson
Robb Kirchner	Richard Gimer	Devin Anne Gustafson
Brett Kirchner	Melissa Swanner	Bridget Newton
Stephen Kirchner	Ece Uran	Courtney Koonce
Bettie Ann Johnson	Thomas Gimer	Olivia Mabeus
Carol Clouse	Beth Rudnic	Joyce Kenkins

It was an inspirational day for all of us and many members of our TEAM have expressed a desire to do it again next year.

I will always be thankful for the wonderful support given by the Mission Committee and our members and friends of PPC and may God be with each of you as you continue His work in our community.

Faithfully,  
Bettie Ann

## Darcy Smith Dance and Music Scholarship



Amy Conway has been awarded the 2001 Darcy Smith sixth annual Dance and Music Scholarship Award of \$1,000, provided by the Darcy Smith Memorial Endowment Fund of PPC. Her name will be added to the permanent plaque at the Maryland Youth Ballet School recognizing the recipients of this scholarship.

The scholarship is presented in recognition of Darcy's talent in dance, choreography, and music. It recognizes her musicality, artistry, creative spirit, courage, independence, and kindness.

The winner of this year's award was selected by the Darcy Smith Dance and Music Scholarship Committee chaired by Mary Margaret Smith, with Kerry Stoltzfus and Cynthia Wright present. Ariana Smith, Derek Smith and Melissa Smith Conway also reviewed the applications.



## Gaithersburg Christmas International House

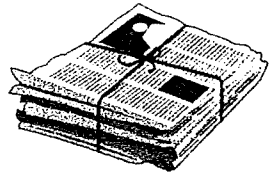
December 20, 2001 to January 2, 2002

Come join others from Gaithersburg area churches as we share our many blessings at Christmas with college students from around the world. As part of our annual Christmas International House organization, you will help to host foreign students who have been invited to spend their Christmas holiday in the Gaithersburg area. Our goal is to provide activities and a place to stay for the students who otherwise would be in an empty dormitory on a deserted campus during what should be a joyous season.

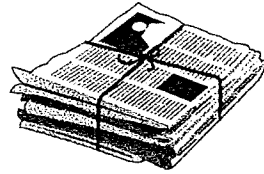
We need families to house a student or two for the one or two week period. We also need assistance with all-day trips, evening parties, dinners for small groups, and other arrangements. It's not too early to start dreaming of a most memorable Christmas.

For more information, please call Margaret Curren, 301-926-1086 or Arlene Jones, 301-977-1595.

Thank you so much.



# NEWS Flash!



## PPC Youth Help the Needy!!!

A group of young people from Potomac Presbyterian Church recently participated in a weeklong workcamp mission in Fayette County, West Virginia.

During the week of June 24-30, the 25 youth and their 7 adult sponsors participated in the "Country Roads" Workcamp located in Smithers, West Virginia, which was sponsored by Group Workcamps of Loveland, Colorado and the Appalachian Labor Service. The participants paid their own expenses and provided their own transportation to the workcamp. The young people spent the entire week repairing and weatherizing family homes for elderly, low-income, and disabled people.

Approximately 475 other young people and their adult sponsors from locations throughout the United States, representing many churches and denominations, also participated in the "Country Roads" Workcamp. Potomac Presbyterian Church was the third largest group represented at the workcamp.

Through their work, these youth gained a life-changing understanding about the hardships of poverty in our own country. They feel good knowing they've helped make families warmer and drier this winter. The workcamp experience provides the youth a unique opportunity to show their Christian faith by working together to help others in need.

The 25 young people and 7 *adult sponsors* that made the trip are:

Paige Appleby	Carl Atwood	Joe Bernstein	Kelli Cissel
Jennifer Dart	Brian Dunlop	Erin Dunlop	Andrew Grier
Mira Guo	Liz Johns	Rachel Johns	Jeremy Knighton
Beth MacFarlan	David McKune	Megan McKune	Jackie McMahon
Katherine McPherson	Rich McPherson	Elysse Meredith	Betsey Rudnic
Meggie Rudnic	Peter Russo	Chris Teets	David Wescott
Emily Wescott	<i>Joe Curry</i>	<i>Janet Dunlop</i>	<i>Marilyn Johns</i>
<i>Jim Jochum</i>	<i>Renee Jochum</i>	<i>Vivian Teets</i>	<i>Rob Wescott</i>

## PPC Workcampers Have a Great Week!

Yes, it was hot; yes, it was grungy; yes, the work was hard. But the satisfaction of helping others in the name of Christ was worth the sacrifices we all made to go to Fayette County, West Virginia, for a week of workcamp. There were over 420 people working at this camp, and this was the third workcamp in this area this summer. That may give you an idea of the poverty and devastation in this mountainous area on the New River.

25 youth and seven adults arrived in camp wearing their orange PPC workcamp t-shirts, some looking apprehensive, some looking excited, all glad to have arrived safely after the 6+ hour trip. We were very sad that Katie MacFarlan couldn't join us; she had been planning all year to go, but got ill at the last moment and had to stay home. She was in our prayers, however, and we felt her presence with us all week.

Starting on Monday, after the first day at work and meeting with our residents, we came back to find the entire mail wall filled with letters and postcards from PPC members. What a joy to have that connection to home! Thank you so much for thinking of us while we were gone. We felt your prayers and knew we were not alone.

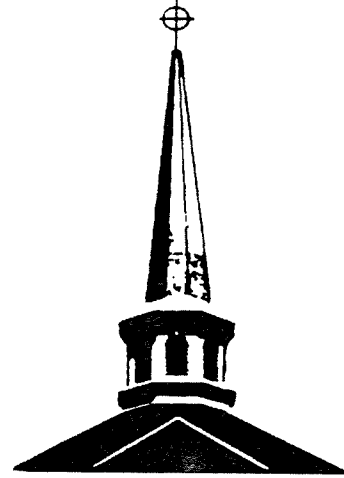
Each of the workcampers was asked to write a short reflection on their experience. When those are all received, they will be compiled into a booklet for you to read. Hopefully, it will give you a taste of the good, bad, and gracious moments of workcamp. We could not do this project without the generous and loving support from this congregation. You are making a huge difference in the lives of young people, who will never forget this experience.

All of the workcampers are thankful to be home, thankful to our nurturing family, and thankful to God for the opportunity to minister in His name to the people of West Virginia.



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

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

September

2001

## **KERRY ON...**

One of our continuing struggles as Christians is how to rightly combine word and deed as we seek to be faithful in expressing our Christian faith. Many urge explicit proclamation of the Gospel in words that call for a response on the part of listeners. Others emphasize that deeds of love and compassion done in the name of Jesus is proclamation of the Gospel. Saint Francis once wrote,

*Proclaim the Gospel always, if necessary use words.*

This struggle takes on new significance in light of what is now called "Faith based initiatives."

For me one of the best expressions of the wholeness of proclaiming the Gospel is in the words of Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief.

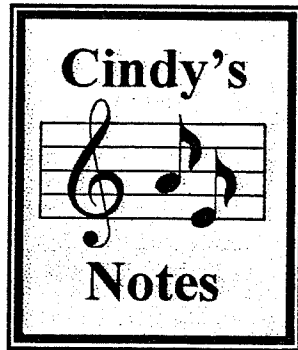
As God sent Christ to us,  
so Christ sends us into the world.  
We are here to proclaim Christ in word and deed.

Mission is evangelism,  
the offer of salvation to all people  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
It asks people to repent of their sins,  
to trust Christ,  
to be baptized  
and to enter a life honoring Jesus as Lord.

Mission is service,  
a call to help people in need and  
to permeate all of life with the compassion of God.

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*

## Singers and Ringers



### The Wright Note...

It's Time for your Fall Tune-Up

September brings back regular choir rehearsals for those of you who were previously members of any of the four choirs and those of you who may want to join this season. Read the following choir listings and decide if you have the time and commitment to enjoy Christian fellowship and the musical ensemble these groups offer.

#### PRIMARY CHOIR

Children grades K - 2. Wednesday 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.  
First practice is Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children grades 3 - 6. Sundays 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.  
First practice is September 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### SANCTUARY CHOIR

Adults of any age. Thursdays 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
First practice is September 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### HANDBELL CHOIR

Thursdays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
First practice is September 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Since special musical knowledge is needed, please contact Cindy Wright personally before joining.

I look forward to welcoming old and new singers and ringers alike. The joy of experiencing music together in rehearsal and worship is unique to those who participate. Come, join the happy song!

*Cindy*

## A PRAYER FOR CHOIRS

by Pastor Stoltzfus

September 2001

God of grace who gives music to the heart and a song to the lips, we join the happy chorus of all who have gone before us and lifted their voices in praise. We are grateful for hymn writers and composers of anthems. We rejoice in the gifts of those who with the Psalmist play instruments with joyous sound.

Continued on page 8

## In the Church Family

### *Congratulations and God's blessing on...*

Tom Gimer and Ece Uran who were married on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Tom's parents are Dick and Milly Gimer.

Timothy Simpson and Laura Parmelee who were married on July 28<sup>th</sup> in Hartford, Connecticut. Tim's parents are Paddy and David Simpson.

Fred Clark and Janet Mackay who were married on July 14<sup>th</sup> in Naples, Florida. Fred is Ed Clark's father.

### *Our prayers are with...*

Roberta Meredith. Roberta is recovering from surgery at home;

Sheila Hanson. Sheila is receiving care at home;

Donna Mecklenburg. Donna continues to recover at home;

Bob Plumb and family. Bob's father, Carlton, died in July in Delmar, New York.

### *We give thanks for the life of...*

Larry Dick who died on July 27, 2001.

