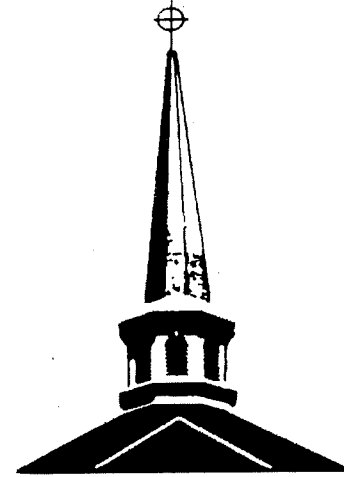


Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

January

2003

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...

In the Sacrament of Baptism we promise to join with parents in the Christian nurture of their children. We seek to provide a welcome for all of the children of the congregation, teach Sunday school and give leadership to many other learning opportunities. Do we remember to pray with and for the children?

Beginning this month and continuing through June, I invite you to pray for our children by name. This month we will pray for babies, ones and twos. Perhaps you could keep their names on your kitchen table or the refrigerator and pray for these children each day. Of course their parents need our prayers too.

Praying for the Children

January

Christian Alarie, Megan Bedingfield, Morgan Bedingfield, Roman Conway,
Emily Cyrway, Paige Hooper, Andrew Kline, Chandler Kuhn, Alexandria
Mamalian, Kyle Venit, Emily Donahue, Caitlin Hooper, Zachary Nannen,
William Amoroso, Meredith White

Next month we will offer prayers for fours, fives and first graders.

New Members - October 20, 2002

Gregg and Sherry Johnson
 10849 Stanmore Drive
 Potomac, Maryland 20854
 301 765-8924

Gregg and Sherry are the parents of three boys: Trevor, age 11; Geoffrey, age 9; and William, age 6. Gregg coaches soccer for Geoff and Will and both Gregg and Sherry enjoy being spectators at their three sons' baseball games in the fall and spring seasons.

Eugenia Lee
 10500 Weymouth Street
 Bethesda, Maryland 20814
 301 530-5761

Eugenia, originally from Pennsylvania, moved to the Washington area from San Francisco. She has a large family located in this area. Eugenia enjoys golf, tennis, and writing and has been an active member of the Fellowship and Worship committees at PPC prior to joining the church.

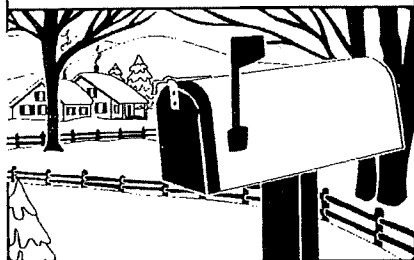
Frank and Maggie McKenna
 12710 Split Creek Court
 North Potomac, MD 20878
 301 548-0127

Frank and Maggie are the parents of a daughter, Katie, age 19 and twins, Timmy and Abby, age 15. They enjoy reading, exploring new places and spending time with family and friends. Frank and Maggie met while students at Stetson University.

Bob and Pat Stow
 14005 Gorky Drive
 Potomac, MD 20854
 301 987-7085

Bob and Pat, both from Westfield, Massachusetts, met there as teenagers. They have three grown children, two of whom are married. They moved to Potomac three years ago and enjoy getting together with their family, including their three grandchildren – one grandson and twin granddaughters.

New Address:
 Melissa and Gareth Conway
 6432 31st Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20015



January 2003 Adult Education Schedule

- January 5 Tom Hougan
- January 12 Video / Induction of new Elders and Deacons
- January 19 Dr. Dewey Wallace
- January 26 Dr. Dewey Wallace

Annual Meeting continued from page 3

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Session Committee Chairs will answer questions on their reports
- Session recommendation on the Terms of Call for the Pastor
- Election of the 2003 Nominating Committee
- Special thanks to Class of 2002 Officers
 - Elders: Joe Curry, Margaret Fahs, David Fowler, Betty Yadlosky
 - Deacons: Carl Atwood, Jackie Cronin, Barbara Garcia, Jim Jochum, Matt Petti, Betsey Rudnic

Closing

In the Church Family...



We rejoice in the births of...

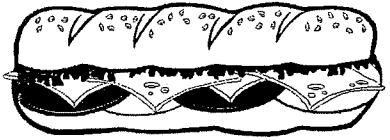
- Roman Jackson Conway, son of Melissa and Gareth Conway, born on November 20, 2002. Proud grandparents are Del and Mary Margaret Smith;
- Marissa Jane Shook, daughter of Mark and Emily Shook, born on December 4, 2002. Proud grandparents are Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus;
- Bryce Gerard, son of Tricia and Brian Gerard, born on December 4, 2002. Proud grandparents are Elaine and Bill Skinner.

Congratulations to...

Carrie Smith-Coons, who was ordained at the Church of the Covenant in Cleveland, Ohio. She has begun her ministry in Fenton, Michigan.

Our prayers are with...

- Kerry's sister Ruth, recovering from a stroke;
- Wendy Kuhn. Wendy's mother, Kay Parker, died recently;
- Wendy Kuhn's father, recovering from surgery;
- Rob Wescott. Rob's grandfather, Will Brook, died recently;
- Rob Swisher. Rob's mother, Yvette Swisher, died recently;
- Joan Coal. Joan's mother, Beth Runey, died recently;
- Alyce Tamzarian, recovering from surgery.



Want to support the 2003 Work-campers? Then come to the Super Bowl Sub Sale on Super Bowl Sunday, January 26, 2003, to enjoy exquisite home-made subs made in our very own kitchen for a mere \$4. Is there a more delicious way to support the needy of Fountain, Colorado?

Deacon's Corner

Happiest of New Year Wishes to everyone. I hope you find something enjoyable about each of the days in 2003... Even if it was just a reason to laugh. I was wondering something the other day. It's amazing how we live in such an age of "time saving conveniences." We're so fortunate to have washing machines/dryers, dishwashers, vacuum cleaners, calculators, computers, copiers, faxes, Internet ~ must I go on? And yet, whenever we speak to others, the 'subject du jour' is always: "I'm so busy these days ~ I have this and this and this going on ~ and etcetera." It makes us tired just to listen to it... and yet, we **all** are guilty of this. Somehow we fear others will think us **lazy** if we don't lead super active lives. We fear the raised eyebrow accusation of our wasting time, sitting back and eating bonbons all day ~ heaven forbid that judgment upon us!

Then one day, this sweet poem arrives in the e-mail:

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?
Or gazed at the sun fading into night?

or

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask "how are you?" do you hear the reply?
When the day is done do you lie in your bed
with the next hundred chores running through your head?
Ever told your child we'll do it tomorrow?
And in your haste not see his sorrow?
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die
'Cause you never had time to call and say, "T"

When you run so fast to
get somewhere
You miss half the fun of
getting there.

When you worry and
hurry through your day,
It is like an unopened
gift...thrown away.

Life is not a race;
do take it slower

Hear the music
Before the song is over.

This New Year, we should stop our little tread mill long enough to reflect on what truly is important in our lives. Please pardon me while I close now...I must go to the store for some bonbons...and I'll be happy to share some with you. Ann Niskanen

SAVE THE DATE!

Join the fun at PPC at a Bunco Party on Friday, Jan. 10th at 7:30 p.m. We'll start with a chili supper and a chance to meet new members. Then it's BUNCO! What's Bunco, you ask? Well, come and find out. Sign up in the Narthex or call Vicki Dorman, 301-299-4245 or Maggie Fahs, 301-365-2395.

Marilyn's Message

As this issue of Steeple to People goes to press, we are all in the middle of the hustle and bustle of the Advent season...a time which is supposed to be for reflection, introspection, and patient waiting for the coming of the Christ. Instead, we are caught up in shopping, baking, cleaning, decorating, wrapping, visiting, practicing for special programs, and a million other pulls on our time.

Let us all try to take a few moments each morning to stop and remember the reason for our Christmas celebrations – the advent of new life that Christ brings to us. Perhaps it will make it easier to deal with frazzled clerks, harried shoppers, impatient drivers, and, perhaps worst of all, kids on sugar!

I share with you a poem written by Ann Weems, from her wonderful book, *Reaching for Rainbows*, which can help keep the Christ in Christmas, not just during December, but all year through:

CHRISTMAS COMES

Christmas comes every time we see God in
other persons.
The human and the holy we meet in Bethlehem
or in Times Square,
For Christmas comes like a golden storm on its
way to Jerusalem-determinedly, inevitably...
Even now it comes
In the face of hatred and warring –
No atrocity too terrible to stop it,

No Herod strong enough,
No hurt deep enough,
No curse shocking enough,
No disaster shattering enough –

For someone on earth will see the star,
Someone will hear the angel voices,
Someone will run to Bethlehem,
Someone will know peace and goodwill:

The Christ will be born!




ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

January 26, 2002 Following Worship

Annual Reports for 2002 will be mailed to the congregation on January 15th

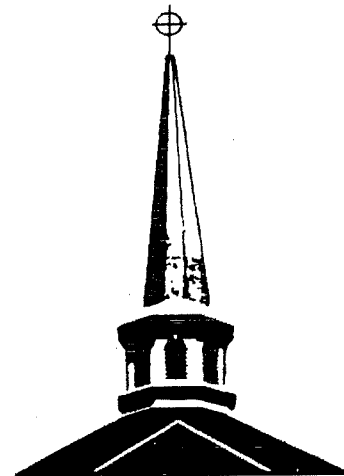
The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 26, 2003 following the worship service. The agenda for the meeting follows. It is the hope of the session that members will look over their annual reports prior to the meeting. There will be time in the meeting set aside so that if there are questions on the reports, those may be addressed. You may also speak to the committee chairs at any time with questions, comments, or suggestions.

We hope you will plan to stay for this annual meeting of the congregation. Children in Enrichment and the nursery (through Grade 2) will be cared for during the meeting. Youth will be available before and after the meeting to fill your orders for Super Bowl sub sandwiches. (Continued on page 7)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>January 2003</h1>			1 New Year's Day <i>~ Office Closed ~</i>	2 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	6	7 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Study Group	9 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10 7:00 p.m. Fun Bunch	11
12 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir / Session Breakfast with New Officers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Ordination and Installation of Officers 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	13 12:30 p.m. CE Committee 8:00 p.m. Committees	14 9:30 a.m. Christian Living 7:30 p.m. Christian Living	15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Study Group	16 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17 7:30-11:30 p.m. Scrapbooking Night	18 
19 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	20 8:00 p.m. Session	21 10:30 p.m. Men's Book Group	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Study Group	23 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Mtg. / Super Bowl Sub Sale <i>~ Youth Groups will not meet ~</i>	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons	28 10:00 a.m. Presbytery Mtg. (NPC) 	29 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Study Group	30 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	31 <p style="text-align: center;">Save the Date! Sunday February 23rd</p> Join the Workcampers on February 23 rd for a Talent Show with Karaoke and a Spaghetti supper!	

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

February

2003

KERRY ON...

The year 2003 marks the fortieth anniversary of our congregation. On December 15, 1963 fifty-three persons led by God's Spirit took the bold step to form a Presbyterian congregation in Potomac. We are grateful for their faith and courage and hope. Four of our charter members continue to be active members of the congregation: Jack Dart, Bob Garcia, Janet Harrison and Bob Tietjen. I appreciate the ministry of the pastors who preceded me; James Leitch, Richard Blice and David Uhl. Hundreds of ordained elders and deacons have given leadership along with Directors of Christian Education, Associate Pastor, Music Directors, Parish Associate, Interim Pastors, Interns and staff. Over sixteen hundred members have engaged in worship, education, mission and congregational care during the past forty years.

We could ask ourselves the question, what are we going to do now that we are forty? A better question would be, what does God want us to be and do as we look to the future of Potomac Presbyterian Church. During the month of January I have offered three sermons on the theme, "Being a Congregation in 2003: A Balancing Act," to help us begin to discern God's call for the future. The Session and its planning team will be providing opportunities for us to reflect on our past, think about our present ministry, and listen for God's direction for the years ahead. All of us can begin this anniversary year by spending some time in asking ourselves; what are those things about our congregation that are most gratifying to me and pleasing to God, and what do I believe God is calling us to do to enhance and expand the ministry of our Lord in this place?

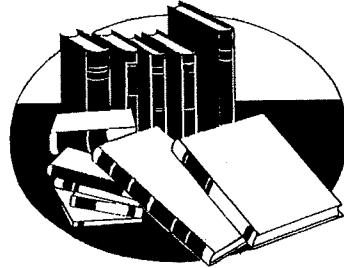
Happy Anniversary!

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*

Adult Education Class

Schedule for February

- February 2 Dr. Dewey Wallace of George Washington University:
Early Christian Writings
- February 9 Dr. Dewey Wallace
- February 16 Drs. Susan and Kyle McCarter
of Johns Hopkins University:
Christian Archaeology and
Early Christian Art
- February 23 Drs. Susan & Kyle McCarter



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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 23rd, March 2nd, and March 9th. 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 16th, 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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Dine with Nine in 2003

You are cordially invited to an evening of dinner, fun and fellowship in the homes of some of your fellow Potomac Presbyterian Church members. These informal potluck dinners are a wonderful way to meet new members and make new friends. New members are especially invited to participate in this one time event to be scheduled in February or March. Call Janet Swisher (301-977-2650) for more information or to sign up. Once groups are formed, the hostess will contact you on time and place. Deadline is Sunday, February 9, 2003.



We rejoice in the births of...

Charles Mead Clodfelter, IV, son of Gregory Lynn and Trey Clodfelter, on December 23rd. The proud grandparents are Ed and Lynda Tennent;

Ethan Charles Nasiff, son of Scott and Katy Nasiff, on January 9th. The proud grandparents are Bill and Pat King.

Congratulations to...

Bob and Kathy McMahon who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently.

Our prayers are with...

Alyce Tamzarian recovering from surgery at Mariner Healthcare Center;

Wendy Kuhn's father at the National Rehabilitation Hospital;

Wally Rowen recovering at Mariner Healthcare Center.

Marilyn's Message continued from page 3

It was so inspiring to hear each of the new officers, including our two youth deacons, talk about their personal understanding of these questions. Their approaches were unique, and although more than one was assigned the same question, their answers were quite individual.

It gives me hope for our denomination, and for our church, to hear people talking about loving the unlovable, and about relying on Scripture to guide their ministry, and about not compromising purity for the sake of unity and peace or unity and peace for the sake of purity. Several different people mentioned their desire to work together and rely on their fellow officers for guidance and help.

The sharing was very uplifting, and I wish everyone could have been there to witness it. The best I can do is offer you this glimpse into the ordination process, and assure you that our church is in very good hands!

Steeple Society Welcomes New Members in 2002

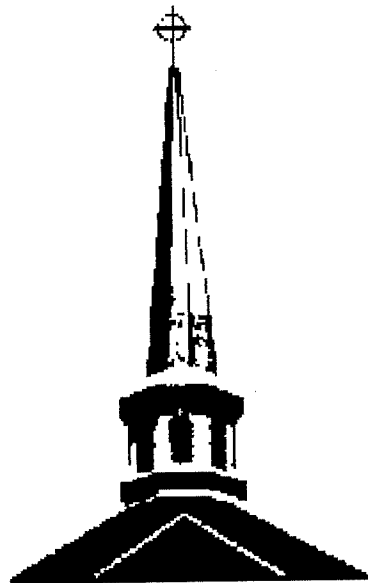
Marcia Boogaard

Bob and Miriam Conley

Pete and Jean Fisler

Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus

The Steeple Society recognizes members who have included the church in their estate planning. Twenty-one families have joined the Society since its inception in the spring of 2000. These resources for the future will help extend and enhance the ministry of the congregation. Please contact William King, chair of the Endowment Committee or Pastor Stoltzfus if you would like to know more about this opportunity to create a spiritual legacy.