*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."*



*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;  
and lean not to thine own understanding.*

*In all the ways acknowledge Him  
and He shall direct your paths.*

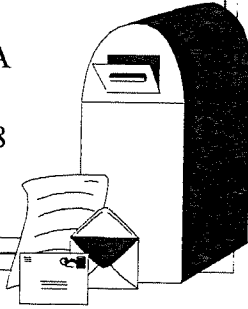
*Proverbs 3:5,6*

### Address Changes

Bob Best  
12121 Glen Mill Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-738-9496

Douglas Reid  
900 North Randolph St.  
#427

Arlington, VA  
22203  
703-812-9348



### Mark your Calendars!

On Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, we will return to our normal schedule, with the Sunday Worship Services beginning at 11:00 a.m.

## Time for Dine-With-Nine

It's Dine-With-Nine II -- starting in September. Here's a wonderful way to meet other PPC members and learn more about your congregation. We will be starting a new version of Dine-With-Nine in September, so look for a sign-up notice coming soon. We are extending a special invitation to all new members who have joined PPC within the last three years. We are looking for volunteers to be the first host or hostess. Groups of 8 or 9 will be organized and the host will provide the main entrée for a potluck dinner in their home. Others will be asked to bring the rest of the meal. While previously, we asked these groups to continue for four once-a-month dinners, this year, we acknowledge busy schedules may preclude this. So we will begin with a one-time dinner scheduled in September or October and leave the rest to each group to decide. Please call Maggie Fahs, 301-365-2395, for information.

### *Lines from Marilyn*

Last month I reported to you that I was beginning the Doctor of Ministry program at Virginia Theological Seminary. This month I am pleased to report that I have completed my first three week summer session and it was wonderful!

There were 14 students in the program, representing eight different denominations. I was one of two women and one of three who were not pastors, but I felt right at home and was able to keep up with the large amount of work (reading, writing, evaluating, studying). Everyone was very welcoming, and we were able to find a little time for some activities together as a group (field trips to the National Cathedral and to Adams-Morgan, an evening outing to Wolf Trap, and a dinner in Old Town Alexandria at the end of the program). We shared the seminary with a group of about 15 students working on their Master's in Christian Education.

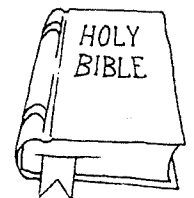
Each day began with worship, followed by Bible study led daily by students. Then we had our seminar class with the Rev. John Yieh, a Presbyterian minister, on the book of Matthew. This was extremely challenging, with a great deal of writing and research, but was very interesting and stimulating. We also met in case study groups where we reviewed the case studies each of us brought with us. This was a more relational activity, and was helpful for sharing ideas and strategies for ministry and leadership.

For the remainder of this year, I hope to do at least three projects which will inform my case studies for next summer. The three areas in which I will be writing case studies are: Nurturing Personal and Spiritual Growth, Teaching and Proclamation, and Engaging the World. Kerry and I have already discussed some possible projects in these areas. I will also have some reading to do, and an examination or two to take.

I very much appreciate the support of the session and congregation for this endeavor. I truly treasured my time at VTS, and look forward to next summer's residency. I was surprised that meeting new people was so easy, and that even though the academics were rigorous, I was able to hold my own and do well. Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement.

### BIBLES FOR THIRD GRADERS

Bibles will be given by the Marty Brill Fund to all students in grade 3 on Sunday, September 16. Please make a special effort to attend this meaningful worship service.



# FAREWELL

## and Godspeed to Carrie Smith

Where do I even begin? This summer has been an incredible experience for me, and it's hard to decide what to talk about amidst so many good things.

I've learned so much from being here with you. There are a lot of practical things you can't learn from books, and the ins and outs of daily work in the church are better experienced than heard. For example, I understand now why ministers talk about how quickly Sunday arrives each week. When the sermon is going well, it's not so bad, but if I'm struggling with the scripture passage, the time disappears! However, I've really enjoyed the chance to preach and to worship with you. In discovering more about who you are and what is relevant to your lives, rather than simply preaching a "generic" sermon, I've learned a lot. It's been exciting and challenging to try to discern how a passage really applies to *us*, the people of this church, at this particular time.

It's also been a good experience for me to participate with the staff as they plan and prepare for each service. I've grateful for my time spent with Kerry, Marilyn, Cindy, and Teresa. They are incredible folks to work with and to learn from. I've been blessed by working with them this summer, and will continue to be blessed by their example to me of ministry in the future.

I feel I've been privileged to see many of the "best" aspects of a church this summer. I've seen members supporting one another in difficult times of pain and grief, experienced the joy of children and adults learning and playing together, watched youth in their excitement over helping their neighbors, and listened to you talk about what can be done in your lives and in the world to follow Christ. I've heard you talk often about the deep meaning the church's community carries for you. And I've enjoyed the chance to get to know the individual gifts that many of you bring, as well as the individuality of this congregation as a whole.

Thank you, for your warm welcome and support throughout the summer. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to learn, to be challenged, and to grow in this community of faith. It's hard to go, as I feel I'm just getting to know you. I will think of you often, and will wonder what you're up to. But because of you, I'm also excited to go back to school. I have many new questions, and experiences here are popping excitedly around in my head. Having been in an actual church setting with you all - rather than simply reading about it - I know more clearly what I need to learn. And I'm looking forward to a year from now when I'll be back out in the big world, seeking a place to do ministry with others, perhaps in a church as wonderful as PPC. Thank you, for your time, for your enthusiasm, and for the gifts each of you has shared with me this summer.

May God bless you and keep you, in your ministry with each other and the world.

## Deacon's Doings

"By the grace of God..." What is "The Grace of God?" Where do I go to find it? Can I read about "The grace of God?" Are there many books for me to reference? Could someone show it to me? So... What is the answer? There may not be an exact scientific answer to these questions, but there are abundant clues!

Princess Grace of Monaco (Grace Kelly) lived in a foreign country and worked with charitable, fundraising organizations. She did so with a gracious presence. Could this mean "The Grace of God" guided her?

When we say a blessing at table before meals, we say "grace," a thanksgiving for the food before us and a blessing for those present. The table is a place for family and friends to gather and share conversation. Is there "grace" here?

My dog, a cocker spaniel, is named "Gracie." She is loyal, loving, playful, obedient, willing, smart, trusting and a companion. Is there "Grace" in these qualities, even in a dog?

Where in the Bible is "The Grace of God?" As we listen to passages read on Sunday morning, stop and think for a moment to find "Grace" therein. Listen also to the benediction at the end of the service as "The Grace of God" is granted to everyone. Grace is all around us, in everything

we do; the people we talk to, the telephone we answer, the postman, delivery person...people at church. We need only take a moment to realize.

When I decided on a subject to write about, I started to think about what to write. "The Grace of God" popped into my mind then and also later when reflecting on other matters of life. Over the next several days and even weeks, situations would arise and I started to recognize "The Grace of God." Once I began thinking about grace, examples appeared everywhere. One particular situation comes to mind. I was running an errand in the Montgomery Village area of Montgomery Village Avenue and Rt. 355 on a very hot afternoon, during lunch hour. Heavy construction at the intersection closed down access to all roads leading to the intersection, causing extra congestion. Traffic lights were not working well. After doubling back to go around the block, I came to an intersection just after Montgomery Village and 355. After five light changes, I proceeded to cross the busy intersection and suddenly there came a car, from across the intersection, directly towards me. Someone must have been in a hurry. All I could do was grab the steering wheel and freeze. Somehow, by "The Grace of God" the other car stopped within inches of the front of my car.

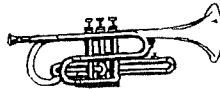
There by "The Grace of God" go I.

by Barbara Garcia

A Prayer for Choirs continued...

We are astounded at the skill of directors who can bring us together to glorify your name. We thank you for love and caring and compassion that springs from the hearts of those who sing Your song. Help us this year to enjoy being together in this special calling that lifts the voice of the congregation in true worship. Help us to proclaim your Word in music and song, so that the Word preached may touch minds and hearts and will. Help us to include young and old alike in lifting our voices to you. All this we pray in the name of the One who reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit where the hosts of heaven sing,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.



## LOCAL MISSIONS

We, as a congregation, support missions around the globe; but locally, we are able to support them "hands on" so to speak as well as financially. The mission committee and members of our congregation are involved with at least 16 community missions in addition to the Community Ministries of Montgomery County, to which we give a large amount financially. Many PPC members devote much of their time and energy to our mission projects.

The mission committee thinks it is important to be able to support these organizations financially; but to be a part of the accomplishments gives an added reward. We support organizations that provide food, medical care, counseling, clothing, legal services and shelter. It is such a joy to hear someone say how his or her life is changing for the better because of the facilities we help support.

Many of you participate in "Christmas in April" and/or the Christmas Gift Giving. Others visit those in the nursing homes or serve meals to the homeless once a month. Another project, Robert P. Johnson Housing Development assists low-income people towards self-sufficiency through the development of affordable housing.

These are some of the many ways the mission committee, and you as individuals, share Christ's love with others while helping those in the community.

# WORKCAMP 2002

Workcamp 2001 was a huge success, and we are already gearing up for next year. We are gathering information from this year's workcampers to determine which camp we will attend. There will be an organizational meeting for interested youth and parents for Workcamp 2002 on Sunday, September 23, at 12:15 p.m. in the library. If you would like to attend workcamp next year, or if you want more information so you can make an informed decision, please attend this meeting, which will be about one hour long. Commitments for Workcamp 2002 will be due by October 21 so that we can be sure we get our first choice of location. If you are interested in going to workcamp, but cannot attend this meeting, please call Marilyn Johns.



## Stephen Ministries Support Group

After 3 initial weekly meetings the support group for friends and family of cancer patients will now meet once a month.

Come join us on the last Tuesday of each month:

- August 28
- September 25
- October 30

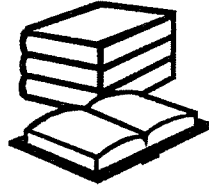
The group will continue to meet once a month until further notice.

**Please join us.**

Call Ruthanne Stoltzfus for any concerns  
or questions, 301-424-8492.

# September 2001

## Adult Education Class Schedule



- September 16** Keynote Speaker - Dr. O. Thomas Miles
- September 23** Discussion of "ordination standards based on the action of this year's General Assembly."
- September 30** Rev. Ken Jones, a retired minister, will be speaking on his book, Angels up Ahead.



The Christian Education Committee is in need of the following helpers:

- Sunday School shepherds: two for grade 3-4. Responsibilities include making sure students get to the proper classroom, and occasional teaching; curriculum provided.
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School teacher: 1-2 people to teach twice a month; curriculum provided.
- 4-K Creative Enrichment teacher: for the fourth Sunday of the month; curriculum provided.
- Youth advisors: for Junior and/or Senior High youth groups; lead the group once a month or more, or as you are available. Help with choosing topics and resources available.

Please see Marilyn Johns if you would like more information about volunteering for any of these positions. The pay is low, but the rewards are immeasurable.

## NEW CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS!

Sunday, September 9, is Rally Day, and it will be **out of this world!** Our theme is *2001 - A Bible Odyssey*, and it will launch the new year of Bible learning in interesting and exciting ways. The rotations for children's Sunday school are:

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Joseph in Egypt    | Ruth                   |
| Proverbs/Solomon   | Mary, Mother of Jesus  |
| Books of the Bible | Jesus' Boyhood         |
| Prodigal Son       | Zacchaeus              |
| Jesus is Alive!    | Early Church/Pentecost |
| Love               |                        |

We are still in need of rotation leaders in the areas of art, storytelling, drama, and computers, and we still need two people willing to shepherd the 3<sup>rd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> grade class once or twice a month. Please prayerfully consider this important ministry. Call Marilyn Johns for further details. See you at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on September 9 to blast off the new year!

## YOUTH ON SUNDAYS

Every Sunday morning, classes are offered for 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. These classes are a mix of Bible learning and exploring topics relevant to your life. This is also a great way to meet other people your age, and have some fun. Join us on Sunday mornings at church!

Senior Highs are beginning a new year with a new format and a new name. *High School Sunday Morning* will meet each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the Senior High room for prayer, music and study of various topics related to your life and relationships. Sessions will be led by adults and youth, and there will also be projects and field trips planned. Even if you've never attended Sunday School, check out *High School Sunday Morning*. You won't be disappointed!

Youth groups resume on Sunday, September 16. Watch your mail for more information on where our first meetings will be. The regular schedule for youth groups is: Junior High (7th-8th grade) 4:30 - 6 p.m.; dinner 6 - 6:30 p.m.; Senior High 6:30 - 8 p.m. Youth groups are for fun, fellowship, and discussion, with a time for both groups to meet together for dinner. This is a great way to enrich your Sunday morning experience, to meet with friends and make new ones, and to talk about issues that are on your mind. **Try it, you'll like it!**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2001</h1>						<b>1</b> 9:00am Sunday School Classroom Cleanup
<b>2</b> 10:00am Worship/Communion 11:00am Fellowship	<b>3</b> LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Teacher Meeting	<b>6</b> 12:30pm C.E. Committee 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:45am RALLY DAY Fall Schedule Begins 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship	<b>10</b> 8:00pm Committees	<b>11</b> Final Day SIGN UP Dine-With-Nine  9:30am Christian Living 7:30pm Christian Living	<b>12</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	<b>13</b> 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline
<b>16</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship Youth Group Kickoffs Bibles to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders 3:00pm Manor Care	<b>17</b> 8:00pm Session	<b>18</b> 10:30am Men's Book Club	<b>19</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 12:15pm Workcamp Meeting 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Senior High Youth Group	<b>24</b> 7:30pm Deacons	<b>25</b> 10:00am National Capital Presbytery Meeting Vienna, VA 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Support Group	<b>26</b> 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Inquirer's Class 11:00am Worship - Faith & Work Sunday (Speakers - Janet Dunlop & Bill King) 12:00pm Fellowship 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Senior High Youth Group						

Christian Education for  
**YOUTH**

Sunday mornings, 9:45 a.m.

**Middle School**                      **Upper Level, Room 1**  
(Youth in Grades 7 - 8)

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will learn the Bible and how to relate it to their lives through interesting lessons and activities. Middle school students may also write, plan and perform occasional dramas for the children's Sunday School.

*HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY MORNING*

**Senior Highs**                      **Upper Level, Room 2**  
(Youth in Grades 9 - 12)

Senior Highs have a new format for Sunday mornings this year. The hour will consist of prayer, music and study of various topics related to your life and relationships. Sessions will be led by adults and youth, and there will also be projects and field trips planned.

Sunday evenings, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

**Junior High Youth Group (Grades 7 - 8)**

Relevant topics, games, service projects, prayer, and fun are the highlights of our weekly youth group. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet from 4:30 - 6 p.m. weekly for safe and thought-provoking activities.

*A light dinner is provided from 6-6:30 p.m.*

**Senior High Youth Group (Grades 9 - 12)**

Senior Highs meet weekly from 6:30 - 8 p.m. for discussions of tough issues facing young people in their faith. Our focus this year will be on learning about the church and its ministry. Games, music, and prayer are also an integral part of the evening.

**Senior High Workcamp**

A highlight of our year is our week long workcamp trip for rising 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We travel to a disadvantaged area of the country, and spend the week with youth from all over the country repairing homes and building relationships. In 2002, workcamp will be in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Planning meetings and fundraisers are held throughout the year.

**Musical Opportunities for Children**

Two choirs are available for children. The **Primary Choir**, grades Kindergarten through Second, meets on *Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.* It is directed by Cynthia Wright and gives children an enjoyable and enthusiastic start to their vocal participation in worship. Children learn how to discover their singing voices and begin to relate their singing to appropriate notation for their age and development. This is an active, fun group. Performance is not a goal. Meaningful, enjoyable musical participation is.

Continuing the groundwork laid by the Primary Choir is the **Children's Choir** for Grades 3 through 6. This choir meets on *Sunday mornings, before Sunday School, at 9:00 a.m.* These children begin singing anthems that further their understanding of the Christian faith and their growing knowledge of appropriate musical settings. This choir sings in worship once a month and participates in special musical dramas and choral festivals. They are directed by Mrs. Wright and enjoy regular rehearsals of fun and musical discovery with her.

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**Christian Education Personnel**

Please call any of us if you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the Christian Education Ministries here at Potomac Presbyterian Church!

Carolyn Ewels and Tom McPherson  
*Christian Education Elders*

Marilyn Johns  
*Director of Youth and Christian Education*

Mary Reichley and Susan Hougen  
*Co-Chairs, Adult Education Committee*

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*Christian Education at  
Potomac Presbyterian Church*

Christian Education for  
**CHILDREN**

Sunday mornings, 9:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School begins its third year of workshop rotation model lessons. The morning begins with songs, Bible reading and special activities as children of all ages gather in Room 4 at 9:45 a.m. The 4-K class will then be taken to their classroom, while the 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders will go to different rooms depending on the area of study for the day. Rotation areas include art, drama, computers, games, storytelling, audio-visual, and more. We look forward to another exciting year of learning while having fun!

Scheduled topics include:

Sept. 9 - Sept. 30	<i>Joseph in Egypt</i>
Oct. 7 - Oct. 28	<i>Ruth</i>
Nov. 4 - Nov. 18	<i>Proverbs/Solomon</i>
Nov. 25 - Dec. 9	<i>Mary, the Mother of Jesus</i>
Jan. 6 - Jan. 27	<i>Books of the Bible</i>
Feb. 3 - Feb. 10	<i>Jesus' Boyhood</i>
Feb. 17 - Mar. 3	<i>The Prodigal Son</i>
Mar. 10 - Mar. 24	<i>Zacchaeus</i>
Apr. 7 - Apr. 28	<i>Jesus is Alive - Post-Resurrection Stories</i>
May 5 - May 19	<i>Early Church/Pentecost</i>
May 26 - Jun. 2	<i>1 Corinthians 13 - Love</i>

**Nursery - Threes**                      **Lower Level, Room 2**  
Loving care is provided each week by our paid caregiver.

**Fours & Kindergartners**              **Lower Level, Room 3**

Rotation Areas:

<b>Lower Level, Room 1</b>	<b>Computers</b>
<b>Lower Level, Room 4</b>	<b>Drama/Storytelling/AV</b>
<b>Lower Level, Room 5</b>	<b>Art</b>
<b>Upper Level, Room 3</b>	<b>Bible Skills</b>
<b>Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>Games</b>

Grades 1-6 "shepherds" will accompany children to their rotation area.

Sunday mornings, 11:00 a.m.

**Nursery & Toddlers**      **Lower Level, Room 2**  
Loving care is provided each week by our paid caregiver.

**Preschool Enrichment**      **Lower Level, Room 3**  
*(Children born in 1998 or 1999)*  
This class meets during the entire worship hour, for structured play. A rotating team of adult or senior high volunteers leads this class.

**Junior Enrichment**      **Lower Level, Room 4**  
*(Kindergartners and children born in 1997)*  
These children are dismissed from worship each Sunday following the "Children at Worship" time in the service. The class includes age-appropriate Bible lesson and related activities, led by a rotating team of adult volunteers.

**Senior Enrichment**      **Lower Level, Room 5**  
*(Children in Grades 1-2)*  
This is an age-appropriate worship experience which will prepare children to stay in the regular worship service in the future. We practice reading hymns, and learn the Apostles' Creed, the Doxology and the Gloria Patri. For our "sermon" time, we will have an age-appropriate lesson and related activities. Led by a rotating team of adult volunteers.

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*Our church can take great joy in the opportunities offered for children, youth and adults to learn more about the Bible, about tough issues we face as Christians, and about living out our faith on a daily basis. Please take advantage of classes and small groups. Your faith will be enhanced, and others will be enriched by your presence.*

*Marilyn Johns*

Christian Education for  
**ADULTS**

Sunday mornings, 9:45 a.m.