Marilyn's Message

Although I am not officially a member of the session, they invite me to attend their meetings and special events. I was happy again this year to attend the annual New Officers' breakfast on January 12, where the elders- and deacons-elect are "examined" by the session. This sounds very frightening, but actually it is quite wonderful. There is a time of introductions, and this year everyone was asked to tell what denominations they had been exposed to throughout their lives. I was surprised at the number of lifelong Presbyterians in our midst, but was equally surprised at the diversity of religious backgrounds, and the reasons people changed from church to church.

The officers-elect are given a homework assignment: they are to study one of the ordination questions, and then at the breakfast, they talk briefly about what that question means to them. This was my favorite part of the meeting. In the two previous churches I served I taught extensive officer training courses, and I have led officer training workshops at the presbytery level on numerous occasions. I love this stuff! I especially love hearing other peoples' interpretations of the questions and how they plan to live them out in their new ministry.

The ordination questions are the same ones the new officers affirm in the worship service; and the same questions answered by candidates for Minister of Word and Sacrament. The questions are too lengthy for a word-for-word inclusion in this article, but basically they are:

- Do you trust in Christ and acknowledge him Head of the Church, and do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- Do you accept the Scriptures to be the unique and authoritative Word of God?
- Do you receive and adopt the confessions and the essentials of Reformed Theology, and will you be instructed and led by them?
- Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be guided by the confessions?
- Will you be governed by the rules of the PCUSA, and abide by its discipline, working cooperatively with others in ministry?
- Will you seek to follow Christ in your own life, loving neighbors and working for peace?
- Will you further the peace, purity and unity of the church?
- Will you try to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?

The final question is specific to the office of elder or deacon (or minister), and asks if the person will faithfully fulfill the duties of their office. Continued on page 10



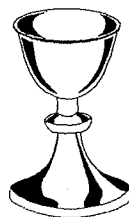
Praying for the Children

February

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our fours, fives and first graders. Pray for their parents and families too.

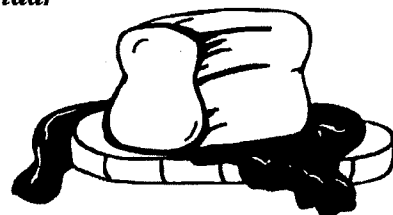
Isabella Augustine Alarie, Stefanie Baarman, Katherine Donahue, Nicholas Mason, Jackson Miller, Travis Nannen, Noah Pereles, Kate Shooshan, Meredith Srouer, Nathan VanBrunt, Austin Venit, Sara Cyrway, Austin Mills, Dalton Novalis, Dylan Parr, Grace Pereles, Jack White, Shannon Baarman, Audrey Ling, Courtney Parr, Hannah Singerling, Lia Sohl, McCartney VanBrunt, Haley White

Lord's Supper Class for Children and Parents



As part of our Sunday School program, we will offer a four-week class for children in grades 1-6 and their parents on the Lord's Supper. The class will take place during the Sunday School hour (9:45 -10:45 a.m.) on March 16, 23, 30, and April 6.

It is important that at least one parent attend each of the classes with your child; please mark your calendar with these dates. Children will receive an age-appropriate understanding of the sacraments, and parents may learn a thing or two as well!



"This is my body which given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19



Mark Your Calendars!



Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show

Sunday February 23 at 5:00 p.m.
(Snow Date: March 3)

Help raise money for workcamp this summer!

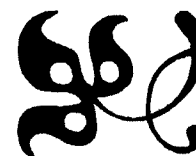
Great food and great talent!

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Bread, Salad, and Dessert

Children four and under-free

Children-\$5

Adults-\$10



Women of Faith ...

will return to the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. with a new program for 2003 on Friday evening June 27 and all day Saturday June 28. Olivia Mabeus will be organizing a group from PPC. Group ticket order must go in by March 30. Olivia will have Women of Faith information brochures available for all interested. Pick up a brochure or call Olivia for information.

Deacon's Corner...

Years ago I quit making New Years resolutions that I never kept. Still, my heart is pulled to start fresh as the New Year commences and unconsciously I make commitments for new beginnings in my life.

This year, new beginnings are especially significant. At the end of the 2003 school year, not only will my daughter Elyse graduate from high school, but also after over 13 years I will no longer be a homeschool mom. The majority of my time will no longer be automatically filled with meeting all of her educational needs. My heart already aches with the anticipated loss. But God is great. As one way of serving Him comes to an end, He has called me to a new opportunity of serving Him and you as a deacon of our church.

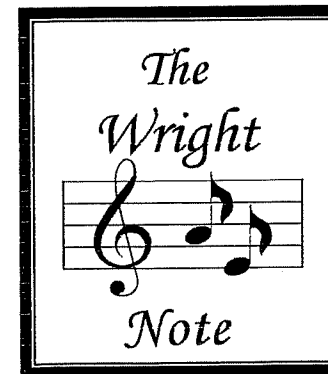
As the New Year begins and I prepare to serve you in a new role, I feel moved to new beginnings in my day-to-day walk as a Christian. I want to remember that not only does the New Year offer an opportunity to start fresh, but also that every day is an opportunity for a new beginning in my relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ. "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

With God's grace, I look forward to the new beginnings this year will bring. Roberta Meredith

Homeless Shelter Program begins Sunday February 9th. Please call Mary Reichley at 301-340-7649 if you haven't signed up to help. **Helpers are still needed.**

Community Ministry Recommendation...

Community Ministry in Montgomery County, with which our church is affiliated, has taken a strong stand against legalization of slot machines at racetracks and casino gambling in Maryland. Our newly elected Governor Robert Ehrlich and some leaders in both political parties argue that revenues from these operations are needed to deal with Maryland's current fiscal crisis. Experience in other states, however, has shown that this kind of legalized gambling victimizes the poor, leads to increased crime, and hurts legitimate small businesses. If you wish to express your views on this issue, which will be taken up early in the current legislative session, please contact your state representative or write to Governor Robert Ehrlich, State House, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 or e-mail governor@gov.state.md.us.



During this year of the 40th anniversary of our church, there will be opportunities for us to examine the focus and program of our church to determine our direction for the future. One of the many facets of our mission is our worship. When asked to consider the impact of worship, I think of preaching, reading and hearing the scriptures, praying, receiving communion, dedicating new lives to Christ through baptism, affirming our faith and praising God in speech and through music. As director of music, let me share with you my guidelines in selecting music, which in turn contributes to the style or character of our worship services.


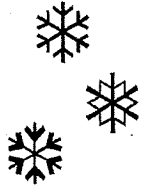





First, let's look at the hymns. Hymns are so important because the congregation is actively participating in this form of praise. We use as our resource the 1990 hymnal, Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs, endorsed by the Presbyterian Church and published by John Knox Press. A Potomac Presbyterian Church committee chose this hymnal; they researched hymnal options for over a year before making the recommendation for our current hymnal. It is used from cover to cover by our congregation, choir and organist. We sing a wide variety of hymns as corporate songs. The choir often uses hymns as responses. To teach new hymns, I often play special arrangements of hymn tunes as preludes or offertories. The accompaniment style for hymn singing is crisp and articulated so that singers can breathe appropriately and relate to the flow of the text. The ministers and musician choose hymns that highlight the sermon text and reflect the liturgical season of the year.

What do I consider when choosing service music for the various choirs? I first look at the text. Does it reflect the teachings of our faith? Is it God-centered? Is it skillfully set to music? Is the musical setting appropriate to the mood of the text? Will the choir enjoy working on the anthem? Is it within their skill level, yet challenging enough to keep their interest? Is the anthem inspiring? Does it lift the singer or ringer or instrumentalist to new spiritual heights when heard or sung, rung or played?

Besides text and musical standards, I look at variety. We sing and ring music from the 1600's on to the present. Although my personal taste may be the Baroque period, I know that there are many aspects of worship where music and styles from other periods are appropriate. At all times, I strive for music that is well crafted and fitting in word and setting for the particular worship experience and needs of those who come to worship.

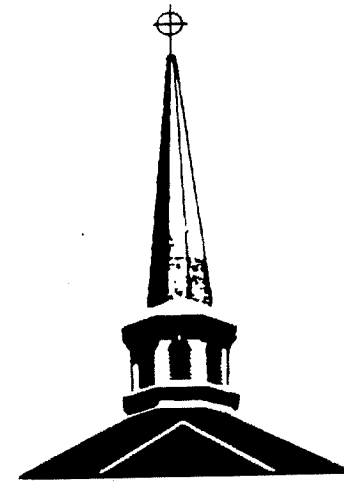
I feel strongly that our service music should lift us spiritually and musically. The spoken word and musical word should come together to inspire us as we celebrate and comfort us as we mourn. Finding just the right music is a constant challenge. Here at Potomac Presbyterian we try very diligently to sing, ring or play what is indeed an appropriate expression of praise to God.

Cindy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2003</h1> 						1
2 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	3 	4 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Study Group	6 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	7	8 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Retreat
9 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	10 12:30 p.m. CE Committee 8:00 p.m. Committees	11 9:30 a.m. Christian Living 7:30 p.m. Christian Living	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	13 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	14 	15 12:00 p.m. Deadline "Steeple to People"
16 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	17 8:00 p.m. Session	18 10:30 p.m. Men's Book Group	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Study Group	20 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	21	22 
23 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Spaghetti Supper/ Talent Show	24 7:30 p.m. Deacons	25 	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Study Group	27 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	28 	

Potomac Presbyterian Church
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301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

March

2003

KERRY ON...

Only those who can celebrate God's grace to others can experience it themselves. There is an old Jewish story that illustrates this truth.

It is a story about the good fortune of a hardworking farmer. The Lord appeared to this farmer and granted him three wishes, but with the condition that whatever the Lord did for the farmer would be given double to his neighbor. The farmer scarcely believing his good fortune, wished for a hundred cattle. Immediately he received a hundred cattle, and he was overjoyed until he saw that his neighbor had two hundred cattle. So he wished for a hundred acres of land, and again he was filled with joy until he saw that his neighbor had two hundred acres of land. Rather than celebrating God's goodness, the farmer could not escape feeling jealous and slighted because his neighbor had received more than he. Finally, he stated his third wish: that God would strike him blind in one eye. And God wept.

ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

Wednesday March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

A special service to begin the Lenten Season

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*

AN ODE TO O. THOMAS

O THOMAS...80.....is so..... weighty!

Who could attain such an age oh, sage.

Serious, with a hint of clever puns.

We enjoy your prayers.... as well as the fun.

Your eyes are a twinkle, with hardly a wrinkle.

O. Thomas, O. Thomas carry on in the game
But, please tell us what is that 'O' in your name?

Orenthal? No way!

Otis? Hardly!

Oreo? Sweet, but not quite!

Ah, dear Oscar,though hardly the grouch...

It's a name befitting dignity..... and daring
For a Parish Associate that calls for much caring.

As well as:

A Princeton scholar,

Without a collar.

A traveler of sorts,

In many ports.

A friend to all,

Who's rather tall

A writer of sermons you see

A composer of words as fine as can be.

We honor you O. Thomas

With love and thanksgiving

As well for Grace in this holy place.....

The happiest of birth days to you now..... and always.

Ruthanne Stoltzfus

Women of Faith returns to the MCI Center on June 27th and 28th. Olivia Mabeus is organizing a PPC group. Our group order needs to be in by March 31st. Individual orders can be obtained up until the day of the event. Information about either of these options can be obtained from Olivia. Get a brochure from her this Sunday.



Praying for the Children

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. Pray for their parents and families too.

Allie Amoroso, Michael Donahue, Jane Drumheller, Hannah Jung, Samantha Klein, Amanda Kuhn, Kayla Mason, Lucy Miller, Matthew Underhill, Ashton Kline, Victoria Kuhn, Amanda Lee, Molly Miller, Connor Mills, Chasen Mindnich, Brandon Parr, Luke Pereles, Emily Petti, Abigail Singerling, Allison Srour, Chandler Amoroso, Julianna Bond, Megan Boyd, Michelle Boyd, Colleen Cronin, Matthew Jeffers, Angelica Klein, Blake Kline, Katherine Ling, Mackenzi Phillips, Margaret Sargeant, MeiLe Sohl



We rejoice in the birth of...

Meghan Ainsley Simpson, daughter of Tim and Laura Simpson, on January 19th. The proud grandparents are David and Paddy Simpson and Arlene Parmelee.

Congratulations to...

Charles and Nancy Miller, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 7th.

Our prayers are with...

Doug Dunlop and family. Doug's father, Stuart Dunlop, died in January;

Wally Rowen recovering at Mariner Healthcare Center;

Alyce Tamzarian recovering at home;

Bob Hazard at Wilson Healthcare Center at Asbury (no visitors).

Lost... Blue-green lambs wool scarf accidentally placed in sleeve of wrong black/white/charcoal ladies coat or jacket. Would love to have it back. Please leave it in the church office.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

With interest rates at almost all time lows, it is hard to find an investment with a reasonable rate of return. There is, however, an investment that provides:

- Income for life at attractive interest rates for one or two lives;
- Tax deduction savings;
- Capital gains tax savings;
- Tax free income; and
- An opportunity to make a gift to PPC's Endowment funds.

The investment is a charitable gift annuity. These gifts can be funded by gifts of cash or securities. If appreciated securities are used, it is possible to obtain attractive capital gains tax savings.

How Gift Annuities Work

With the gift of cash or securities, you receive an immediate tax deduction and start to receive payments that continue throughout your life. A portion of these payments are tax deductible. At your death, the money is used by the church to fund various projects, and you may specify how your gift should be used.

Interest rates vary depending on age and whether one or two people receive payments, but range from approximately 6.3% for a single person age 65 to approximately 8.3% for a single person age 80.

The New Year is a time when we often review not only our investments but a time when we reflect on what is most important in our lives. Gift annuities provide an opportunity to improve the return on your investments and to support PPC and its' importance to you and your family.

If you would like to learn more about gift annuities, please contact Bill King (Endowment Committee Chair) or Pastor Stoltzfus.

Home Communion Schedule

Tuesday, March 11	Susan Pereles	12029 Great Elm Drive; Potomac
Tuesday, March 18	Ann Niskanen	12114 Pawnee Drive; North Potomac
Sunday, March 30	Chris Cryway	10008 Hemswell Lane; Potomac
Wednesday, April 9	Roberta Meredith	12910 Esworthy Road; North Potomac

The **Steeple to People Deadline** is the 15th of every month, August - May. Please place your articles in the Steeple to People box in the church office or e-mail your article to: margie.bedingfield@verizon.net. The summer deadline will be announced in May.

Marilyn's Message

A couple of issues ago I wrote about a new program our church was sponsoring to help those hearing a call to educational ministry to begin the process toward becoming a Certified Christian Educator. The program called for a three-way partnership between a new educator, PPC, and a partner church who was looking for an educator. We found a person who was called to educational ministry, but could not find a suitable partner church, so we have decided on a slightly different plan. It is hoped that in the fall we might try to match an intern with a partner church and begin the program again.

In the meantime, PPC is going to offer the educational classes, which would have been part of this program, although we will not have an intern at this time. The invitation to attend these classes is being made to people around the presbytery, and is also being extended to people in our church family! There are six courses, each with four classes. Classes will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3:30 p.m., and are free of cost except for the purchase of textbooks. You may attend one course or several. If you take all of the classes, you will have the required hours to take the first step toward certification (Enrolled Educational Assistant). But even if you have no desire to pursue a call in educational ministry, you will still benefit from the classes, which will be taught by educators and pastors from around the presbytery.