**Adult Seminar**      **Library**  
Weekly guest speakers lead this lecture and discussion class for adults of all ages. This year's theme is based on Ephesians 5:8-9: *For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light -- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.*

Fall programming includes:

- 9/9      Rally Day, Fellowship Hall
- 9/16      Dr. O. Thomas Miles
- 9/23      Discussions of ordination standards related to actions of this year's General Assembly
- 9/30      Rev. Ken Jones
- 10/7      Dr. Sally M. Promey, University of Maryland; Christian art
- 10/14 - 21      Dr. Kyle McCarter, Johns Hopkins University
- 10/28      Presentation by Workcampers
- 11/4      Ed and Janet Clark; Adventures in Egypt
- 11/11      Rev. John Carlson; The Spiritual Dimensions of Self Esteem
- 11/18      Rev. Rebecca Davis; Children's Defense Fund
- 11/25      Rozner Seminarian Beth Godfrey
- 12/2      Williamsburg Breakfast - CLASS WILL NOT MEET
- 12/9      Dr. Frank Wright; Center for Christian Statesmanship
- 12/16      Richmond McPherson; Poland Project

**Inquirers' Classes**      **Parlor**  
Would you like to know more about the Presbyterian Church? Are you interested in becoming a member of Potomac Presbyterian Church? If so, this four-week series is for you. Led by the Rev. Kerry Stoltzfus, Pastor. (9/30 - 10/21)

At other times

**Christian Living**      **Parlor**  
Once each month, in the morning and in the evening, women of all ages gather to discuss issues of faith and everyday living. This year's groups will read and discuss one chapter per month from *Bad Girls of the Bible*. We will look at women in the Bible and what we can learn from them about our faith. This study should be fun and informative! Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday beginning on September 11 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. and from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study**      **Library**  
The study for this year combines reading and reflection on Christian biography with the study of Scripture. We will use the book *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*, edited by Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith. The book will be available for purchase at our first class on September 5 at 9:30 a.m. For more information or ideas for future studies, please contact Rev. Stoltzfus.

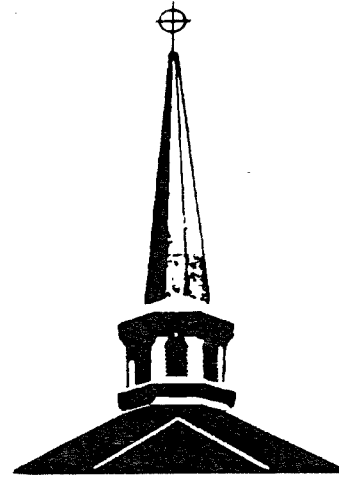
**Wednesday Evening Study Group**      **Parlor**  
The Wednesday evening (7:30-9:30) study group led by Tom Miles will take a different tack this fall. We will focus on a number of areas for three to six weeks each. Beginning September 19 for six weeks we will discuss selected Psalms. Then, three weeks on Christian poetry, three weeks on the Christmas story, and five weeks on Christian art through February 6. Join us for any one or more of the short courses. Tom would be happy to provide additional information (301/588-5954).

**Men's Book Group**      **Parlor**  
This group meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., beginning September 18, to discuss a book chosen by the group. Please contact John Clouse (301/983-0518) for more information.

*The Adult Education Committee is continually considering other options for Sunday and weekday study opportunities. If you have suggestions, please speak to Mary Reichley or Susan Hougen, co-chairs of the Adult Education Committee, or leave a note in the Adult Education box in the office.*

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road  
Potomac, Maryland 20854  
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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

October

2001

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...**


September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon just a few miles from this church. Perhaps not since the attack on Pearl Harbor, or the assassination of President Kennedy have we as a nation been plunged into such a state of shock. A "day that will live in infamy," seems an apt description. Pain and sorrow, anguish and disbelief, shock and fear has descended like a dark and ominous cloud over our nation.

Let us first remember those who have died and their families, as well as those who gave their lives in rescue efforts. Let us give thanks for everyone who has stepped forward to help, whether professionals or ordinary folks. Let us give thanks for our President and the members of Congress who stand united. Let us give thanks for everyone who has been able to go back to work and school and so signal to the world and all would be attackers that we will continue to live life in the context of the precious freedoms we cherish.

What can we do all of us are asking. I would like to share with you a portion of the pastoral letter we have received from the Stated Clerk of our Presbytery.

As long as there are deeds of compassion to be done, we are not at all helpless. As long as there are victims to pray for, we are not voiceless. Let us all keep our people from scapegoating, from militaristic belligerence, and from looking for God in all the wrong places. In the fine words which Stephen-Cobbs Smith offered to his people, "God's heart was the first to break this morning." If we let these horrific events cause us to abandon faith, then evil will indeed have triumphed.

continued on page 5



*Lines from Marilyn*

We have all been devastated by the tragic events of Tuesday, September 11. One of the dilemmas we face in the aftermath is what to say to our children about this. Although as I write this it is only about 48 hours after the attack, and it is probably a week or more later as you read this, conversations with children and youth will be ongoing. Remember that you and our church family may be the only ones to talk with young people from a faith perspective. I offer the following suggestions, which have been gathered from several sources:

- Your children will look to you for a response. You need to be a model of hope and stability. This does not mean making promises that you cannot keep, like “nothing can happen to us now.” It also does not mean hiding your sadness and your own questions. Sorrow is the appropriate response, but as people of faith we are able to say “I will not let my fears overwhelm me, because God is with me.”
- Preschoolers will barely understand what has happened and will have no concept of the consequences of the events, but they will pick up on your feelings. Simple explanations are best: “Something very bad happened to many people and it makes us sad.” It would be appropriate to pray for the people who are hurt and for all the families who are sad. Young children should be protected from the violent images on TV. Resist the temptation to listen to the television or radio non-stop. Wait until they are tucked into bed. Many preschoolers may be afraid simply because mommy or daddy works in a big building too.
- Try to limit the amount of TV coverage your elementary age children watch. They do not need to see the constant replays of the terrorism. Instead, discuss the information as a family by providing simple, accurate information to your children’s questions. It is okay to say, “I don’t know.” Remember that you do not have to answer questions they are not asking.
- Many younger youth may not grasp the impact of the human suffering side of the story. That’s their world right now. They need it personalized. Older youth may be worrying about the real possibility of war and what this means to them personally. Again, honesty is the best response. We do not know what will happen; tell them that. Encourage your teenager to think theologically, with questions such as, “How do you think God feels about what happened?”
- Listen to what your children are saying and how they say it. Paraphrasing their words and recognizing, naming, and reflecting on their feelings can help them. (Example: “You are afraid that . . .”) This will help them work through their concerns and help you recognize any misconceptions they might have. Again, keep responses simple.

continued on page 3

## *In the Church Family*

*We rejoice in the births of...*

Gavin Adam May, son of Michael and Jenny May, born on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The proud grandparents are Chan and Eun Hee Chung;

Emily Ann Cryway, daughter of Chris Cryway and Pam Mazza, born on August 21<sup>st</sup>;

Megan Louise Kendall, daughter of Clarke and Diane Kendall, born on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Megan’s proud siblings are Whitney, Kelly and Ryan. The proud grandparents are Lowell and Barbara Perry and Cliff and Camille Kendall.

*We celebrate with joy the baptism of...*

Eric Paul Traband, II on August 19<sup>th</sup>. We rejoice with Eric’s parents, Christina and Eric Traband and with grandfather, Bill Malone.

*Congratulations and God’s blessing on...*

Carrie Smith and Shawn Coons married on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Ashland, Kentucky;

Craig Brill and Michelle Newcomb who were married September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Minnesota. The groom’s proud parents are Bill and Winnie Brill.

*Our prayers are with...*

Ted Guo. Ted is recovering from surgery at Shady Grove Rehabilitation Hospital;

Donna Mecklenburg. Donna continues to recover at home;

Bob Best. Bob’s father died on August 22<sup>nd</sup>;

Scott Mason and family. Scott’s father died on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, his aunt died on the 23<sup>rd</sup>;

Beth Dart. Beth’s father, Carl Craven, died on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

*We give thanks for the life of...*

Sheila Hanson who died on August 23, 2001.

*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.”*

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I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for your cards and best wishes, as Shawn and I were married in August. It meant a lot to us. We enjoyed the wedding very much, and are now settled back in Richmond.

Thank you!

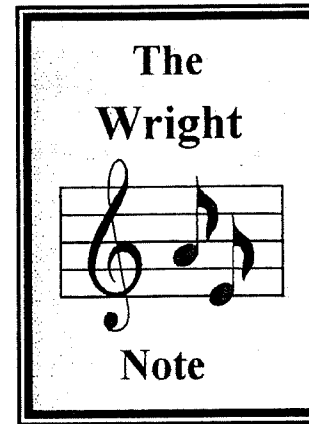
Carrie Smith Coons

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the  
families and friends of the  
victims of the attack on our nation.

Our heartfelt thanks go to  
all the rescue workers  
who risked their lives to help.

Blessed is the nation  
whose God is the Lord  
*Psalm 33:12*

Even though I walk through the  
valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil;  
thy rod and thy staff,  
they comfort me.  
*Psalm 23:4*



On Thursday night, Sept. 13, eighteen sanctuary choir members gathered for choir practice. Everyone was quieter than usual when entering the rehearsal room. Obviously the shock and sorrow of the recent attacks hung heavily on every heart. But we opened our folders and began singing anthems expressing our faith in God.

As always, I was picky about consonant releases, vowel sounds and good breathing to support long phrases. As we became involved in our presentation of the music in our hands, we slowly began to feel that blanket of comfort that music brings.

We rehearsed diligently until 9:30 p.m., and even managed a few laughs now and then. We closed with a beautiful, spontaneous prayer shared by one of our singers. We left, still grieving, but buoyed with a new hope and gratitude for our country, our homes, our families and our church. Thank you, God, for the freedom to worship through music. *Cindy*

Continued from page 2 ~ Lines from Marilyn...

- Children need to maintain as normal a routine as possible to comfort them and assure them of their personal safety. Spend extra time with your children to talk and offer reassurance. Holding or touching may comfort many children.
- There is no good answer to the "why" question, but it is important to let them know that this was not God's will. God is grieving with us over this act of hate. This is why it is important for people to learn what to do with their anger in non-hurtful ways, like talking out feelings instead of hitting. When anger grows and grows, it turns into hate, and hate can twist our sense of right and wrong.
- The Bible tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). This is not what we always feel like doing, but reacting in hate just repeats what happened on Tuesday. Resist demonizing all Muslims and talking about revenge. These are not the kinds of responses we want to teach our children.
- The Bible also tells us that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline (II Timothy 1:7), and that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:28-29). Assure your child that love is bigger than our fears, and we can use the minds God has given us to respond constructively and to protect ourselves.

May God grant us an extra measure of grace, mercy and love in these difficult days.

## Remembering Our Missionary Families

PPC has been actively supporting a number of overseas missionary families for many years. At times like this when our nation is feeling threatened and is mourning the tragic loss of so many of our brothers and sisters, we should remember and pray for our broader Christian family, many of whom are living and working in difficult conditions all around the world, actively engaged in bringing the Good News of the Gospel to all the nations and people of the world. Let us pray that the Lord will keep them safe, nurture them and give them continued strength as they go about their daily lives separated by so much distance from their own family, friends and loved-ones.

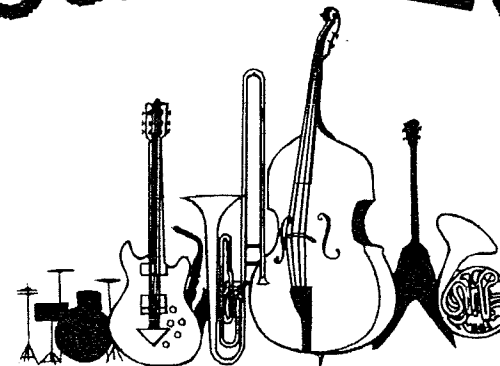
I can remember growing up as a kid in Taiwan in the sixties and early seventies when the war in SE Asia was being so fiercely fought. Oftentimes, we were the only visible local face of an American government, and American policies, and we were dealt with accordingly by a local populace that felt powerless to respond in any other way. At times like these it was so encouraging to know that in addition to the strong local friends and community we had around us we were being supported and prayed for by our churches and friends back home. Those prayers meant so much to us then and I know they will mean a lot to our missionary families today.

Drs. Richard and Judith Brown are serving as medical missionaries in Kenya. They have been serving most recently in Chogoria Hospital, a Presbyterian hospital located about 120 miles north of the capitol of Nairobi. Prior to this they have served a number of terms in the Congo and in Haiti. Dr. Brown oversees the internal medicine ward and trains young Kenyan doctors from the Univ. of Kenya. Increasingly his work has focused on treating patients suffering from AIDS, a disease that has reached epidemic proportions in Africa and throughout much of the developing world. The Brown's are just finishing their term in Chogoria this summer and are planning to relocate to Nairobi where they hope to develop a medical program specifically designed to address the diagnosis and treatment of AIDS in Kenya and the care and spiritual support of those people suffering from AIDS and its related diseases.

Dr. Judith Brown will be in the US this fall and we are hopeful that she will be able to visit us in Potomac. It would be wonderful to get to know her better and to have the opportunity to learn more about their ministry there in Kenya in her own words. The Brown's ask that we will pray for them as they seek the Lord's guidance in preparation for their new term of ministry in Nairobi working with the AIDS program there.

continued on page 5

# Cabaret 2001



To benefit the American Cancer Society

An Invitation to Members and Friends  
of Potomac Presbyterian Church

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual CABARET for the CURE**  
**Sunday October 28, 2001 2:00PM**

NO admission charge Cash only for your beverages

A check is preferred for donations to the American Cancer Society

In Remembrance, In Honor Of, In Hope For those in our church family  
whose courage inspires us all. **Join the fight against this disease!**

Fabulous 5-piece combo ~ Pop Vocalists ~ Dancing  
PPC Choir, and our own Chan Chung on the Saw!

Michael Terence, Musical Director Ann Hazard, Producer  
**The Hilton McLean Ballroom**

From I-495 take Exit 46A (123 S), 1<sup>st</sup> R (Tysons Blvd); R at next light  
(Galleria/Westpark); R at next light (Jones Branch), to Hilton on right.  
Plenty of parking in the rear.

Make reservations early ~ space is limited ~ tables of 10 encouraged  
Call Ann 301-424-2827



# Adult Education

## Class Schedule for October

- October 7     **Dr. Kyle McCarter** - Johns Hopkins University
- October 14    **Dr. Kyle McCarter**
- October 21    **Jim Reichley** will talk on his new book on religion and democracy, The Values Connection
- October 28    **The Rev. Dick McFail**, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, will speak about ordination standards

## Mission

In mid-August the Mission Committee received an urgent request from the Director of the Community Based Shelter. There were three nights for which no group signed up to provide dinner for the 35 residents of the shelter ~ could Potomac Presbyterian help? We could and we did. The following members of our congregation participated as shoppers, cooks, servers, clean-up crews – and, as usual, the residents were delighted: Leah Cannon, Janet Clark, Janet Dunlop, the Hewsons (Marillyn, James, David and William), Bettie Ann Johnson, Pat King, the Simpsons (Paddy, David and John), Nancy Tietjen and Marnel Williams. So many of our members volunteered that we could have provided dinners for several more nights.

Mary Reichley  
Mission Committee

## Potomac Country House Tour

Sponsored by St. Francis Episcopal Church

October 6 - 7, 2001     12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Carol Jarvis 301-299-4296 or  
Grace Polan 301-340-9081 for more information

## Halloween Hayride for the Family!

Saturday October 20 at 4:30 p.m.  
Homestead Farm

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Includes hayride, pick your pumpkin, bonfire and singing!  
Lunch and fixin's for s'mores will be provided.

Please sign up at church or call Judi Miller 301-946-3983  
or Maggie Fahs 301-365-2395.



## Volunteers Needed for the Lord's Table!!!

The Potomac churches prepare and serve the meal to the people at the Lord's Table. It is located at St. Martin's Church in Gaithersburg. We help on the first Tuesday of every month. We cook starting at 1:00 p.m. and serve at 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and clean up and leave around 5:00. We can use help one time or all of the time. It is such a worthy cause and takes very little time. If you are interested, please call Jane Stanton at 301-983-3068.


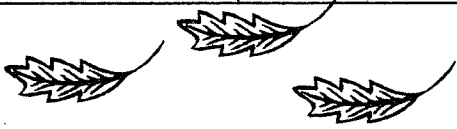

*Continued from page 1 ~ Kerry On...*

Now is a time, I sincerely believe, for us to affirm again the words of the Psalmist,  
But I trusted in your steadfast Love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Copies of Pastor Stoltzfus' sermon for Sunday September 16 are available at the church or on the web site; [www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org).

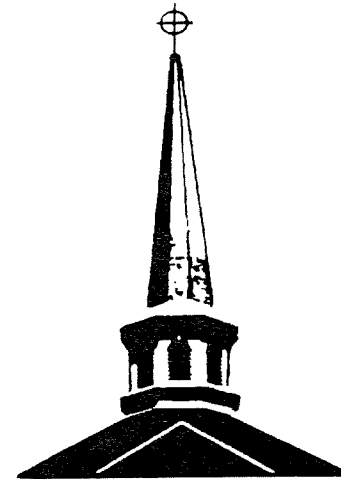
*Continued from page 4 ~ Remembering...*

Bruce and Jane Gilmore are serving in Nepal. Jane is a mission specialist working with the United Mission to Nepal and her husband, Bruce, is a medical doctor serving as a surgeon at Tansen Hospital. Nepal has gone through tremendous social and political turmoil this year with the tragic assassination of the King and many of the royal family, apparently by one of their own family members. Let us remember the Gilmore's in our prayers and thoughts as they work in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<h1>October 2001</h1> 					
	1	2	3 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:30pm Adult Study Group	4 6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	5	6
7 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Inquirers' Class 11:00am Worship/World Communion (Youth car wash & bake sale) 12:00am Fellowship 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	8 12:30pm Christian Education Committee 8:00pm Committees	9 9:30am Christian Living 7:30pm Christian Living	10 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00-9:30pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:30pm Adult Study Group	11 6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	12	13
14 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Inquirers' Class 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Congregational Meeting (Fellowship follows) 6:00-8:30pm Youth Hayride	15 8:00pm Session  Newsletter Deadline	16 10:30am Men's Book Club	17 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00-9:30pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:30pm Adult Study Group	18 6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	19	20 4:30pm Hayride at Homestead Farm
21 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Session/Receive new members 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 3:00pm Manor Care 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	22 7:30pm Deacons	23	24 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00-9:30pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:30pm Adult Study Group	25 6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	26	27
28 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00am Fellowship 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	29	30 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Support Group	31 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00-9:30pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:30pm Adult Study Group			

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

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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

November

2001

## KERRY ON...

On Sunday October 14 I extended an invitation to our congregation to join me in stepping up our spiritual training a notch. It doesn't matter if you are a spiritual couch potato or a spiritual marathoner. There is no need to consult your physician before we begin.

In this time of national crisis we are called upon to strengthen ourselves spiritually. Of course God is the source of all spiritual strength. At the same time, God calls us to spiritual training. In the First letter to Timothy we read,

Train yourself in godliness, for while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

John Ortberg suggests this analogy. Say you decide to run a marathon. No matter how hard you try it cannot be done unless you have been in training for the race. You have to start slow and build up. It may take a long time of preparation. But when you have done the training you can run a marathon. Wishing and hoping for spiritual strength in times of crisis will not work.