Classes offered are:

March	Administration	June/July/Aug	Leader Development
April	Biblical Foundations	September	Theological Foundations
May	Religious Education Theory and Practice	October	Human Development, Age-Group Skills

Please contact Marilyn Johns if you would like to be part of one or more of these courses.

Parenting Speaker... "Dealing with stress while parenting children and teens" will be addressed at an upcoming Stephen Ministry session here at PPC. All are invited to hear psychotherapist Dr. Alice Miller speak about this topic on Wednesday, March 12th at 7 p.m. in the church library. For information, contact Kathy McPherson at (301) 765-1154.

The Puritan Tradition... The Adult Education program for March, meeting each Sunday from 9:45 to 10:50 in the Church library on the second floor, will feature a series of lectures and discussions led by Professor Bruce Douglas of Georgetown University on the founding and development of the Puritan tradition in America. Last year Professor Douglas led us for four Sundays in discussing the rise (and fall) of Puritanism in England. This year he will take up the story in the New World, focusing on the lives of such figures as John Winthrop, John Cotton, Thomas Hooker, and Roger Williams. Classes will meet on March 2, 9, 16, and 23. Coffee, tea, and breakfast pastries will be provided.

Come! Join Us for a Season of Renewal!

The Worship Committee invites our congregation to consider several of the special services that will occur during the Season of Lent. The 40 days of Lent is a period in our church life that includes meditation, prayer and spiritual renewal, following the example of Christ.

The color of the season is violet and during this time we prepare our hearts for the Resurrection marked by Easter.

At Potomac Presbyterian, the Worship Committee asks you to consider these dates as times to deepen your spiritual lives:

- March 5 - Ash Wednesday Communion Service - 7:30 p.m.
- April 13 - Palm Sunday - 11:00 a.m.
- April 17 - Maunday Thursday - Light supper provided by the Fellowship Committee at 7:00 p.m., followed by a Communion Service at 8:00 p.m.
- April 20 - Easter Sunday - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Also note the Home Communion sponsored by the Deacons
- Daily Lenten Meditations will be available in the Narthex

ALWAYS AT THE FOOD STORE??? NOW YOU CAN EARN FUNDS FOR THE WORKCAMPERS WHILE YOU SHOP AT SAFEWAY! There is **no cost** to you and our youth will benefit! Safeway will contribute a percentage of your purchases to Potomac Presbyterian Church! Here's how to sign up:

If you don't already have one, you must first obtain a Safeway club card by going in to any Safeway store. When you have your card, fill in the information on the form below and mail it to me, e-mail it to me, or drop it off at the church office. That's all there is to it! THANK YOU for supporting our workcampers!

Mail to: Karen Wise or e-mail to: karensuewise@hotmail.com
9812 Clydesdale Street
Potomac, MD 20854

Name: _____

Address: _____

Safeway Club Card #: _____ (11 digits)

Note: You also have the option of signing yourself up on-line at www.escrip.com. You will need to know our church's ID # which is **1038484**. If you would like your store purchases to benefit more than one group (up to 3), you can sign up for that on-line as well, or call me at 301-299-2826 for details. Thanks! Karen Wise.

Deacon's Corner

And he said: "Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples." Matthew 26: 18

Following in the tradition of the Last Supper, the deacons will once again host home communions during Lent. The home communions offer the congregation the opportunity to experience true fellowship as we come together in the homes of church members to pray, sing, read the Gospel and receive communion in a manner reminiscent of the earliest Christians. PPC members have found them to be a most meaningful and personal celebration of the Lenten season. If you have attended a home communion in the past, we hope that you will participate once again. If you have not participated before, we hope that you will join us in experiencing one of these most moving and inspiring services. All home communions begin at 7:30 p.m. Please see the home communion schedule on page 10.

The deacons will also be hosting an All-Deacon's Coffee Hour on March 16th after the worship service. Each parish will be represented at a table in Fellowship Hall and the deacons will provide the refreshments. The coffee provides a wonderful opportunity to chat with your deacon and fellow parish members as well as to meet and welcome our newest members, who will be received into the PPC congregation that morning. So, please stop by your parish table and support your local deacon!

One Loaf

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. 1 Corinthians 10

You may have noticed that recently the loaf of bread that Kerry presents to the congregation during the communion service is a beautiful round home-baked loaf, rather than the braided loaf we have frequently used in the past. Karen Wise started a meaningful new PPC tradition by baking the loaves for our Christmas Eve Services and has continued to provide the loaves for our communion services. Karen would like to, on occasion, bake the loaves, but she would also like to offer the opportunity to any PPC member who enjoys baking bread and who would like to participate in the communion service in this most personal way. If you would like to bake a loaf for communion, please contact Karen at (301) 299-2826 or Susan Hougen at (301) 299-8391.

Gift Cards

Available for Sale in March

The Workcampers Gift Cards will be available for sale following the worship services on March 2 and 9. Remember that Mother's Day and Easter are coming up! What nicer gift to give to the person who has everything than a donation to the workcamp mission project in Fountain, Colorado. Thank you for your continued generous support for this ministry!

Looking Toward the Next 40 Years

As we all know, 2003 marks PPC's 40th anniversary. In addition to celebrating those four decades as a congregation, the Session determined that the church might use this occasion to contemplate where we have come from, where we are today and where we want to be in the future. The objective of this process of review (which some have called "discernment") is to build on our obvious strengths, but not to rest on our laurels.

For the past three months, we have served as an informal committee working with our Pastor, the staff, the Session and the Board of Deacons to put in place a process that will enable us to listen to and learn from every member of the congregation. That process began with the series of three sermons Kerry delivered in January, entitled "Being a Congregation in 2003: A Balancing Act." The next step will take place on **Sunday, March 2nd** when we will devote a portion of the Worship Service to responding to a questionnaire that asks each of us to reflect on nearly every aspect of PPC—Mission, Worship, Congregational Care and Christian Education. For those of you who cannot be in church that day, we will provide copies by mail for you to fill out and return. Our goal is to get as close to 100% participation as possible. And we want to hear both from active and inactive members! Your views are important to the process.

We will follow up that questionnaire in April with a series of "conversations" in small groups to "discern" in greater detail where we should be heading as a church. Finally, after listening carefully and praying for God's direction, our committee will prepare a report to the Session that embodies what we have heard so that we can chart the course for the next 40 years.

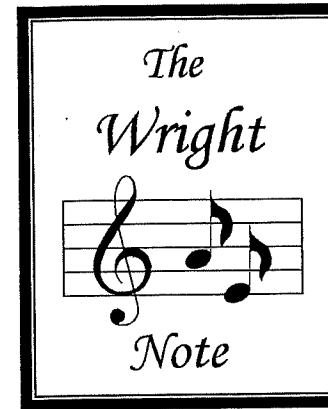
In a January sermon, Kerry asked the question "What's a congregation to do in 2003 and the years ahead?" His answer: "Thank God. Ask for wisdom. Affirm God's power." We could not have said it better. Tom Cookerly Ed Rudnic Julie McMahon Pam Self-Rice Chip Shooshan

Berger Lecture

About every other year, our church, through the generous endowment of the Berger family, sponsors a special speaker to come to the adult education class and to preach. This year, on March 30, we are excited to welcome Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, Assistant Professor of Youth, Church and Culture and Director of the School of Christian Education at Princeton Theological Seminary. Kenda has written *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul-Tending in Youth Ministry*, which is highly regarded among church youth workers. Her most recent book is *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*. Kenda will speak to the adult education class on the topic of "Keeping Young People in the Church," a timely topic in all faith communities. Kenda is an elder, graduated from Miami University of Ohio, Wesley Theological Seminary and Princeton Seminary, and served in local church and campus ministry before joining the faculty of Princeton Seminary, where she was the founding director of the Institute for Youth Ministry.

In addition to her time with us on Sunday morning, the Johnson family (Gregg and Sherry) will host a dinner at their home on Saturday evening for Kenda and various youth workers from around our presbytery. This will allow a broader audience to meet with her and discuss relevant issues in youth ministry.

Please mark your calendar for March 30 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, as we welcome Dr. Kenda Dean to Potomac Presbyterian!



Lent is upon us, and our music will help us center our thoughts on the sacrifice Christ made for us. To mark the first Sunday of Lent, we will participate in the sacrament of communion. Guest instrumentalists Vanita Jones and Arianna Smith will join our Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Choir to lead us in this contemplative musical worship.

As the weeks progress, we will crescendo into the festive Palm Sunday procession involving our singing children carrying palms. Four days later on Maundy Thursday our Sanctuary Choir will present the cantata "Jesus Alone" by Gilbert Martin as part of our congregation's evening meal and communion service.

After a time of personal reflection on Good Friday, we will gather together on Easter with a distinct contrast in music inspired by the proclamation that Christ is risen. We will sing and rejoice with instruments and voice to celebrate the good news of our faith.

As I lead our choirs through these liturgical seasons, I am constantly revitalized by the hymn, "When in Our Music God Is Glorified".

Cindy

Enjoy music?

Like a cappella singing?

Want an up-lifting good time?

Come to the...

"OUT OF THE BLUE" CONCERT

March 23 7:00 p.m.

Potomac Presbyterian Church




Tickets: \$10 adult \$8 student

OUT OF THE BLUE, Oxford University's premier all-male A Cappella group, is touring the East Coast of the United States from March 17 to April 1. Blending traditional techniques with a modern sound, Out of the Blue (OOTB) sings everything from traditional barbershop to rock and pop, including such diverse artists as Red Hot Chili Peppers, Billy Joel, Robbie Williams and the Beach Boys--all without accompaniment.

Composed of twelve Oxford graduate and undergraduate students, OOTB is non-profit, entirely student run, and since it's founding in October of 2000 has drawn members from eight different countries. The founder and musical director is Derek Smith, member of our church and son of Del and Mary Margaret Smith.

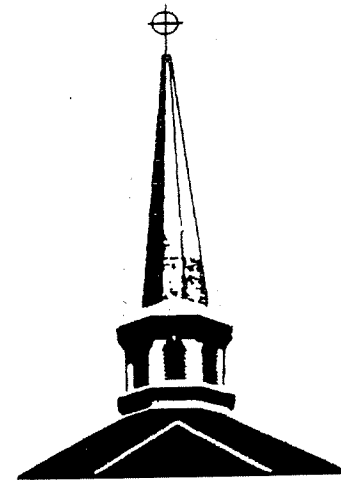
Tickets will be available at the door, but since seating is limited tickets can also be purchased from Ferrell's Specialty Gift Shop in Potomac Village and from Mary Margaret Smith on Sundays in Fellowship Hall after church or by calling 301 299 3331.

Further information can be found on website: www.ootb.org.uk.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Workcamp Meeting 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	3 	4 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service/Communion	6 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	7 9:00 p.m. Jr. High Lock-in →	8 8:00 a.m.
9 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	10 12:30 p.m. CE Committee 8:00 p.m. Committees	11 9:30 a.m. Christian Living 7:30 p.m. Home Communion 7:30 p.m. Christian Living	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Study Group	13 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	14 	15 8:30 a.m. - noon Presbytery Session Records Review
16 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. New members meet with the Session 11:00 a.m. Worship / New members 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	17 8:00 p.m. Session	18 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group 7:30 p.m. Home Communion	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Study Group	20 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	21 	22 
23 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:30 p.m. Youth Groups 7:30 p.m. "Out of the Blue" Concert	24 7:30 p.m. Deacons	25 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (NPC)	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Study Group	27 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	28 	29
30 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/ Berger Lecture 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth 7:30 p.m. Home Communion	31 	 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">March 2003</h1>				

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

April

2003

KERRY ON...

Prayers for the People Sunday March 16, 2003

God of the nations and Creator of the beauty of this earth; we come before you to worship, to seek your will, and to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again your world is torn by strife and hatred. It is a time of great peril. Hatred and evil threaten peace and goodwill among your children.

God of justice and mercy, we bow before you. Make us aware of our inclination to pride and arrogance. Remind us of our human frailty and give us a humble sense that we always have only partial truth. Help us to confess any desire for revenge.

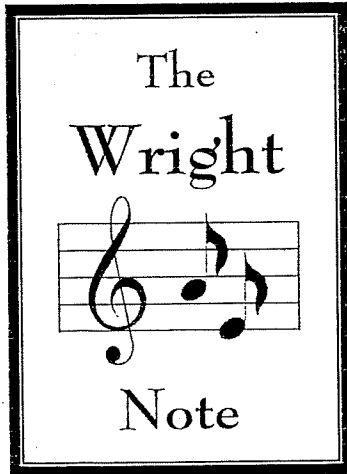
Holy God we pray for those who make decisions, for leaders of the nations. We pray for our President, the Cabinet, members of congress and those who serve in the military. You have given humankind freedom to choose and these leaders are responsible to make wise decisions. Help them to balance justice and mercy. Give them wisdom and sound judgment and make them mindful of children and the weak and powerless.

If war is to come, O God forgive our inability to avert this last resort. Guard our brave men and women who risk their lives in battle. Even as they do their duty may they not hate the enemy but hate war itself. Give them compassion even for the enemy and for all victims of war.

O Lord we pray for your servants who even now minister to the desperate needs of your children who live in the shadow of military action. Even more we pray for an unprecedented outpouring of humanitarian assistance for all who may be the victims of war. May our nation be known as great, not in terms of military might, but by our acts of compassion and love of freedom.

O God of the nations, God of Abraham and Sarah, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us your peace, even as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us; Our Father...

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*



"I danced on" a Friday when the sky turned black....." The time between Palm Sunday and Easter may have been for Jesus the loneliest time of his life. On Maundy Thursday, April 17, our congregation will experience this lonely time through a musical cantata entitled "Jesus Alone" by Gilbert Martin. Our Sanctuary Choir will sing the four musical selections that depict Jesus in relation to Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane and finally the cross on Calvary. The four musical segments will be introduced by inspiring narration read by members of our congregation. Communion will be served as a meaningful expression of the section of the cantata directed to the tradition of Passover.

This evening of worship will be quite unusual and memorable. Besides our fellowship meal and the beautiful musically-led worship service that will follow in the Sanctuary, there will be a new dimension - liturgical dance. Our guest dancer, Lisa Johnson, will visually interpret each of the choir's songs. Lisa is a Potomac resident and highly skilled in liturgical dance. We are pleased to have her lead us in our visual appreciation of the somber events of Maundy Thursday.

JESUS ALONE: a service to attend; a Lenten memory to cherish.

Cindy

Educator-in-Training Classes

Our classes have begun! In March Dr. Hank Postel, pastor of Darnestown Presbyterian Church, has been leading us in "Biblical Foundations." [This was a schedule change because of his availability.] There are people in the class who are currently working as Christian Educators, there are some who believe God is calling them to become Christian Educators, and there are a few people who are just taking the classes because they want to increase their knowledge and understanding.

In April, Marilyn Johns will be teaching the class on "Administration," which will explore the need for Christian Education in the church, look at the dynamics of our churches, explore working on a church staff, and design an educational program for our churches. Classes meet on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3:30 and cost \$25 for the four-week series, plus the cost of textbooks which you get on your own.

Please call Marilyn at the church if you are interested in attending. You are welcome to come!



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our 5th, 6th, and 7th graders. Pray for their parents and families too.