Spiritual training has four components: Scripture, prayer, worship and service. I invite you to take your training to a new level and I would be pleased to talk with anyone who would like some coaching.

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*



SPRING FORWARD. FALL BACK. Every year when we adjust our clocks back one hour, I am reminded that this slogan doesn't seem to apply to church music planners. As soon as we fall back, we need to spring forward into preparation for Advent and Christmas. Actually, our choirs have already begun that process. Here are some of our larger goals for Advent:

The Sanctuary Choir, accompanied by a string ensemble, will sing two short works on Dec. 9: "Run Ye Shepherds to the Light" by Michael Haydn and "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" by John Leavitt. The Primary and Children's Choirs will present "A Night for Dancing" by Hal Hopson on Dec. 23. In costume and song the beautiful nativity story will again unfold. This year, the pageant is the responsibility of the music department, not education. Therefore, any children wanting to participate are invited to join one of our children's choirs and attend their regular weekly rehearsals. Primary Choir, for grades K-2, meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir, for grades 3-6, meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. I look forward to seeing some new singers. We especially need more boys.

If any children want to participate, in the nativity story in costume and song, but don't care to sing, please contact me by Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> and I will arrange to include them in the presentation. They will be asked to attend the 4:00 p.m. choir rehearsal on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, as well as the 9:00 a.m. rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. I am ready to spring forward into Advent rehearsals. Come join the rewarding days of preparation.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

Immediately after the attack on America on September 11<sup>th</sup>, many of us thought it was a bad dream. As we slowly accepted the reality, we began to wonder, "What can I do to help?"

Many relief organizations have sprung into action and have addressed various ways to offer assistance. The Presbyterian Church, USA is working with numerous organizations such as Church World Service to provide help in a rapid and comprehensive manner.

Your Mission Committee and the Session at PPC have already authorized \$1,000 to help victims and their families through the Presbyterian Disaster Team.

*You now have the opportunity to do the same.*

Simply write a check payable to Potomac Presbyterian Church and on the memo write "Disaster Assistance." The money raised will be used to aid the victims in New York and Washington. You may mail your check to the church office.

## *In the Church Family*

*We celebrate with joy the baptism of...*

Kyle Bray Venit on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We rejoice with Kyle's parents, A. J. and Kristen Venit, and with his older brother, Austin.

*Congratulations and God's blessing on...*

Amelia Hougen and Ulrik Pedersen who were married in London on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The bride's proud parents are Susan and Tom Hougen.

*Our prayers are with...*

Bob Tietjen. Bob is recovering from surgery;  
Gayle Goff. Gayle is recovering from surgery;  
Ted Guo. Ted is recovering from surgery.

*We give thanks for the life of...*

Donna Mecklenburg who died on October 15, 2001.

*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."*



*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;  
and lean not to thine own understanding.  
In all the ways acknowledge Him  
and He shall direct your paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5,6*

## Church Library

Some of you may have noticed that the library shelves look a little different. Many books have been weeded from the collection and some new ones are being added.

The books are being cataloged so that it will be easier to locate a particular book. We hope to add more books, which will enrich our Christian education programs.

A card catalog is located on the shelf under the windows. Title, subject and author cards are interfiled. A box for the book card signed with borrower's name and phone number and a basket for returned books are also there.



### November Adult Education

November 4	Janet and Ed Clark – Perspectives on Egypt
November 11	Rev. John Carlson – Discussing his book “The Spiritual Dimensions of Self-Esteem”
November 18	The Rev. Rebecca Davis, Children’s Defense Fund
November 25	To Be Announced

## Marilyn's Message

### *A Time to Give Thanks*

Since we're coming up on the time of Thanksgiving, I thought I'd take this space to give thanks to some of the unsung heroes that make my ministry here at PPC so much more enjoyable and productive.

**Thank you** to the staff of this church. We have had some rough roads to forge together since Flo's tragic death in January, but it has made us closer and stronger. After being here over three years, I still love coming to work, and that is due in large part to the collegiality with Kerry, Cindy, Teresa, and the other staff members.

**Thank you** to all those who serve this church in educational ministry, from the Sunday school teachers to Christian Education Committee members, to workcamp advisors, to Enrichment teachers, to adult education coordinators, to youth advisors, to VBS teachers and on and on! Your commitment to Christian education gives me great hope for the future of the church.

**Thank you** to those who volunteer in so many other ways. You do all of these behind-the-scenes jobs without asking for recognition or reward, but just to serve the Lord, and that is truly wonderful! I'm sure I'm not even aware of half of what is done, because we are all so used to it being taken care of so efficiently. I think especially of those who take flowers to the shut-ins, the elders and deacons who do so much, those who come in every now and then with a laundry basket full of clean towels for the kitchen, and others who work hard to make PPC a warm and welcoming place.

And finally, **thank you** to the members and friends of this congregation, young and old and in-between, who come to church on Sundays not just to be nourished, but to nourish others. You certainly have fed me with your smiles, your support and just your presence. Potomac Presbyterian Church is an exciting place to be, and I know God is blessing our attempts at ministry here. For all of these people, I am truly thankful to God!

*A Hearty Thanks  
to All*

# Going, Going...Yours!

Coming February 10<sup>th</sup>!!!

## Youth Group Talent Show and Silent Auction

Due to overwhelming demand, the youth group has agreed to bring back the popular Talent Show and Silent Auction Evening as a fundraiser for their upcoming workcamp. Please save Sunday evening, February 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. We are soliciting items for the Silent Auction and if anyone can offer a donation, it would be most appreciated. Does anyone have a vacation home that they would like to offer? A service they perform? Artwork? Craft items? Contacts at local restaurants or businesses? Use your imagination! Questions or donations ~ Please contact:

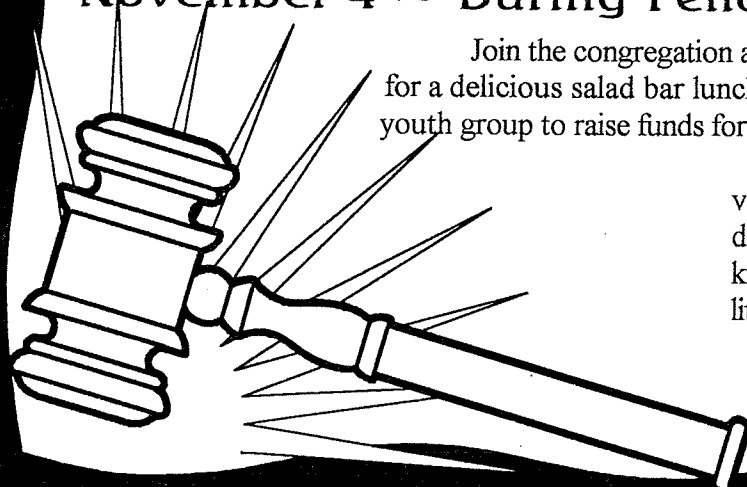
Carl Atwood or Wendy Petti	301-469-8650
Chris or Vivian Teets	301-983-5540
Jackie or Julie McMahon	301-869-4639

## Salad Bar Sunday

November 4 ~ During Fellowship Hour

Join the congregation after morning worship for a delicious salad bar luncheon. Hosted by the youth group to raise funds for Workcamp 2001.

We promise a wide variety of salads and desserts (and some kid's favorites for the little ones). So please come and bring the whole family!



## New Training Class for Stephen Ministers Begins

On Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>, seven new people began training to become Stephen Ministers here at PPC. They are: Marilyn Johns, Kara Karch, Bob King, Sandi MacFarlan, Judi Miller, Marnel Williams and Margaret Chang (participating here from another congregation). Please join us in welcoming them to this vital ministry in our church.



## Hispanic Ministry Workshop

### PPC Members Are Invited

- Announcing a Presbytery Workshop to Address the Serious Task of Determining How Our Presbytery Will Address the Compelling Needs of the Huge Hispanic Population in the National Capital Area
- Saturday, November 10, 2001 - 9:30 am – 2:30 pm (Lunch will be provided.)
- Potomac Presbyterian Church, Potomac Maryland is hosting
- Conducted by Jose Perez, Inspiring Founder/Leader of the Hispanic Ministry in the Costal Carolina Presbytery, North Carolina and his associates
- Come and wrestle with the issues and needs presented by the Hispanic community -- and a realistic strategy for how we, as Presbyterians, should minister to them
- Learn about a new approach to evangelism and taking Christ's word to this large group of immigrants in our Area
- Begin to understand how Presbyterians in the National Capital Area can meet this new mission challenge/opportunity in new and effective ways
- Call Ed Clark with questions at 301-365-9708



# Deacon's Corner

Thanksgiving approaches this year after our shared experience of horror, grief, and loss as a result of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. We seem to have reached a national collective emotional low point from which a new high point of overflowing thankfulness seems elusive if not unattainable. Though we have so much to be thankful for, will we ever be as happy as we thought we were before September 12<sup>th</sup>?

Years ago, during an emotionally devastating time in my life, I reached a point where I thought the good times would never come back again. Through the wisdom and support of family, friends and my PPC congregation, I attained previously unknown levels of happiness and thanksgiving. In a book I read during that journey entitled "The seven Habits of Highly Effective People" the following passage struck me as the essential message of the book and a reason why despite devastation wrought upon us, the future for us, our children, and our country will be brighter than ever.

"It's not what happens to us, but our response to what happens to us that hurts us. Of course, things can hurt us physically or economically and can cause sorrow. But our character, our basic identity, does not have to be hurt at all. In fact, our most difficult experiences become the crucibles that forge our character and develop the internal powers, the freedom to handle difficult circumstances in the future and to inspire others to do so as well... Nothing has a greater, longer lasting impression upon another person than the awareness that someone has transcended suffering, has transcended circumstance, and is embodying and expressing a value that inspires and ennobles and lifts life."