Dixon Drumheller, Nick Kovacs, Will Kovacs, Andrew Lee, Baihly Underhill, Kevin Wyatt, Daniel Bond, Jenny Cronin, Stephanie Dorman, Kendall Forward, Kathryn Haynes, William Hewson, Will Johnson, Mike Kovacs, Elizabeth Naegeli, Joseph Naegeli, Meggy Newton, Matthew Wollesen, Eric Bernstein, Meredith Bond, Brendan Burnett, Kyle Cissel, Colin Dowd, Chelsea Drumheller, Megan Griswold, Eric Jeffers, Christopher Kent, Stephen Kent, Beau Kline, Steve Kovacs, Donald McMahon, Teman Mebane, Curtis Mills, Britten Mindnich, Thomas Niskanen, Connor Phillips, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, Hannah Self, Thomas Underhill



We rejoice in the birth of...

Katherine Elizabeth Prouty, daughter of Eric and Mary Ann Prouty, on February 15th. The proud grandparents are Charlene and Bruce Brumbaugh;

Travis Kai Mecklenburg, son of Dan and Marilyn Mecklenburg. The proud grandfather is Bob Mecklenburg.

Our prayers are with...

Ted Jarboe recovering from surgery;

Wally Rowen recovering at Mariner Healthcare Center;

Bob Hazard at Kessler-Adventist Rehabilitation Center (no visitors).

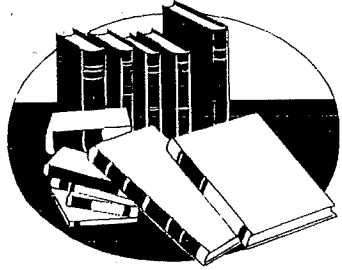
Save the date for...

"Pippin." Community Ministry of Montgomery County is sponsoring "Pippin" at the Roundhouse Theatre on Sunday evening, June 22, 2003. More information to come from your Mission Committee next month.

Church Library

Several new books have been added to the church library.

Ancient Inscriptions: Voices from the Biblical World by P. Kyle McCarter (411/McC) is a most fascinating book about humans learning to record their thoughts about God and everyday transactions. Mr. McCarter was a speaker to the Adult Education Class and will return with his wife in April.



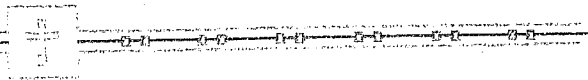
Elders and Deacons, you might enjoy "The Leadership Lessons of Jesus: A timeless Model for Today's Leaders" by Bob Briner (253.21/Bri). This little book will help you and all of us learn to use Jesus' leadership skills at home, work or church.

Many times when we are trying to comfort a grieving person, we don't know what to say. "I Know Just How You Feel" by Erin Linn (155.9/Lin). This book will help us to use the right words and know why the wrong words are wrong.

Why not check a book out? Don't forget to write the date you take the book, your name and phone number on the book card in the back of the book. Please leave the card in the gray box.

Scrapbook Night

Scrapbook Night is happening again on Friday April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your pictures and scrapbook and have fun working together with your PPC friends. Look for our poster in Fellowship Hall for more information.



The **Steeple to People Deadline** is the 15th of every month, August-May. Please place your articles in the Steeple to People box in the church office or e-mail your article to: margie.bedingfield@verizon.net. The summer deadline will be announced in May.

Marilyn's Message

Have you ever wondered what you would ask if you had the chance to ask God one question? Would you ask the meaning of some mysterious theological principle, such as 'Just how does the Trinity work?' or 'Is predestination really true?' Or perhaps you'd try to clear up some of those tough biblical questions like, 'So how long did it really take to create the world?' or 'What is up with the Book of Revelation?'

The youth in our Senior High group have been reading through the Gospel of Mark this year, and they have many difficult questions. Lately, we read about the withered fig tree in Mark 11. The action seems so out of character for Jesus, we wonder if it is really true, and what it could mean. Then somehow the story of Elisha and the bear from 2 Kings 2:23-24 -- how could a loving God do such a thing?

This prompted me to pull out a little book called, *Children's Letters to God*. Here are some of their questions:

In Sunday School they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on holiday?

How did you know you were God?

Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his Bowling Words in the house?

Did you mean for giraffe to look like that or was it an accident?

Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you got now?

It's o.k. that you made different religions but don't you get mixed up sometimes?

In Bible times did they really talk that fancy?

I would like to know why all the things you said are in red.

Everyone has questions: children, youth, and adults. Frankly, I think it would be pretty dull if everything was spelled out and we didn't have to work at it a little bit. How do we do that? Through prayer, Bible study, conversation with Christian friends, researching something to get an idea of what other searchers have found, and thinking about things. This is what Christian education is about.

Church Grounds Clean-up

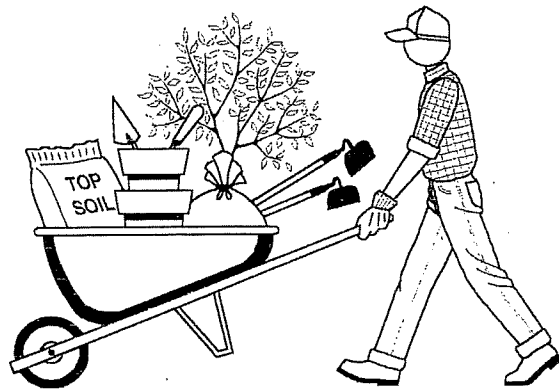
Spring is here
(We hope)

April 5 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rain date ~ April 12

We need your help!

**Bring your tools,
wheelbarrows
and smiles**



Prayer Group



PRAYER REQUESTS: The Worship Committee is offering a new opportunity for those who wish to deepen and extend their spiritual lives through prayer. After the Lenten Season a prayer group will be assembled. This group will pray for those who submit their requests. Prayer Request envelopes will be available later this spring. If you are interested in being part of this group or need more information, please call Roberta Meredith at 301-963-8666 or Susan Hougen at 301-299-8391. "And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Eph. 6:18a.

GIFT CARDS: Gift cards will be available for sale on April 6 and 27. Get those last minute Easter basket stuffers or Mother's Day and graduation gifts by giving a donation in your loved one's name to the PPC Workcamp.

The Lord's Table

Volunteers are needed the first Tuesday of each month at the Lord's Table. We prepare and serve the meal from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please call Jane Stanton at 301-983-3068.

Coffee Hour



Coffee hour is a time for fellowship. It takes place after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. A rotating staff of Deacons and volunteers from their parish groups prepare coffee and tea for the adults, punch or juice for the children and "goodies" for all. Please join us each Sunday after the worship service.

Mark your Calendars to be on the PPC Team Komen National Race for the Cure

Saturday June 7, 2003

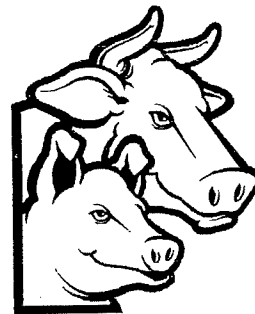
If you have questions

please contact

Bettie Ann Johnson

301-963-5847

bettieannj@comcast.net



Come on Down to

SonHarvest County Fair for

Some Down-Home Fun!

We're excited about this year's Vacation Bible School to be held July 14-18. SonHarvest County Fair is a week of fun on the farm! In SonHarvest County, children will discover how to grow the fruit of the Spirit. Specifically, children will learn to Grow Love, Sprout Joy, Plant Peace, Produce Patience and Pick Kindness. We will be having a great time with lively songs, skits, crafts, games, Bible stories and snacks - all of the things that make VBS so much fun for children. On top of that, we will be helping children grow the fruit of God's Spirit. Registration will begin in May. To volunteer, please call Joel or Judi Miller at 301-946-3983.



WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Do you feel alone? God can help you bear your burdens, but sometimes it may help to talk to others about the things that are bothering you. Stephen Ministers are there with you as you encounter difficulties.

Feeling Down? Stephen Ministers can be there during the big crises. They can walk with you while you deal with the little things, too, especially when there are lots of little things adding up. You could consider Stephen Ministry if you're feeling discouraged; all problems are important to God.

Listen! A Stephen Minister won't solve all your problems for you. They'll listen to you. Stephen Ministers have gone through more than 50 hours of training in providing Christian Care, so that they can focus on your needs and listen to what you really have to say.

Confidential! Everything you say to a Stephen Minister is held in strict confidence. A Stephen Minister does not tell other Stephen Ministers who is receiving care.

Trustworthy! You can trust Stephen Ministers. They are committed to providing the best Christian care possible to their care receivers.

Stephen Ministry provides confidential, ongoing, one-on-one Christian care to people experiencing a wide range of needs, difficulties, crises, and stressful situations. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Kerry.

EASTER FLOWERS: At PPC a very special tradition continues when the congregation contributes to the EASTER SUNDAY FLOWER FUND. Flowers adorning the Sanctuary will be remembrances of those family and friends who have influenced our lives in special ways. Their names will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Surplus funds will be donated to The Montgomery Hospice Society. Please note that special Easter Flower envelopes are located in the pews and should be filled out exactly as you wish to be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Please place your donation in the offering plate or mail your offering with attention to Teresa Garcia. All contributions must be in the church office by Palm Sunday, April 13.

Sponsored by the Worship Committee.

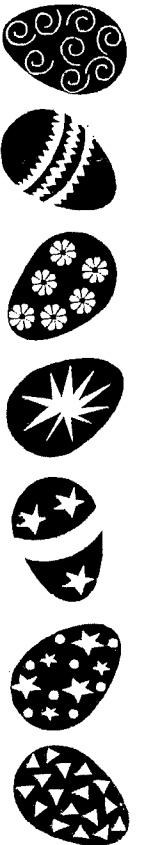


Maundy Thursday

Please circle Thursday, April 17 as the evening representing Christ's Last Supper, when all church members and their families are encouraged to attend a fellowship meal prepared by the Fellowship Committee as well as a communion service in the sanctuary. The evening will begin with a light supper for a nominal fee of \$3.00/ adults and \$1.00/children. The communion service in the sanctuary will include a cantata inspired by the theme of Christ Alone with the inclusion of liturgical dance, signifying the solemnity of the occasion. Please sign up in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, March 30 for the meal and indicate the number of people attending. Child care will be provided for young children.

Adult Education

- April 6 Dr. Susan McCarter, Archaeologist and Art Historian ~ Johns Hopkins University ~ Christian Art through the ages
- April 13 Dr. Susan McCarter
- April 20 Easter Sunday ~ No Class
- April 27 Dr. Kyle McCarter ~ Follow-up on his Feb. 23rd lecture on the ossuary



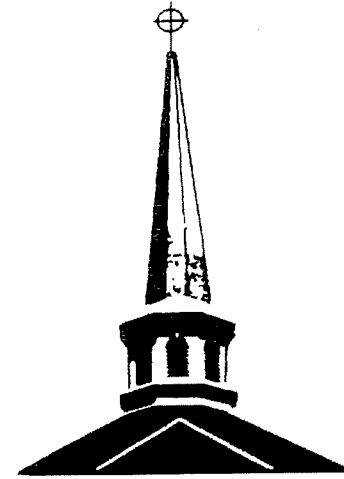
Easter Egg Hunt

Children of all ages are invited to join in our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20. We will meet in the narthex at 10:25 a.m. and children will hunt for eggs on the church lawn. There will be large eggs for children kindergarten and younger and smaller eggs for 1st - 4th graders. *Bring a basket!* Older children can help hide the eggs ahead of time (meet in the narthex at 10 a.m.) and can help supervise younger children.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class 7:00 p.m. Anniversary Planning Team 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	2 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	3 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	4	5 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Church Grounds Clean Up
6 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Communion Class 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/Gift Card Sale 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	7 12:30 p.m. CE Committee	8 9:30 a.m. Christian Living 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class 7:30 p.m. Christian Living	9 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:30 p.m. Home Communion	10 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir		12
13 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship <i>No Youth Groups</i>	14 8:00 p.m. Committees	15 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group 12 Noon - "Steeple to People" Deadline 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class	16 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal 8:00 p.m. Worship Service with Communion, Cantata and Liturgical Dance	18 Good Friday	
20 Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:25 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship <i>No Youth Groups</i>	21	22 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class	23 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	24 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	25 5:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Scrapbook Night	26 5:30 p.m. Wedding Toerge/McShane
27 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/Gift Card Sale 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	28 7:30 p.m. Session 7:30 p.m. Deacons	29 	30 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	 <h1>April 2003</h1>		

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

May

2003

KERRY ON...

How can we best balance what is new with what is old in theology and interpretations of Scripture? There is always a temptation to choose novelty. Presbyterians affirm the value of those who have traveled the journey of faith before us and we seek guidance of the creeds and confessions. At the same time we are try to remain open to fresh insight and points of view that may differ from our experience. C.S. Lewis helps me to consider this balance or tension in the following thoughts:

First, do you really hold to a “chronological snobbery” that denies that any past beliefs could be considered true? Has my “old fashioned” view ever been shown to be false? If so, where, and how conclusively?

Second, are you aware that our own “period” might have illusions and blind spots, as postmodernists are so quick to point out? Could we correct our blind spots by listening to people from other cultures and from other ages?

Third, is development best sought by leaving things behind as on a road or by drawing life from them as from a root?

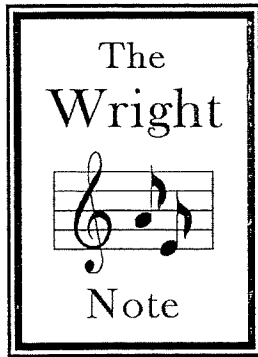
Fourth, we certainly don’t have to “turn back the clock” - except when it’s telling the wrong time.

Fifth, aren’t the most modern or postmodern views really enslaved to the recent past?

Sixth, maybe I am a dinosaur, but wouldn’t you listen a little while to one if you could?

Seventh, the latest might be the best in technology, but not necessarily with respect to the true, the good, and the beautiful, and especially not with the eternal, unchanging 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*



I am writing in the after-glow of our Palm Sunday celebration yesterday in church. Greeted by a crisp, clear morning, our early arriving Children's Choir began the day by parading around the church parking lot singing, "He comes, He comes, He comes in the name of the Lord". They struck woodblock instruments in rhythmic response, marching and singing with the exuberance of the Jerusalem crowds greeting Jesus.

Earlier in the week our Primary Choir had a more solemn parade where the marching was a slow clip clop of the donkey carrying Jesus. They, too, used woodblock instruments to give the sound of the donkey's steps. Their song led the children carefully through Jesus' week of sadness. The music and text climaxed with the complete joy of Easter and the promise of a heavenly home.

The Sanctuary Choir entered the church early on Sunday to participate in the 10:30 a.m. warm-up rehearsal. They seemed excited to be singing four anthems that they had been practicing so diligently over the past few rainy, stormy Thursday nights. The hosannas rang joyfully through the sanctuary as congregation members spontaneously joined in the waving of palms and the singing of the melodic refrain of "Hosanna to the Son". The hosannas in the poignant "Sanctus" by Craig Courtney sent chills down the backs of some of the choir members and truly inspired many of you listening in a sense of worship in the pews below the loft. The harmonies and drama of "My Eternal King" by Jane Marshall seemed to remind us of the challenging words of Pastor Stoltzfus' message.

Our choirs are a blessing to us all. You will hear the handbells add their hosannas on Easter morning. I thank all choir members for their dedication and truly beautiful sounds of prayer and praise. I can't remember a more meaningful Lenten season. I personally feel that my connection with this church and the people who help me create our musical worship deserve much of the credit for my enthusiasm.