We should have great confidence that America and our world, through our character and determination, and the inspiration of amazing grace, will transcend the acts of terrorism that have hurt us so, and that this year we should give thanksgiving for the future Thanksgivings when our world and America will be better and happier than this Thanksgiving.

Robert Swisher



## Family Holiday Crafts Fair

November 17<sup>th</sup>

7-9 pm in Fellowship Hall



# HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Bring your family and friends!

Make creative gifts or ornaments for your holiday tree.

Fun for all ages

No charge, but please sign up or call

Maggie Fahs at 301-365-2395

to reserve a place.

## Church Photo and Directory Update

The proof book was received on Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> and reviewed by committee on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was returned to Lifetouch Directories on Tuesday morning, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, for final printing. Directories should be available by late October or early November.

## New Officers


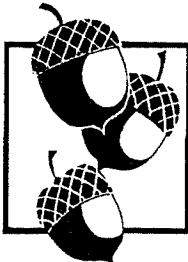
On Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>, the following members were elected at the Congregational Meeting to serve as officers of the church.

### Elders, Class of 2004

Susan Hougen  
Julie McMahan  
Charles H. Miller  
Ed Rudnic  
Robert Wescott

### Deacons, Class of 2004

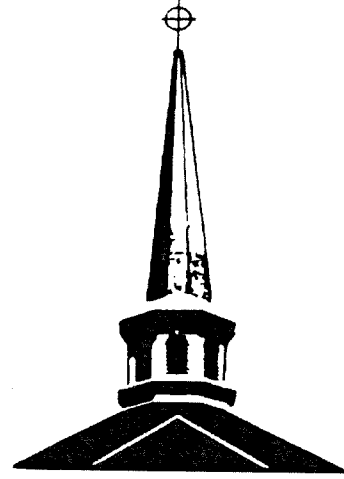
Maitland MacFarlan  
Katherine McPherson  
Pamela Self Rice  
Steve Rudnic  
Gail Yates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>November 2001</h1>				<b>1</b> 12:00pm AA  6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:30-4:00 Session Retreat  10:00-2:00 Potomac Theatre Group
<b>4</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship/Holy Communion 12:00am Fellowship Youth Salad Bar Luncheon  4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>5</b>   7:30-10:00pm Potomac Theatre Group	<b>6</b> <b>Lord's Table</b>  9:30-12:30 Art Class  7:00pm Compassionate Friends	<b>7</b> 9:30-12:30 Art Class 9:30am Bible Study  4:00pm Primary Choir  7:00-9:30pm Stephen Ministry Training	<b>8</b> 12:00pm AA  6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir  7:00pm Maryland Ornithological Society	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  9:30-2:30 Presbytery/Hispanic Workshop
<b>11</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Sr. High Youth Group <b>Steeple to People Deadline</b>	<b>12</b> 12:30pm Christian Ed. Committee  8:00pm Committees  7:30-10:00pm Potomac Theatre Group	<b>13</b> 9:30-12:30 Art Class 9:30am Christian Living  7:00pm Personnel Committee  7:30pm Christian Living	<b>14</b> 9:30am Art Class 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir 7:00-9:30pm Stephen Ministry Training & Continuing Education Collingswood Nursing Home	<b>15</b> 12:00pm AA  6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>16</b>  6:00pm Holiday Crafts Workshop	<b>17</b>  10:00-2:00 Potomac Theatre Group
<b>18</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 3:00pm Manor Care 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Dinner 6:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>19</b>  7:30-10:00pm Potomac Theatre Group	<b>20</b> 10:30am Men's Book Group  7:30-10:00pm Potomac Theatre Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22 Thanksgiving Day</b>  OFFICE CLOSED  P.M. - AA Meeting	<b>23</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00am Children's Choir 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00am Fellowship  (No Youth Group)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30am Art Class  7:00pm Stephen Ministry Support Group  6:00pm Presbytery (National)	<b>28</b> 9:30am Art Class 9:30am Bible Study 4:00pm Primary Choir  7:00-9:30pm Stephen Ministry Training & Continuing Education	<b>29</b> 12:00pm AA  6:30pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>30</b>	



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# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

December

2001

## KERRY ON...

I would like to suggest that we all go Christmas shopping. This is not what you would ordinarily expect from your Pastor. Most years I am more likely to express concern over the commercialization of a day that is intended to be a celebration of the birth of Jesus.

This year is different. We are being urged, not just by advertisers, but our leaders including the President to get out there and shop. Be patriotic consumers. The rationale is that shopping is a signal that we are returning to our normal practices and by consuming we are helping to keep our economy strong and healthy.

Perhaps this provides a unique opportunity to express our faith in action. Go out and shop, but give a significant portion of your purchases to the hungry and needy. Take your children along and invite them to select a toy to give away.

How do we give these gifts you ask? Our own "gift giving" to needy families is a start. We can select children or families to give gifts to at the Williamsburg Breakfast. Be creative and give gifts to folks at one of the shelters in our area. Choose a family or person you know personally. Send a contribution to Habitat or the Heifer Project or any other good cause in the name of a family member. Be creative in giving.

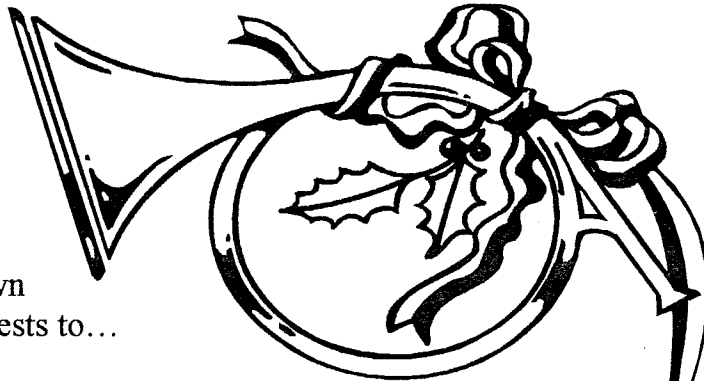
Of course in the days of online gift giving, you don't even have to go to the mall if that is not your thing.

Remember the words of Jesus,

*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

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*

Come!  
Bring family,  
Bring friends,  
Bring out of town  
relatives and guests to...



## A Christmas Music Celebration

**Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**

Hear:

Christmas Music

Jesus Birthday Band ~ Del Smith, Director

Men's Chorus ~ John Hummon, Director

Women's Chorus, Ann Hazard, Director

Soloists and Ensemble groups

Participate:

Sing Christmas Carols

Enjoy:

Christmas Cookies  
and Beverages

If you have a vocal or instrumental talent you will share,  
contact Mary Smith, 301-299-3331 for rehearsal dates and time.

Make this Music Celebration a part of Your Christmas!

Join Your Church Family

### *In the Church Family*

*We rejoice in the birth of...* 10-16-01

Paige Madison Hooper, daughter of Daphne Boogaard and Stephen Hooper on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Proud sister is Caitlin. Proud grandparents are Marcia Boogaard and LexaLynn and Lynn Hooper. ↑ 5-21-01

*We celebrate with joy the baptism of...*

Meredith May White on October 21<sup>st</sup>. We rejoice with Meredith's parents, Cathryn and Jon White and with siblings Haley and Jack.

Christian Augustine Alarie on October 28<sup>th</sup>. We rejoice with Christian's parents Mark Alarie and Renee Augustine and with older sister Isabella. Proud grandparents are Norm and Meg Augustine.

Alexandra Christina Mamalian on October 28<sup>th</sup>. We rejoice with Alexandra's parents Paul and Cynthia Mamalian.

*The smallest act of kindness is worth  
more than the grandest intention*

*Now and then it is good to pause in our  
pursuit of happiness and just be happy*

*Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look  
back and discover they were the big things*



## Deacon's Corner

Greetings from the Deacons! We hope you and your families are well and thriving, and that you've been able to feel a sense of community at Potomac Presbyterian Church during these last few months. This fall the deacons have been very busy. We've sent "care packages" to dozens of intrepid PPC college students who are keeping the faith, away from home, all over the country. The All-Deacon's Coffee was also a big success; word on the street has it that the cookies and coffee were especially tasty. Now, we'd like to invite you to the Williamsburg Breakfast on Sunday, December 2. Bring a breakfast dish large enough to feed your family, and you'll be rewarded with opportunities to sample from scores of different dishes and to share an Advent breakfast with your fellow church members. During this time of unprecedented anxiety and fear about safety in our country, faith and fellowship can be two of our greatest resources. Join us on December 2!

## Youth Group Talent Show And Silent Auction

Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>

(Please note date change!)

Youth Group members are soliciting items for the Silent Auction; donations would be most appreciated. Ideas for donations include: a week or weekend at your vacation home, artwork, craft items, a service, gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses, etc.

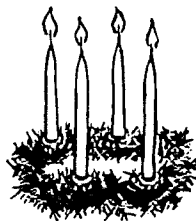
For information contact: Carl Atwood or Wendy Petti at 301-469-8650, Chris or Vivian Teets at 301-983-5540 or Jackie or Julie McMahon at 301-869-4639.

## Workcamp Fundraiser and FUNraiser

## Adult Education

December 2001

- 2 Williamsburg  
Breakfast
- 9 Workcampers
- 16 Richmond  
McPherson ~  
Poland Project
- 23 No Class
- 30 No Class



## Marilyn's Message

This month at its annual retreat, the session looked at the topic of worship. The first thing we discussed is what worship is and who worship is for. So many of us come to worship because we need that spiritual "shot in the arm," or because we want to see our church friends, or because we have some task to perform. At the retreat, the elders were challenged to look at worship first as an offering to God. Now, that doesn't mean that we don't get something out of it too, but that should be the secondary motivation. Our primary reason for worship should be to respond to the love that God first offered to us.