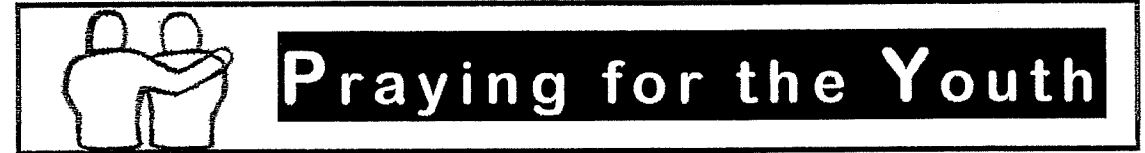
One congregation member recently shared this comment: "The music today was uplifting". What more can I say? That is my goal!

Cindy

Mark your calendar for two special worship experiences in May. On May 11, the youth of our church will lead the worship service, which will feature our graduating seniors. Then on May 18, 8th and 9th graders who have participated in the 2003 Confirmation class will make a profession of faith and be received as full members of our church.



Worship in May



Please remember the youth of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our 8th and 9th graders. Pray for their parents and families too.

Carole Dempsey, David Hewson, Christa Sohl, Kelly Stewart, Walker Dempsey, Carolyn Dorman, Geoff Johnson, Elizabeth Kent, Kimberly Rohrbaugh, Katie Wollesen



We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

Roman Jackson Conway, son of Melissa and Gareth Conway, on February 15th. The proud grandparents are Del and Mary Margaret Smith.

Our prayers are with...

Jon Hawley recovering at home after angioplasty; P. O. Box 806
Frankfort, MI 49635

Kathy McPherson's mother recovering from surgery;

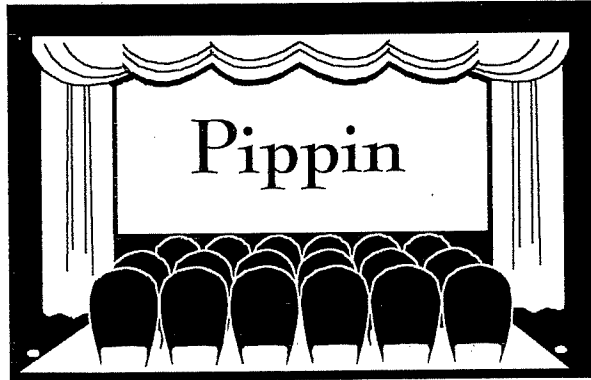
Wally Rowen recovering at Mariner Healthcare Center;

Bob Hazard recovering at home.

Congratulations to...

Wilma and Gene Sharer who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 11th.

Mission Update...



2nd Annual Summer Social and Theatre Benefit for Community Ministry of Montgomery County

On June 22nd, CMMC will host *PIPPIN* at the Roundhouse Theater in Bethesda. This musical is about an ancient prince whose existence is shrouded in mystery. In the young man's quest to lead an extraordinary life, there emerge timely themes of war, the treatment of people and the struggle for power and position.

This will be a fun affair—an old-fashioned summer social with free ice cream and Dixieland Band jazz to entertain you between the two performances, a matinee at 3 p.m. and the evening show at 7:30 p.m. For those who attended last year, it proved to be a delightful evening at the new Roundhouse Theater, which is easily accessible by Metro or from a nearby public parking garage.

The proceeds from the Theater benefit will support the important work of *Friends in Action*, CMMC's award winning mentoring program for at-risk families. PPC has helped celebrate Christmas with many of these families through our annual Christmas Gifts program. Currently there are 23 families in the FIA program, but there are 39 more on the waiting list—additional funding will enable CMMC to add more professional case management to support the volunteer mentoring teams who help these families learn the skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

Tickets are \$75 each, of which \$55 will be a tax-deductible contribution to CMMC. Gather up a group and plan a great afternoon or evening out. This is a fabulous opportunity to have fun, see a good show, all while supporting a great cause. Please see Elsie Reid or Jim Reichley for ticket information. Group seating can be arranged if tickets are purchased early. There are limited tickets available for the matinee, so plan now and buy ahead.

Marilyn's Message

If you missed the worship service on April 6, you missed a wonderful celebration of both Word and Sacrament! It was on this day that the children "graduated" from their class on the meaning of the Lord's Supper, and took communion, many for the first time.

34 children participated with their families in the "God's Family at the Table" class, which was held on four Sundays beginning on March 16. They learned about the significance of the sacraments, and particularly about four aspects of the Lord's Supper: welcoming into God's family, celebrating with God's family, remembering Jesus, and giving thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ. As part of the class, the students made the bread which was used in church, and they received gifts of wooden cross necklaces to wear on April 6.

The children, many of whom were not used to staying in the worship service for the whole hour, were asked to listen for the word "cross" in the sermon, and to touch their cross necklace every time they heard it. Fortunately, Pastor Kerry's sermon was *full* of that word! One child reported that the word "cross" was used 19 times! Sitting in the front, I saw several children listening intently for that word and then holding their crosses forward.

We were also delighted to witness five baptisms of children in the class. The children, ranging in age from seven to eleven, had been told the importance of baptism as a way to be welcomed into the family of God, and looking at their faces, it was clear that they experienced the mystery and awe of the moment.

One of the issues that continues to be a problem in some churches today, despite extensive research and writing on it, is the issue of children in worship. Many churches dismiss children up to 6th grade, assuming that they will get nothing out of the sermon or most of the worship service. Many churches hold Sunday School concurrently with worship so that families will be required to spend only one hour at church. The trouble with these convenient approaches is that children never learn to worship, never experience the mystery of the sacraments, never fully participate with their family of faith. It is no wonder that many young people leave the church in college; they don't feel comfortable in worship and they don't know what to do.

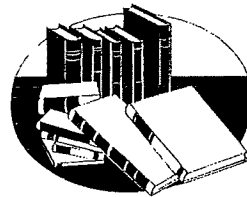
I am pleased that Potomac Presbyterian Church has taken a different approach. This church is committed to providing the opportunity for children to worship, or to learn about worship, as early as grade one. We often see young people in leadership in the worship service, as ushers or as pastor's assistants, or as music leaders. If you watch carefully, you'll note that most of the young children in our church know the words to the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. On Palm Sunday we heard a joyous four-year-old voice ringing out with the words (and the feeling!) of the Gloria Patri.

"And a little child will lead them," says Isaiah 11:6. It is such a blessing to our church that children are not tolerated, but are welcomed into our family. They have much to offer, and every person in the church family is their teacher. Thank you for teaching them that they are loved and valued and welcomed!

Adult Education Class

Schedule for May

- May 4 Mark Alarie, from our congregation - Life On and Off the Court
- May 11 Diane Hutchins, former Director of Christian Education, Potomac Presbyterian, "Where I've been Since I left you"
- May 18 Dr. Craig Hill, Wesley Theological Seminary - Interpreting the New Testament
- May 25 Dr. Craig Hill



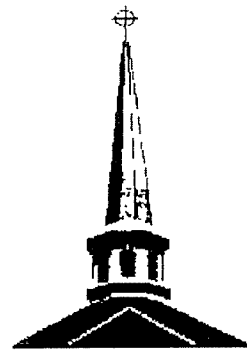
End of Adult Classes until September 14

Kickoff Speaker for Fall Program - Dr. Alice Bellis, Howard University School of Divinity

Stephen Ministry

Come to the parlor on May 4th at 12:15 p.m., if you would like to know more about being a Stephen Minister. We will show a brief film on the Stephen Ministry program and answer all your questions. A new training class will start in October. See you on May 4.

The deadline for the June issue of Steeple to People is 12:00 p.m. May 15th. The deadline for the Summer issue is 12:00 p.m. June 30th. Please place your articles in the Steeple to People box located in the church office or e-mail your article to margie.bedingfield@verizon.net.



Steeple to People

Komen National Race for the Cure

Saturday June 7, 2003

(Please note date correction)

8:30AM Washington, DC

Once again the Health Ministry Projects of the Mission Committee will support the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation National Race for the Cure in Washington, D.C. Last year our **PPC Team** had 61 members and friends participate in the race. This year we must have at least **30** members in order to carry a sign on Race day reading **Potomac Presbyterian Church**. *We must have all completed registration forms by Wednesday May 7, 2003 in order to pick up tee shirts and bib numbers and have them available Sunday, May 25.*

We have our team registered with the "Race" office and our Team name is **Potomac Presbyterian Church** and the team code is **PPC**. Anyone who registers should make sure that the code is complete on his or her registration form.

Mark your calendars and plan to join members of PPC in the worlds largest 5k "Race." Last year there were over 74,000 people who ran or walked and collected donations with the strong hope that we will soon find a cure for a disease that affects so many of us.

Bettie Ann Johnson and Vivian Teets have registration forms, and will be in the fellowship hall on Sunday mornings to help team member's complete forms and to accept donations. Please feel free to call Bettie Ann at 301-963-5847 or Vivian at 301-983-5540 for additional registration forms or with any questions and *plan to join in the fun on Race Day.*



July 4th Cure Autism Now

5K Race

1-mile walk!

Join us Friday, July 4, 2003, 8:00a.m. at the Potomac Library. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome to raise money for Cure Autism Now, a national, non-profit organization funding research, outreach, and awareness. Come join us and be part of the PPC team. Log onto www.cureautismnow.org for more information or to register on-line. Let's Cure Autism Now - One stride at a time!



Car Wash



and Bake Sale

On May 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m., a team of dedicated workcampers and helpers will wash all of that pollen off of your car, as we have our much-anticipated spring car wash! There isn't a scheduled rain date for this car wash, since the month of May is packed with activities, so we are confident it will be a bright and sunny day! This is a free service, but of course donations to the workcamp fund are greatly appreciated. Drop your keys off before Sunday school or worship, and when you are ready to leave, your vehicle will be gleaming! Following worship, you are invited to purchase homemade baked goodies in the Fellowship Hall to add to the workcampers efforts to serve God in Fountain, Colorado this summer.

Thank you so much for your support!

Mark your Calendars

**Potomac Presbyterian Church
40th Anniversary Celebration**



Saturday, October 4th
and Sunday, October 5th 2003

More information to follow!

Welcome New Members!!!
March 16, 2003

Tim and Iris Bond
11554 Paramus Drive
North Potomac, Maryland 20878
240-453-0088

Tim and Iris are the parents of two children: Daniel, 12 and Julianna, 9. Tim helps coach his son's basketball team and is a Boy Scout Leader. Iris is involved with her son's and daughter's after school activities, sports events and social functions. The family is happy to have the opportunity to attend Potomac Presbyterian and meet new friends.

Edward Ebert, Jr.
9145 Vendome Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
301 469-0222

Ed is a native of Baltimore. He is the father of two grown daughters, Jane and Susan, and has six grandchildren. Among his interest and hobbies are tennis, classical and jazz music, reading and travel. Ed served as a Deacon and Elder at Towson Presbyterian Church prior to moving to Bethesda.

David Thomas
11102 Stillwater Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895
301 946-3983

Dave, a native of Michigan, has lived in the Washington area since 1957. He is the father of daughters Susan and Judi and the proud grandfather of six. Dave sings in the PPC choir along with Judi's husband, Joel Miller.

Craig, Kathy, Krissie and Sarah Hooson
8415 Harker Drive
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301 299-1648



The Hooson family moved to Potomac from California in 2001. Krissie and Sarah are juniors at Winston Churchill High School. Andrew, a senior, attends a military school in Oak Ridge, NC. The family enjoys sports and outside activities in the warm weather.

Susan and Robert Haynes
12401 Beall Spring Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
301 963-7198

Robert and Susan recently moved to Potomac from Indianapolis, Indiana. They are the parents of Kathryn, a 6th grader at Hoover Middle School, and Joe, a 3rd grade student at Potomac Elementary School. The family enjoys tennis, golf and horseback riding.

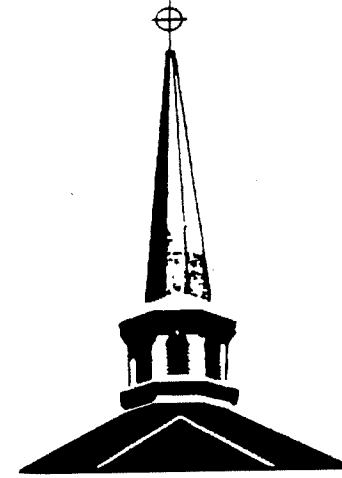
Debra McKune
12447 Great Park Circle # 110
Germantown, Maryland 20876
301 528-9079

Debra was born and raised in Indiana. She joins her daughter, Megan, as a member of PPC. Debra enjoys music, reading, travel and spending time with family and friends. Recently she was called to serve the Darnestown Presbyterian Church as Director of Christian Education.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">May 2003</h1>					1 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	2 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Retreat → → → →
4 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:00 a.m. Youth Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Youth Car Wash/Bake Sale 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/Gift Card Sale 12:15 p.m. Workcamp Meeting - Library 12:15 p.m. Stephen Ministry - Parlor 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	5	6 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	7 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	8 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	9 	10
11 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Youth Sunday 12:00 p.m. Fellowship <i>No youth groups</i>	12 12:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Committee 8:00 p.m. Committees	13 9:30 a.m. Christian Living 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class 7:30 p.m. Christian Living	14 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	15 12 Noon - " <i>Steeple to People</i> " Deadline 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	16	17
18 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Confirmation Holy Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	19 7:30 p.m. Session	20 10:00 a.m. Presbytery Bradley Hills 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class	21 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	22 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship <i>No youth groups</i>	26 7:30 p.m. Deacons	27 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class	28 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	29 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	30	31 

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

June

2003

KERRY ON...

What is both Good and New about the Good News is the wild claim that Jesus did not simply tell us that God loves us even in our wickedness and folly and wants us to love each other in the same way and to love him too, but that if we will let him, God will actually bring about this unprecedented transformation of our hearts himself. Frederick Buechner

When Jesus told us that he would be with us always he is talking about bringing about this transformation of our hearts. The News is not very Good if we are left to our own devices to love as he loved. It's not really News if it is simply another set of ideals to live up to. Great and noble ideals have been propounded since ancient times and new versions continue to emerge but simply knowing about them changes no one. Even a great example does not in itself have the power to change human behavior.

Something more is needed. The Spirit of Jesus given to us by God is the power that we may receive. The Day of Pentecost is a celebration of God's gift of the Holy Spirit and God's promise that enables transformation. The presence of God's power in human hearts makes the News Good.

PENTECOST

Worship and Communion June 8 at 11:00 a.m.

*****Look for the Congregational Survey Results in the mail *****

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*

2003 Workcampers

Please pray for our workcampers as they head off to Fountain, Colorado, on June 21 to help those in need of home repair. The youth and adult advisors have worked hard all year in preparation for this trip. They have done numerous fundraisers, attended meetings, paid a substantial amount of money, and prepared themselves spiritually. All of the workcampers appreciate the generous support of our congregation, without whom we would not be able to make this trip.

If you would like to send encouraging mail or packages during the workcamp week, which begins on Sunday, June 22, send them to:

(Workcamper)
 c/o Pikes Peak Workcamp
 Fountain Middle School
 515 N Santa Fe
 Fountain CO 80817

Do not send anything later than Wednesday morning, because it may get there after we leave.

2003 Workcampers:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Kelli Cissel | Rachel Johns | Ron Meredith |
| Kimi Cissel | Geoff Johnson | Kyle Newton |
| Jennifer Dart | Trevor Johnson | Bob Rosecrans |
| Carole Dempsey | Liz Kent | Peter Rosecrans |
| Walker Dempsey | Beth MacFarlan | Meggie Rudnic |
| Carolyn Dorman | Katie MacFarlan | Christa Sohl |
| Chris Dowd | Megan McKune | David Wescott |
| Damon Dowd | Jackie McMahan | Karen Wise |
| Janet Dunlop | Katherine McPherson | |
| Marilyn Johns | Elysse Meredith | |



We rejoice in the birth of...

Magnus Michael Damborg Pederson, son of Amy and Ulrick Pederson, on April 26. The proud grandparents are Tom and Susan Hougen.

Congratulations and God's blessing on...

Samantha Toerge and John McShane who were married on April 26, 2003.

Our prayers are with...

- Millie Rowan, whose husband, Wally, died on May 3rd;
- Karen Pitelka recovering from surgery at National Rehab Hospital;
- Bob Tietjen recovering from surgery at home;
- Joe Bernstein recovering from surgery;
- Lynna and Cindy Wright. Lynn's father died recently;
- Sharon Donahue. Sharon's father died last month;
- Kathy McPherson's mother recovering from surgery;
- Bob Hazard at home;
- Wally Rowan at Mariner Healthcare Center;
- Jon Hawley at home.

We give thanks for the life of...

Waldo Swinton Rowan, who died on May 3, 2003

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."

New Addresses...

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Claire Lee | Mike Leber |
| 18419 Cornflower Road | 30 W 61 st Street Apt. 10E |
| Boyd's, Maryland 20841-4337 | New York, New York 10023-7611 |

Correction...

Tom Miles phone number is: 301-588-5954.





Praying for the Teens



Please remember the youth of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our high school students.

Walker Dempsey, Carolyn Dorman, Geoff Johnson, Elizabeth Kent, Kimberly Rohrbaugh, Katie Wollesen, Brittney Bernstein, Lauren Branning, Ashley Burnett, Kimi Cissel, Jennifer Dart, Damon Dowd, Katherine King, JoJo Kovacs, Beth MacFarlan, Katie MacFarlan, Jeff Machlin, Jenny Machlin, Jacqueline McMahon, Haddon Mindnich, Kyle Newton, Billy Rohrbaugh, Erica Weber, David Wescott, Paige Appleby, Kelli Cissel, Brian Dunlop, Anna Ferrara, Krissie Hooson, Sarah Hooson, Rachel Johns, Trevor Johnson, Jeremy Knighton, Megan McKune, Katherine McPherson, Peter Rosecrans, Meggie Rudnic, Peter Russo, Kirsten Stewart, Steven Walker, *Carl Atwood, *Joe Bernstein, *Amelia Curry, *Mira Guo, *Elyse Meredith

* graduating seniors

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CONFIRMATION 2003



Congratulations to our 2003 confirmation class! The following people made a public profession of faith, and were received into membership of Potomac Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 18, 2003. Please continue to pray for them as they begin their journey of faith as adult members.

Carole Dempsey	Carolyn Dorman
David Hewson	Geoff Johnson
Liz Kent	Christa Sohl

Mark your calendars

PPC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5, 2003
More information to follow!

Marilyn's Message

Faith has been an important word in my life lately. The Confirmation retreat in early May was focused on living as a Christian, and how our faith shapes everything we do. In addition, the confirmands each researched a person of faith and gave a report at the retreat. It was inspiring to hear how ordinary people with extra opportunities used those opportunities to put their faith into action.

That Sunday was a workcamp meeting. The topic of the meeting was servant-hood, closely related to working out our faith. Veteran workcampers talked about their experiences with difficult working situations, and how their faith helped them through it.

Youth Sunday's emphasis was on faith, and the music and other parts of the service incorporated that theme. We heard excellent sermons on how a teenager's faith is not terribly different from that of an adult, and how faith helped guide a difficult decision.

As I write this, the youth in the confirmation class are putting the finishing touches on their statements of faith to be presented at the Confirmation Breakfast. The 8th and 9th graders have been thinking and writing about their own personal beliefs about God, the church, and the way they choose to live their lives. This is the time when we "graduate" from the faith of our parents into our own faith life.

Frederick Buechner, an often-quoted theologian, says that "faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going but going anyway. A journey without maps" (*Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*). I pray for each of us that our own journeys of faith would be filled with challenge as well as comfort, imagination as well as integrity, and surprise as well as security.

Adult Education

The Adult Education and Mission Committees invite you to attend a special class on Sunday morning, June 1st at 9:45AM in the library. The speaker will be Reverend Edward T. Brogan of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel during war time. His talk will focus on ministering to military personnel during war time.

Mary Reichley
Adult Education Committee

Vivian Teets
Mission Committee

Who Are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are members of Potomac Presbyterian Church who have gone through 50 hours of training in providing high-quality Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge such as divorce, grief, loss of a job, hospitalization, relocation, or loneliness. Stephen Ministers are each assigned a care receiver and meet with that care receiver for about an hour a week. This caring relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs it. If you would like more information on how to become a Stephen Minister or to receive care from one, please talk to Pastor Kerry. Information on becoming a Stephen Minister is also available from Stephen Leaders Ruthanne Stoltzfus, Gail Cannon, Kathy McPherson, Karen Karch, and Sandy MacFarlan.

Congratulations to our high school graduates...

Carl Atwood	Churchill	St. Mary's College of MD
Joe Bernstein	Churchill	Wesley College, Dover, DE
Amelia Curry	Churchill	Montgomery College
Mira Guo	Sidwell Friends	Princeton University
Elysse Meredith	Home School	Drew University

Congratulations to our college graduates...

Derek Smith	New College, Oxford University
Amy Ligler Schoenhard	Duke University Law School
Samantha Toerge McShane	Drexel Univ. College of Medicine

Church Picnic

Come join your PPC family at the **Annual Picnic** on June 8th following the 10 am service. Great Food! Great Fun! Great Friends! All proceeds support the Youth Workcamp.

Deacon's Corner

June is fast approaching, which means several things for youth and adults alike. First comes the end of school. Second, and more importantly, June means that Workcamp is only a few weeks away. As I'm sure most of you have heard many times, we are flying to Fountain, Colorado this year - flying is a new experience for all of us (including my mom who will be attending her 10th Workcamp!).

Since I was 7, Workcamp has impacted my life. For years, I would hear the stories my mom, and later my sister, would come home with and every year I couldn't wait until it was my turn to go and come back with lots of stories. Finally, four years ago I had the chance to go to North Carolina. And to be honest with you, it wasn't the greatest experience. Ok, I figured, it's only my

first year, next year will be better. Next year came, and off we went to West Virginia, and it turned out to be worse than the year before because my crew and I didn't seem to get along. I had doubts about going last year, to a different part of North Carolina. The only driving factor, was for the past two years, even though my crew experiences were never what I had heard they would be, my bond with my youth group strengthened. Sure enough, last year I ended up with a great crew and resident and had a wonderful time. Workcamp really is a life and faith changing experience, from the time you spend on the way to the school to the evening programs to the work you do every day to the new friends you make. My experiences, both good and bad, have changed my life and I wouldn't trade these times for anything in the world.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the continuous support you have given us. Please keep us in your prayers while we are away.

Rachel Johns

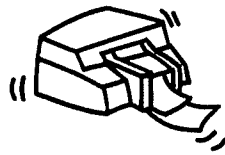
Computers Needed

Our church computer lab is a vital part of our children's Sunday School program. Over four years ago, we asked for donations of used computers and received six. Since then, the software technology has developed to the point that some of our computers and computer programs are not able to keep up.

Minimum specifications for donated computers are:



Pentium III - 700 866MHz
128 MB of RAM
20 GB Hard Disk Drive
Sound card and speakers
10/100 Ethernet card (network)
Windows XP
17" Monitor



We do not need printers or any computers below these specifications. All donations will be acknowledged with a letter which may be used for tax purposes.

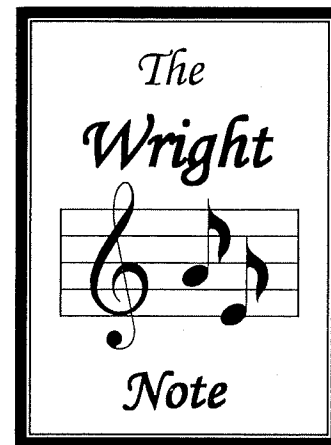
Thank you for considering this donation!

Calling All Ladies

As Potomac Presbyterian Church celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Fellowship Committee invites all ladies to the **Annual Ladies Potluck Luncheon** on **Saturday, June 14, 2003** at 1:00 p.m. Roberta Meredith has graciously offered to host this very special luncheon. Sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. Directions to Roberta's home will be forthcoming. We are planning a very entertaining afternoon to be enjoyed by all; please sign up and join us for a wonderful luncheon celebrating our anniversary.

July 4th Cure Autism Now 5K Race ~ 1-mile walk!

Join us Friday July 4th, 8:00a.m. at the Potomac Library. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome. Cure Autism Now is a national, non-profit organization funding research, outreach and awareness. Log onto www.cureautismnow.org for more information or to register. Come join us and be a part of the PPC team. Let's Cure Autism Now ~ One stride at a time!



I have been writing under this caption for eleven years. It has special meaning particularly to those who ring in the Handbell Choir. In this choir there are nine individuals who divide the responsibility for three octaves of notes: C below middle C on the piano to the C that is two octaves above. Each ringer has at least three bells at his or her bell table location. He or she is responsible for ringing any one or all three whenever and however those notes appear on the musical page. The music is presented the same as piano music. The ringer counts the basic rhythm and plays the appropriate note or notes as they appear in the score. As you can imagine, the pressure is on to play the "right" note at the "right" time.

We have a very loyal group of nine people, plus three able, patient and cooperative substitutes who come every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. to experience the challenging, refreshing experience of ringing in an ensemble. I would like to recognize the two graduating seniors who have been ringing so faithfully and skillfully: Carl Atwood and Elysse Meredith. You may recall their inspiring messages on Youth Sunday. Besides ringing every C, B, B-flat, A, A-flat and G, they have buoyed the spirits of the rest of the group with their enthusiasm, good humor and energy. We will miss them as they proceed to college and hopefully to campus handbell choirs.

Any persons interested in ringing these two open positions in the fall please contact me personally. We will discuss skills, commitment and training. Ringing is such fun! Just ask Roberta Meredith, Bobbe Hartzog, Susan Mitchell, Sonia Russo, Wendy Petti, Miriam Conley, Carl Atwood, Elysse Meredith, Mary Smith, Jean Hummon, Maggie Fahs, Sally O'Neal or me.

Cindy

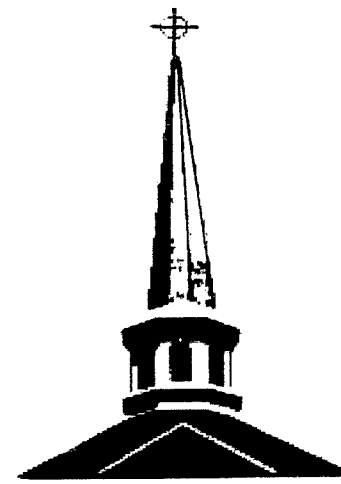
Montgomery Hospice Society Donation: During the Lenten Season our congregation contributed to the Easter Sunday Flower Fund. With the donations we were able to adorn the sanctuary, under the deft guidance of Nettie Propps, with a lovely array of flowers and with the surplus were able to donate approximately \$1500.00 to the Montgomery Hospice Society. Thank you doubly for your generous gifts. The Worship Committee

Lost Flower Arrangement: Nettie Propps asks that you look for a lost, all silk, flower arrangement that had been placed in Fellowship Hall. Description: yellow and white Calla Lilies with a sprinkling of mums. They were arranged to adorn the serving table in the Sanctuary. Thank you for calling Nettie if found.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism/ Handbells Ring 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Workcamp Meeting	2 	3 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	4 12:00 p.m. Bible Study Luncheon	5 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Mystics Game	7 <i>Komen National Race for the Cure</i> 8:30 a.m. Runners 8:45 a.m. Walkers
8 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Intergenerational Pentecost Event 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ Children's Choir 12:00 p.m. Church Picnic/Teacher Recognition	9 12:30 p.m. CE Committee 8:00 p.m. Committees	10 12:00 p.m. Christian Living Luncheon 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class 6:30 p.m. Christian Living Dinner	11 3:00 p.m. Collingswood 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (Continuing Ed.)	12 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	13 	14 <i>Flag Day</i> 1:00 p.m. Ladies Luncheon
15 <i>Father's Day / Trinity Sunday</i> (SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS) 9:00 a.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Worship/Men's Chorus 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	16 	17 1:00-3:30 p.m. Educator Class	18	19 	20	21 <i>Summer begins</i> Workcampers leave
22 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care	23 7:30 p.m. Session	24 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (NPC)	25	26	27	28 Workcampers Return
29 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	30 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline	 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">June 2003</h1> 				

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

Summer

2003

KERRY ON...

Looking for something to read this summer? Try Amazing Grace: The Story of America's Most Beloved Song by Steve Turner. The first part of the book is a biography of John Newton who wrote the song in 1772. He began his career by going to sea and eventually ended up working as a slave trader. After his conversion he became a clergyman in the Church of England. Then some years later he began to speak out for abolition of slavery. Many people took this as hard evidence that grace had worked in his life. He wrote:

I hope it will be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders.

The second half of the book is the story of the song as it crossed the Atlantic and was set to the now familiar tune by a singing instructor from South Carolina. As the story develops, the author wonders how Newton would feel if he was transported into the twenty first century. From time to time "Amazing Grace" has been altered to fit the theological or cultural mood of the day. Yet today it is sung at funerals for fallen firefighters and policemen, celebrities and in countless congregations throughout the land. It is recorded by pop singers and famous choirs, sung in grand cathedrals and in small country churches.

Enjoy! I would also suggest the following titles for your spiritual reflection:

Philip Yancy, Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church.

Armand Nicholi Jr., The Question of God: C.S.Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex and the Meaning of Life.

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*

Potomac Presbyterian Church
40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5, 2003

Celebration begins 6:00PM on Saturday October 4, 2003 ~ Fellowship Hall
Dinner is at 6:30PM followed by a Celebration Program in the Sanctuary at 7:40PM

Sunday Worship Service 11:00AM ~ October 5, 2003

Workcampers Return From Their Annual Trip

On Saturday, June 28, the workcampers returned from their work in Fountain, Colorado. The 28 youth and adults spent the previous week working on houses scattered around the Colorado Springs area. Most of the repairs done on these homes were simple painting, carpentry, roofing, and drywall jobs. The PPC workcampers were joined by youth and adults from areas ranging from California to Miami, Florida; however, the majority of workcampers were from Texas.

The workcamp started on Sunday, June 22nd, but the workcampers arrived in Colorado Saturday, June 21st. They departed from Dulles Airport for an approximately 3 hour flight to Denver. They drove a short distance to Littleton, Colorado, where they stayed in the comfy accommodations of the First Presbyterian Church of Littleton. These "Little rays of sun," named so by the minister because of their bright yellow group tee-shirts, attended the early morning service, ate brunch at the International House of Pancakes, and headed off to Fountain. They slept on the floors of Fountain Middle School, whose cafeteria fed the entire camp and whose facilities provided evening programs and even a 3 on 3 basketball tournament.

PPC youth David Wescott, Peter Rosecrans, and Trevor Johnson formed a team along with one of Trevor's crew members from Omaha, Nebraska. Named the East-West Conexion because of the teams' members from both the East and West, the Conexion went as far as the championship before being knocked off by a team from Minnesota.

The motto for this week was, "Diving Deep." Workcampers were encouraged to seek a servant attitude, and in devotions were challenged to find ways in which they could fit this attitude into their daily lives. These devotions occurred in crews during the day and with their youth groups at night.