Looking at worship first as an offering to God changes dramatically everything we do in worship. The focus is not on performance because we want to look good, it is on excellence because God is so worthy. We don't wear special clothing to impress our friends, but because we are entering a holy place where we expect to encounter our Holy God. We sing with joy, not because we are great singers, but because God loves to hear a joyful noise. We wait silently in anticipation, not for the beginning of the show, but for the entry of God into our cluttered lives. What a privilege it is to worship God, who accepts our attempts with love and appreciation!

As we gather together on Sunday mornings, we do often receive as well as give; however, our gift from God in worship is greatly enhanced if our hearts have come in humble offering. We join our dear friends with whom we have been in worship for years, our new friends who may be worshipping with us for the first time, people of all generations with a common faith. We sometimes leave worship as renewed, changed people, nourished by the Lord's Supper, joined together in Baptism, enlivened by the preaching of the Word of God. We may have had the opportunity to minister to another in need, or to be ministered to, just by the sharing of a greeting and a smile. All of these are wonderful gifts, given to us by a God who gives abundantly.

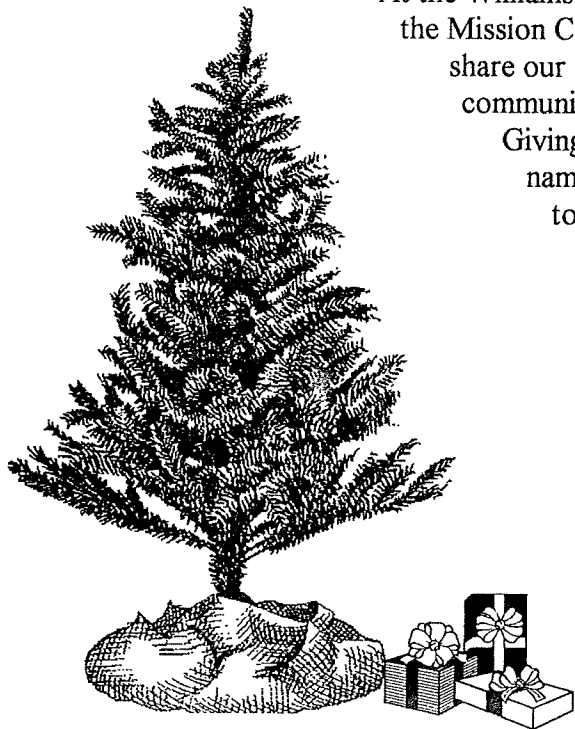
The next time you attend a worship service here or anywhere, take time to focus your attention on God; in every part of the service try to participate fully as your offering to God ~ your offering of praise, confession, attention, prayer, faith, and treasure ~ as a response to the incredible gifts God has given to each of us. It will change the way you view worship, and it will surely make God smile!

# HELP THE NEEDY

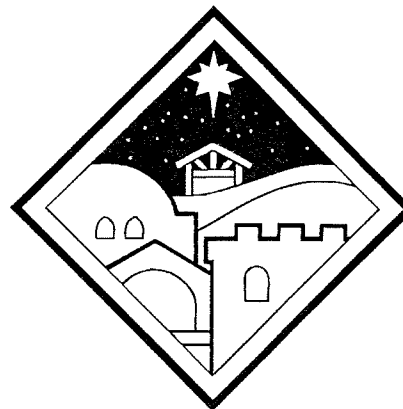
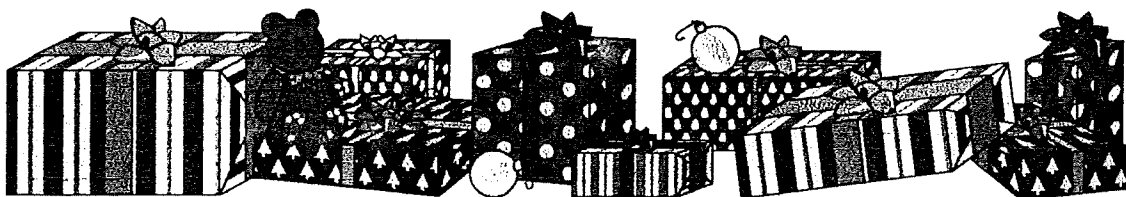


At the Williamsburg Breakfast on Sunday, December 2, the Mission Committee will invite the congregation to share our Christmas joy with needy families in our community. We will again have a Christmas Gift Giving Tree, which will be decorated with the names of families and children. We ask you to pick a name from the tree and buy an appropriate gift for the child or make up a food basket for the family. Please wrap and label the gift or food basket, and bring it to the Social Hall before worship on Sunday, December 9.

We will also be asking for volunteers to help us deliver the gifts before Christmas. Many of these children will receive no Christmas presents without our help. Please join us and make Christmas happier for our needy neighbors.



Christmas Gift Giving Tree



**Paul and Cyndy Mamalian  
Alexandra  
314 Pure Spring Crescent  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 977-2767**

The Mamalian's are the parents of 5-month-old Alexandra who was recently baptized at PPC. Paul enjoys cars and watching college basketball. Cyndy likes doing art work in her free time. The couple recently moved to Rockville from D.C.

**Gary and (Ann) Niskanen  
Thomas  
12114 Pawnee Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
(301) 258-7836**

Gary joins his wife Ann, who is a Deacon at PPC, as a member. Their son, Thomas, is a member of the Children's Choir. Gary's hobbies include golf, tennis and running. He is a native Washingtonian.

**Karen Pitelka  
7817 Whiterim Terrace  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 983-4176**

Karen has lived in Potomac since 1984 and is originally from Chicago. She volunteers her time with the nonprofit CHI Centers, an agency that serves developmentally disabled residents of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Karen enjoys vegetable gardening.

**Jon and Cathryn White  
Haley, Jack and Meredith  
9020 Copenhaver Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 424-6556**

Jon and Cathryn are the parents of three young children: Haley, five; Jack, four; and Meredith, two. In their spare time, they enjoy playing golf. Cathryn also enjoys reading and Jon likes to run as exercise. Both have lived in the Washington area most of their lives.



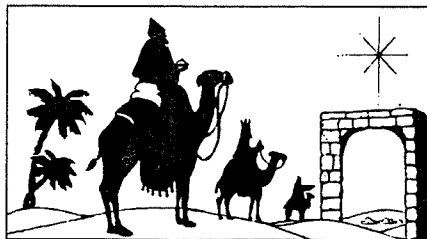
# Welcome New Members

**Melina Ali**  
8809 Brickyard Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 299-1301

She is a graphic designer by occupation and her creativity carries over to her interests outside her profession. Melina enjoys classical music, ballet, reading and writing. She is also an accomplished tennis player who participates in local tournaments.

**George Dick**  
517 West Montgomery Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 251-8507

George enjoys sports including mountain biking, swimming, rowing and volleyball. He joins his mom, Judy, and sister and brother-in-law, Greta, and Eric VanBrunt, as a member of PPC.



**Dan and Pam Drumheller  
Dixon and Jane**  
12301 Beall Spring Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 977-7973

Dan and Pam have two children, Dixon, eight, and Jane, six. The family enjoys travel, biking, camping, swimming and hiking. Both Dan and Pam grew up in New England. They moved to Potomac from Shelburne, Vermont.

**Michael Huggins and Seunghye Baick**  
10147 Sterling Terrace  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 258-0311

A native of Oxford, Mississippi, Michael moved to this area 12 years ago. He is an avid golfer and says he plays "as much golf as I can." Seunghye came to the US from Korea when she was five. Her hobbies are traveling and exercising as well as spending time with family and friends. Michael and Seunghye are engaged and will be married in June 2002 at PPC.

**Tom and Wendy Kuhn  
Amanda and Victoria**  
13724 Canal Vista Court  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 417-0170

Tom and Wendy are the parents of two daughters, Victoria, seven, and Amanda, five, and are expecting a baby in February. Tom is active in Washington-area trade groups and Wendy enjoys volunteer work, tennis and exercise.

The Deacons of Potomac  
Presbyterian Church cordially invite  
you and your family to our annual

## *Williamsburg Breakfast*

Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



Bring:

1. a breakfast bread to share
2. 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!*

**December 2**

**First Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 am Children's Choir
- 9:30 am WILLIAMSBURG BREAKFAST  
**Bring a bell!**
- 9:45 am Sunday School for Children and Youth
- 11:00 am WORSHIP ADVENT I Communion  
Primary Choir sings "The Lion and the Lamb"
- 12:00 pm Fellowship



**December 9**

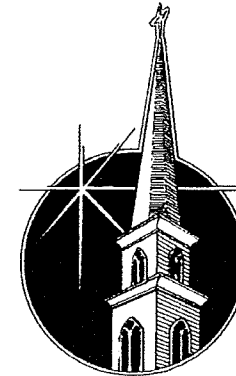
**Second Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 am Children's Choir
- 9:45 am Sunday School  
Adult Class ~ Workcampers
- 11:00 am WORSHIP ADVENT II  
Sanctuary Choir, with soloist and string ensemble present "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" by John Leavitt and "Run, Ye Shepherds to the Light" by Michael Haydn
- 12:00 pm Fellowship
- 4:00 pm Caroling and Light Supper

**December 23**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 11:00 am WORSHIP ADVENT IV  
Sacrament of Baptism  
The Children's Choirs present in song and costume,  
The Story of the Nativity
- 12:00 pm Fellowship
- 7:00 pm Christmas Music celebration and refreshments



**December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

- 5:00 pm Family Service
- 7:00 pm Candlelight Communion  
Service with Special Music by the Sanctuary Choir, Handbells and Instrumentalists
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Communion  
Service with Special Music

**December 16**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 am Children's Choir
- 9:45 am Sunday School  
Adult Class ~ Poland Project  
Rich McPherson
- 11:00 am WORSHIP ADVENT III  
Handbell Choir rings  
"The Holly and the Ivy" and  
"Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head"
- 12:00 pm Fellowship



**December 30**

**College Student Sunday**

- 11:00 am Worship  
College Student Sunday  
Rich McPherson, speaker