Crews consisted of 6 people, 5 youth and at least 1 adult, from all different youth groups. Within the group, everyone was assigned a different job: work director (managed the crew and its work), progress reporter (reported back everyday on the progress of the job), quartermaster (responsible for getting additional tools), devotion leader (leads devotions for the crew), organizer (responsible for the job's plans and the first aid kit), and breakmaker (responsible for making lunch and making sure the crew drinks enough water). For 2004, Canton, Ohio here we come! ~ *Trevor Johnson*



We rejoice in the birth of...

Matthew Rafi Mamalian, son of Paul and Cyndy Mamalian, born on May 21.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

Marissa Jane Shook, son of Mark and Emily Shook, on June 1st. The proud grandparents are Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

George and Wilma Boddiger who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 23;
Edward Tennent and Alison Crist who were married in Greensboro, NC on May 24;
Tom and Mary Ann Cookerly who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20;
Meg King and Andy Gieraltowski who were married on June 21;
Cliff and Camille Kendall who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 23.

Our prayers are with...

Patty Dunnavant at home;
Eleanor Frank, Cindy Wright's mother, in Mansfield, Ohio;
Bob Hazard at home;
Pat McMillen's mother, Vivian Ellingsworth, undergoing chemotherapy in Millsboro, DE;
Tom McPherson's father, Tom McPherson, Sr., recovering from surgery in Danville, VA;
Karen Pitelka recovering from surgery at the National Rehab Hospital.

Thank you to...

Linda Bedingfield for editing this issue of Steeple to People.

New Address: William J. Skinner 7721 Royale River Lane
561-433-1170 Lake Worth, FL 33467

Welcome New Members!!!

Laurian Fasano
12501 Palatine Court
North Potomac, Maryland 20854
301-983-2507

Laurian and her husband, Frank, are the parents of two children: David, age 7 and

Jackie, age 4. Laurian was born in Amman Jordan, but grew up in the Washington area. She works part time at The Arc of Montgomery County, an organization that provides services for people with developmental disabilities.

If I Had a Hammer...Opportunity to Help Build a Habitat for Humanity House in Poolesville

Do you like to build things? Are you handy with tools? Would you like to help build a brand new house for a deserving family even if you are not handy with tools? Do we have an opportunity for you! Darnestown Presbyterian Church is sponsoring the construction of a new house in Poolesville with Habitat for Humanity, starting this summer. They have asked our Mission Committee if PPC could organize construction crews of 8-12 workers to help on a one Saturday a month or one Saturday a quarter basis. The job is likely to run from this July until the autumn of 2004.

The Mission Committee is looking for volunteers—a couple of crew leaders, willing workers, and supporters who could bring lunches and run mid-day devotions. Our goal is to get a pool of 20 or so PPC volunteers from which we would draw our monthly or quarterly crew, so you would not have to commit to every work date. Carpentry skills are not required! Necessary training will be provided and there will be a professional carpenter on site at all times to guide us. Please call Rob Wescott (301-299-2826) if you might be interested in participating in this exciting mission project or if you would like more information.

YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

Youth will not be idle this summer, at least when it comes to church! We have several activities planned, so mark your calendars.

- SPLASH will resume for Senior Highs (rising 9th graders are welcome!) on July 1 at 6:30 p.m. Come prepared for swimming, fun, and Bible study (the word on the street is that Rich is doing parables this summer). Bring your friends for lots of fun!
- PAINTING THE ROOM - The Senior Highs have decided to redo the Sr. High Sunday School room, and do it as a lock-in, cosmic bowling included. The date isn't set yet - we're open to ideas.
- KING'S DOMINION - The date on this IS set: July 31. All rising 7th - 12th graders are invited, and we'll allow graduates to go as well. This is a traditional FUN thing for our youth groups.
- VBS - Vacation Bible School is July 14 -18 and youth helpers are needed. If you haven't already signed up, call Judi Miller at 301-946-3983.
- CLEANING TOYS - Any youth desiring community service hours are invited to help scrub down the toys in the nursery. Call Julie McMahan at 301-869-4639.

Marilyn's Message

As you read this, I will be in my last summer residency at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Our seminar class this summer sounds very interesting: "The Psalms and Negro Spirituals." I look forward to learning a lot, and doing it through music! We will also engage in daily Bible study for the three weeks in the Gospel of Luke, another of my favorites. In addition to this, we are assigned to case study groups, where six students and one or two instructors discuss the theological and behavioral implications of particular situations in our congregations.

The Doctor of Ministry program at VTS has been an extremely rewarding experience for me. Not only have I been challenged academically (and I have!), I have also been challenged in the areas of relationship-building, time management, and discernment during this process. I am deeply grateful for the encouragement I have received from members of this congregation, along with the generous gift of time and financial support to make it possible for me to participate in this program.

Following this summer's residency, I will begin working on my final project, the groundwork of which has already been laid with the educators-in-training program we began in the spring. It is my hope that I will be able to graduate in May of 2004, although this is a somewhat ambitious goal. I should know by the end of this summer's residency whether this will be feasible or not.

I continue to be so grateful for your prayers and encouragement, and your interest in this program. I'll keep you posted!

Stephen Ministry

Whatever You Did for the Least of These... You Did for Me...

In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. . ." We have many opportunities to respond to Jesus' great love by showing that love to others. Stephen Ministry is one way our congregation responds to those around us. You also have many opportunities to show Jesus' love. As you encounter people this summer, try asking yourself, "How can I show them Jesus today?"

Want to do more? Our congregation needs to recruit and train more Stephen Ministers. All six of the Stephen Ministers who meet regularly with Care Receivers will be eligible for retirement in April of next year. You could help us keep this program growing at PPC. Applications are available in the church office, and are due July 31. For more information, please contact Pastor Kerry or Stephen Leaders Ruthanne Stoltzfus, Gail Cannon, Karen Karch, or Sandy MacFarlan.

Komen National Race for the Cure - June 7, 2003

Race day was unlike any other Race we've ever had. Even with the torrential downpour approximately 40,000 people came down in support of the Race. It was truly an amazing sight to behold. There were over 61,000 registered participants and donations of over \$2.4 million to help fund breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment programs. Team **PPC** had 54 members' registered and about three-quarters joined together in the pouring rain. We donated \$3,580 this year to this wonderful cause. PPC team members included:

Sandy Bresnahan	Tricia Kirchner	Mary Reichley
Tom Bresnahan	Brett Kirchner	Elsie Reid
Jennifer Dart	Stephen Kirchner	Sharon Reid
Vicki Dorman	Robb Kirchner	Beth Rudnick
Christine Dowd	Carol Krominga	Sonia Russo
Doug Dunlop	Sandy MacFarlan	Marilyn Shankland
Janet Dunlop	Maitland MacFarlan	Carolyn Smith
Ann Eagleson	Julie McMahon	Ruthanne Stoltzfus
Jean Granan	Jacqueline McMahon	Kerry Stoltzfus
Liz Gustafson	Ralph Mitchell	Vivian Teets
Devin Gustafson	Bridget Newton	Peter Teets
Carol Ann Hefner	Kay Norvell	Ed Tennent
Carol Hudgings	John Norvell	Lynda Tennent
Susanne Huey	Susan Pereles	David Thomas
Rodney Huey	Wendy Petti	Robert Trenkamp
Bettie Ann Johnson	Matthew Petti	Emily Wescott
Taylor Johnson	Emily Petti	Marnel Williams
Kara Karch	Jim Reichley	Gail Yates

It was an inspirational day for all of us and the rain did not dampen our Potomac Presbyterian Church *spirit*.

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 Johnson



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, September 7, 2003 at 2 PM
Annual Fundraiser for the
American Cancer Society
An afternoon of musical entertainment and fun!
Details to follow.



Summer is finally here. Many of us are presently on vacation, anticipating vacation or remembering vacation. At the time of this writing, I am in the first category. I feel as if I am at the PPC coffee hour because I have seen so many of you who are also over on the eastern shore enjoying our newly discovered sun and warm breezes.

Soon a second type of vacation will begin for me. Its focus is not rest and relaxation, but education and inspiration. This will occur on the campus of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, where the Presbyterian Association of Musicians will host its annual Conference on Worship and Music.

I will attend chapel services every day where innovative worship styles will be appropriately explored and stimulating preaching and music heard. Renowned choral directors, theologians, children's choir experts and handbell clinicians will lead daily seminars where participants study new methods and repertoire. Concerts each evening will inspire me to increase my own skills and to learn new material. The conference attendees learn from each other, as well, as we share our own church experiences. I thank you as a congregation for supporting this aspect of my continuing education during the second week of July. When I return, I will have a full notebook of ideas to help plan a meaningful 2003-04 choir season.

Thanks to all of our musicians who are sharing solos, duets and ensembles during our Sanctuary Choir's summer break.

Cindy

Deacon's Corner

Anyone for Construction?
PPC is certainly into construction: Habitat for Humanity, Christmas in April, and of course the annual workcamp. All welcome; no prior experience needed; just bring good humor and enthusiasm!

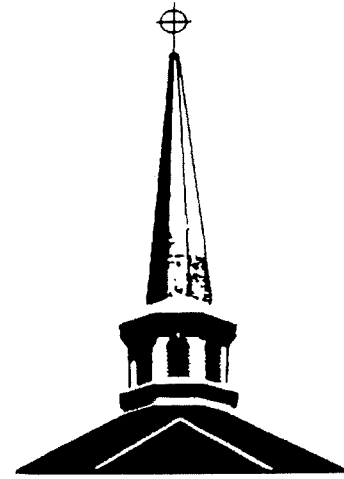
And look at what is achieved. Many of us have just been hearing all about the workcampers' latest experiences in Colorado, and we know that adventures in home repair were only part of the story.

Building friendships and faith was another key part of the experience, as was opening our eyes to the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

These "home improvements" should endure at least as long as new paint jobs, decks, and roofing. How better to see in practice the meaning of Kerry's recent sermon on the subject of grace and works, drawing on Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to devote ourselves to the good deeds for which God has designed us."
- Maitland MacFarlan

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

September

2003

KERRY ON...

“Mommie, do I have to practice piano?” asked the little girl. “No,” her mother said, “but you get to.”

I am not intending to give advice on child raising or piano lessons. However, this is a wise Mom. She is communicating to her daughter that it is by way of practice that one comes to appreciate and enjoy music.

I think we can say something very similar about worship. Martin Marty was answering a question in a recent column, (“M.E.M.O.” Christian Century, July 12, 2003, p. 39) the question was, “Does it take formal attendance at worship services to be religious.” Marty wrote, “the simple answer is no.” He went on to explain that it cannot be that one attends worship by force of command, God saying “you gotta” so “we gotta.” Rather, God says, “You get to,” so “we get to.”

I guess it’s a matter of attitude. If worship is an opportunity, a privilege, an invitation then we will arrive with a sense of anticipation and even joy. Folks who have been confined to their homes by injury or sickness and then finally the Sunday comes when they return to worship exemplify this attitude of “we get to go” to worship today.

Sometimes a particular Sunday worship service may seem like practicing piano. But practice offers the potential for joyful appreciation of God. We call it adoration, which is a privilege. A hymn, a prayer, a sermon unexpectedly lifts our spirits to God who loves us beyond our imagining.

So if your neighbor asks as you get in your car to come to worship some Sunday, “Where are you going?” Think for a moment and say, “I get to go to worship today.” She may be astonished and you may be too when you begin to sing the words of the first hymn. *God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer.*

See you on Sunday.

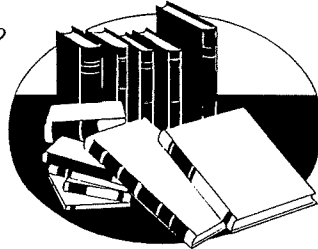
Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *senior pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *parish associate*
Marilyn Johns, *director of youth and Christian education*
Cynthia Wright, *director of music and organist*

Adult Education Class

Theme for the Year: Matthew 6: 33: Strive first for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Schedule for September

- September 14 Dr. Alice Bellis -- Howard University School of Divinity
Lecture: *Job: A Case Study on How Not to Seek the Kingdom of God*
- September 21 Dr. Jeffrey Hensley -- Virginia Theological Seminary
Lecture: *What Is the Kingdom of God?*
- September 28 Diane Hutchins -- Our former Director of Christian Education Master of Divinity, Wesley Theological Seminary
Topic: *Living in the Kingdom*



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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 October 12, October 19, and October 26. 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, November 2nd, 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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We rejoice in the birth of...

Benjamin Craig Cole, son of Andrew and Lisa Cole, born on June 13. The proud grandparents are Tom and Joan Cole.

Calvin Burns Stuart, son of Lennox and Elizabeth Stuart, born on July 1. The proud grandparents are Calvin and Janet Koonce.

Joshua William and Matthew Edmund, twin sons of David and Sarah Ashley, born on July 25. The proud grandparents are Bill and Ruth Lincoln.

Caroline Bowen, daughter of Patrick and Kristina Norvell Bowen, born on August 3. The proud grandparents are John and Kay Norvell.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

Marissa Jane Shook, daughter of Mark and Emily Shook, on June 1. The proud grandparents are Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Sarah Plumb and Louis DiGioia who were married at PPC on August 9th.

Our prayers are with...

John Clouse's sister in Ohio;

Kittie Cowie's father, George Cowie;

Bob Hazard at home;

Pat McMillen's mother, Vivian Ellingsworth, undergoing chemotherapy in Millsboro, DE; and

Pastor Kerry's mother, Jane Morgan; Jane's husband, Howard Morgan, died in July.

Congratulations to...

Jack Dart in celebration of his 91st birthday; and

David and Paddy Simpson who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on August 10.

We remember with Thanksgiving...

The life of Arthur Heming, who died in Hudson, Ohio on July 14. Art and Hilda, who passed away in 1988, were members at PPC from 1981 to 1992 when Art moved to Ohio.

New Address: Christine M. Bechtel 10739 Wayridge Drive
301-330-6373 Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Praying for our College Students

Please remember the young adults of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our college students.

Graduate / Medical School

Jane Simpson
Abby Clouse
Jennifer Cannon
John Paul Norvell
Amy Propps

Freshman Class

Carl Atwood – St. Mary’s College of Maryland
Joe Bernstein – Wesley College, Dover, DE
Amelia Curry – Montgomery College
Mira Guo - Princeton
Elysse Meredith - Drew University

Sophomore Class

Byron Drumheller
Erin Dunlop
Heather Knighton
Betsey Rudnic
Adam Singleton
Chris Teets
Emily Wescott
Jennifer Russo

Junior Class

Chris Atwood
Roger Machlin
Jeff Toerge
Sharon Reid
Adam Ligler
Erin Lyons
Matt Teets
Rebecca Curry
Caitlyn Curtis
Catherine Dorman

Senior Class

Elizabeth Johns
Trevor Bond
Rich McPherson
Andrew Grier
Jennifer King
Courtney Chapin

Flower Fund: To have flowers dedicated, complete the flower fund envelope in your pew and place it in the offering plate during the service. In order to ensure your request is accurately acknowledged, also provide the same information on the calendar outside the church office

The **Steeple to People Deadline** is the 15th of every month, August-May. The deadline for the summer issue will be announced in May. Please place your articles in the Steeple to People box in the church office or e-mail your article to: margie.bedingfield@verizon.net. Linda Bedingfield will be joining me a co-editor.

Marilyn's Message

Thank you all for your prayers and support as I was away, first for workcamp and then for my three week residency at Virginia Theological Seminary. My last time at “summer school” was wonderful – as the first two years have been! Our class on the *Psalms and Negro Spirituals* was outstanding, taught by Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams, a Presbyterian! She will be speaking to our adult ed class in the fall, so don’t miss it. Many of the students this year were new to me, so it was a wonderful time of forming new friendships. The program continues to be very ecumenical, and learning about other denominations and the way they run is very interesting to me. I am now somewhat on my own as I begin work on my final project, which will develop the idea of an educational intern into a model for other churches to follow.

This has been another very busy summer, but we are gearing up for the fall! Enclosed with this issue of Steeple to People is our annual Christian Education brochure. In it are listed the educational opportunities planned so far for the coming school year. Please take some time to read through it and think about where you’d like to be involved. Try something new this year!

Rally Day is on September 7. All are welcome as we kick-off our 40th birthday celebration with a bang! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. for a lot of fun and silliness!

August 2003 marked my 5th anniversary as your Director of Youth and Christian Education. The time has flown by! Ministers and educators often talk about a “honeymoon period” which occurs when a person is new to the church, during which time the people of the church are especially gracious and supportive. Well, it has been five years, and I feel like I am still in that honeymoon period! Thank you so much for your kindness, your generosity, your support of new ideas, and your hard work to make our Christian education program one in which people of all ages are accepted and can grow in faith.

BIBLES FOR 3rd GRADERS

Make a special note to be present in church on Sunday, September 14, as we present Bibles to our 3rd grade students. The Bibles given are the New Revised Standard Version Children’s Bible, which is the same text as our pew Bibles, but has pictures and other helps for children.

SPECIAL CLASS ON THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Dr. Bruce Douglass, professor at Georgetown University and frequent adult education speaker at our church, will lead a four-week class on theological foundations at Potomac Presbyterian Church. The class will meet on Saturdays in September (6, 13, 20 and 27) from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the library. This class is part of the Educator-in-Training series, but you are welcome to attend. It is sure to be very interesting and informative. The cost for the four weeks is \$25. The texts for the class are *We Believe*, by Harry Eberts, and *Reformed Spirituality*, by Howard Rice. You may choose to purchase these (amazon.com has good prices), only do the additional readings that Bruce will assign, or simply 'audit' the class. Both of these texts will be a valuable addition to your Christian library.

Please call Marilyn Johns at the church by September 4 to register for the class.

WORKCAMP 2004

Workcamp 2003 was such fun, we've decided to do it again! Our 6th annual youth workcamp trip for next summer will be June 27-July 3, and we will travel north to Canton, Ohio. This, of course, is the home of the Football Hall of Fame, and is close to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. We look forward to a large group going for a week to serve God by repairing homes.

An organizational meeting for Workcamp 2004 will be held after church on Sunday, September 21, for anyone interested in attending next summer or simply getting more information. Youth who are currently in 8th grade and older are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting with their parents. Any adults interested in being advisors should also attend. We will talk about fundraisers and hear from some of our veteran workcampers about what it's really like! Lunch will be provided. If you'd like to go to workcamp but can't attend the meeting, please call or email (marilyn@potomacpresbyterian.org) Marilyn Johns at the church.

40th Anniversary Celebration Potomac Presbyterian Church

Saturday October 4th and Sunday October 5th 2003

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event

Celebration begins 6 PM Saturday October 4th in the Fellowship Hall

Dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6:30PM

Program in the Sanctuary at 7:40PM

Worship Sunday October 5th at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary

Tickets for dinner will be available Sunday August 31st

Dinner seating is limited to 200 people

"Red Hot & Blue" will cater the dinner

Cost is \$15.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child

Commemorative Ornaments will be for sale beginning August 31, 2003

Cost is \$10.00 per ornament

Please feel free to contact Bettie Ann or Taylor Johnson
with any questions 301-963-5847

THANK YOU

This summer, Gail Cannon and Dave Moquin redecorated the office, upper hallway and the stairwell. Everything looks bright and fresh. Dave also under took the huge job of repainting the sign in front of the church. It was quite weather-beaten and now has been rejuvenated. Thanks to both of you for your time and effort.

Additionally, the efforts of those who helped clean up and repair the storm damage is greatly appreciated.

We continue to need volunteers to help maintain the church property and grounds. Right now, the weeds are having their own way; this foe must be met and destroyed. No experience needed!

- Property Committee

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The response of our congregation to join Darnestown Presbyterian Church's Habitat for Humanity project in Poolesville has been fantastic! Over 30 members (and friends) have volunteered in some capacity, from hands-on construction to making sandwiches for our work crew. *We have been assigned the third Saturday of each month* to provide a dozen or so willing hands and hearts, working along-side the future homeowners, under the supervision a professional contractor. Crews for other weekends (and some weekdays) of each month will come from a large number of churches in Montgomery County.

Our orientation meeting will be held on Saturday, September 6 in Fellowship Hall beginning at 9 a.m., lasting about an hour. We'll be welcomed by Donna Marsh, Associate Pastor of Darnestown Presbyterian Church, and then provided a presentation of Habitat's mission and operation - specifically, our role in this activity- by Alia Williams, Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County. At this time, it is not certain whether we'll begin work in September or October, but we'll be told at this meeting.

If you haven't signed up yet, but have some interest, please come. The larger the pool of volunteers, the easier it will be to gather a crew for each month without being too demanding on anyone, given busy schedules and prior commitments.

See you in September!

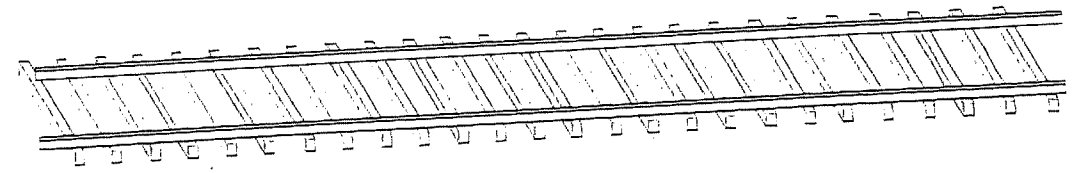
- Richard Cannon (301-365-8632), on behalf of the Mission Committee

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE PPC COMMUNITY

On July 4th, the 3rd Annual Cure Autism Now 5K Run/1 mile walk was a huge success. Over 1,500 people ran, walked or volunteered on a sunny and steamy holiday morning. With your help, we raised over \$100,000! Over the course of the morning, I saw so many familiar faces from the PPC community. In fact, over 60 of you (both adults and children) joined us for the festivities.

I would like to thank all of you who participated that morning and also those who were unable to attend but still sponsored individual walkers or runners at the event. You were with us in spirit. Your efforts and support will surely make a difference as researchers search for a cure for autism! Please mark your calendars for next July 4th.

- Susan Pereles



GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK.....JOIN A CHOIR!

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, 9/4 - 8:00 p.m.

Children's Choir: Sunday, 9/14 - 9:00 a.m.

Primary Choir: Wednesday, 9/17 - 4:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir: Thursday, 9/11 - 6:30 p.m.

PASSENGER DESCRIPTION

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

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


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

Handbell Choir: Individuals of any age who have an understanding of musical notation. This year we have two openings. Please consider joining.

TICKET INFORMATION

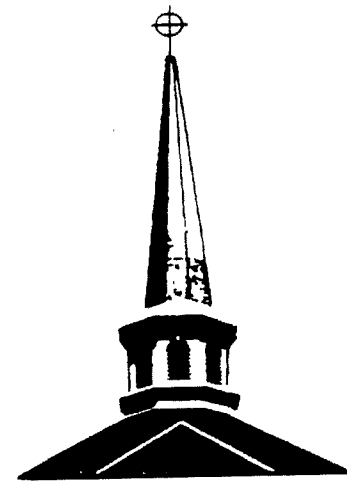
Seats available in all choirs. No charge. The only requirement is regular attendance and commitment to the cause of good singing or ringing to the glory of God.

Call Cynthia Wright (conductor, engineer) at 301-926-7015 with questions or indication of interest.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Sept 14th Bibles for 3rd graders</p>	<p>1 HOLIDAY ~ Office Closed ~</p>	<p>2 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends</p>	<p>3 </p>	<p>4  8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Theology Class 10:00 - 12:30</p>
<p>7 9:45 a.m. Rally Day 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>8 12:30 p.m. CE Committee 7:30 p.m. Committees</p>	<p>9 9:30 a.m. Christian Living 7:30 p.m. Christian Living</p>	<p>10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood</p>	<p>11 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Theology Class 10:00 - 12:30 </p>
<p>14 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Bibles for 3rd graders 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 7:30 p.m. Session</p>	<p>16 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group </p>	<p>17 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir</p>	<p>18 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Theology Class 10:00 - 12:30</p>
<p>21 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Workcamp Meeting 3:00 p.m. Manor Care</p>	<p>22 7:30 p.m. Deacons</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir</p>	<p>25  6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Theology Class 10:00 - 12:30</p>
<p>28 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<h1>September 2003</h1> 			

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

October

2003

KERRY ON... HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!!!!

Eugene Peterson writes,
Traveling through scenic country, we sometimes come upon a sign reading, "Roadside Vista Ahead." We may pull off the highway, get out of our car, stretch and look around. We see where we have been and where we are headed. Take a breather. Eat a snack. Enjoy the scenery. We can't always be driving, watching the road closely. Not driving is also part of the trip – savoring what we've done, absorbing the landscape, letting the contours of the land and the colors of the horizon sink into our imaginations.

Anniversaries are like a roadside vista he says. Honoring them is one of the ways we have of keeping our lives coherent – keeping what we've been connected with what we're becoming. I look forward to our 40th celebration when we stop to see and celebrate where we have been. There will be laughter and perhaps a few tears. Standing on the vista we can look toward the horizon and God's call to continue the journey into the future. The same God who called Potomac Presbyterian Church into being, and guided us over the years, beckons us to move forward in the name our Lord.

We give thanks for our companions on the journey and remember with gratitude those who have joined the faithful in the Lord's presence. As the years unfold we look forward to welcoming those who will call this congregation home. May all glory and praise be to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Saturday October 4 - 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Program
Sunday October 5 – Sunday School 9:45 and Worship 11:00

Join in the fun at the 40th Anniversary Celebration

of Potomac Presbyterian Church

October 4th and 5th

Celebration begins October 4th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall with dinner and a commemorative program in the Sanctuary,

and continues with our Anniversary Worship Service Sunday morning October 5th.

There are a few remaining tickets for the dinner Saturday night.

Call Bettie Ann or Taylor Johnson if you would like to attend.

301-963-5847

Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars for the following events being organized by the Fellowship committee.

October 25, 2003

Pumpkin carving and cookie exchange

November 14, 2003

Family Craft Workshop

December 14, 2003

Christmas Caroling/After Party

Host needed

If you can and are willing to host the Christmas Party after caroling at Manor Care and Collingswood Nursing homes please let Marnel Williams know by calling her at 301-258-9547 or by email at wmarnel@aol.com

More information on all the above events will be forthcoming in the next issue of Steeple to People.

Presbyterian Teacher / Leader Training

National Capital Presbytery's annual Fall Leadership and Educator Development Event will be from 8:00 to 2:00, Saturday, October 4th at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Lane, McLean, VA 22101. This year's theme is "Leading a 21st Century Reformation."

The day starts with continental breakfast at 8:00 and worship at 8:30. Cindy Bolbach, Interim General Presbyter will be preaching. The first workshop starts at 9:00. There will be time to browse the Cokesbury Bookstore and Peruvian Crafts display. Lunch is included in the registration fee of only \$10.00.

Participants can choose from a total of 16 workshops. On-line registration is available by going to the presbytery web site (www.thepresbytery.org) and clicking on the Fall Leadership Event link. You can see complete information there -- as well as register and choose to pay by check or credit card.

Celebration for Dawn Thompson

Sunday morning, November 2, during the fellowship hour, we will honor Dawn Thompson. It is a celebration of 80 years of life and many years of service to our Church. Her family looks forward to sharing this wonderful day with you.



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our infants and toddlers (birth - 4 years old). Please pray for their parents and families too.

Megan Bedingfield, Morgan Bedingfield, Roman Conway, Chandler Kuhn, Matthew Mamalian, Alexandria Mamalian, Christian Alarie, Emily Cyrway, Paige Hooper, Andrew Kline, Kyle Venit, Emily Donahue, Caitlin Hooper, Zachary Nannen, Jackie Fasano, Meredith White



We rejoice in the birth of...

Jaclyn Brook Jacobs, daughter of Carol and Parker Jacobs, born on September 8. The proud grandparents are Ellen and Buhpendra Doctor.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Matthew Clouse and Mary Katherine Belyeu who were married on September 13 in Castine, Maine.

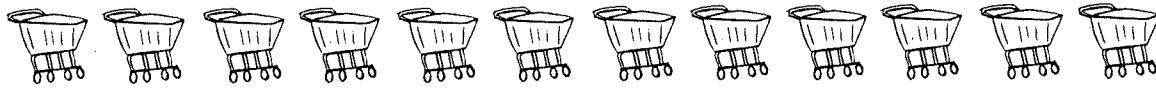
Our prayers are with...

Diane Chapin, whose brother, George A. Nelson, Jr., died this past week in Chicago; Kittie Cowie's father, George Cowie;

Carolyn Ewels' father, Jack, ill at home in New Hampshire;

John Clouse's sister in Ohio;

Bob Hazard at home.



ALWAYS AT THE FOOD STORE???

NOW YOU CAN EARN FUNDS FOR THE WORKCAMPERS WHILE YOU SHOP AT **SAFeway**! There is **no cost** to you and our youth will benefit! Safeway will contribute a percentage of your purchases to Potomac Presbyterian Church!

Here's how to sign up:

If you don't already have one, you must first obtain a Safeway club card by going in to any Safeway store. When you have your card, fill in the information on the form below and mail it to me, e-mail it to me, or drop it off at the church office. That's all there is to it! **THANK YOU** for supporting our workcampers!

Mail to: Karen Wise
9812 Clydesdale Street
Potomac, MD 20854



Or e-mail to karensuewise@hotmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Safeway Club Card #: _____ (11 digits)

Note: You also have the option of signing yourself up on-line at www.escrip.com. You will need to know our church's ID # which is **1038484**. If you would like your store purchases to benefit more than one group (up to 3), you can sign up for that on-line as well, or call me at 301-299-2826 for details.

Did I sign you up last year? GREAT! Unless I hear differently from you, I will renew PPC as your designation after Oct.1. Thanks!
- Karen Wise

Marilyn's Message

This year's morning Christian Living group is reading biographies and autobiographies of ordinary women who have had extraordinary faith experiences. The book we are reading for October is *The Camel Knows the Way*, by Lorna Kelly, about a woman who left her prestigious job as an art auctioneer in New York to spend three weeks as a volunteer with Mother Teresa in Calcutta. Her story is fascinating, and as I read I find myself thinking, "I could never do that!" I could never leave the comforts of my home and family to live in the Y and eat unfamiliar food among people who speak a different language. It makes me feel so inadequate to think that I couldn't make that kind of sacrifice for God.

But then I remember the many times people have looked at my life as a single parent, being a mom and dad to my kids, cutting the grass and fixing the vacuum cleaner, spending hours in my car as I take them to activity after activity. People have said to me, "I could never do that!" The fact is that yes, you could, if you had to. We are much stronger than we think we are when we need to be. When we hear a call from God to do something, we are often powerless to resist.

As I think about it, each one of us does so many things for God in the form of raising our families, volunteering in the church and at school, and even simply in the way we interact with strangers we meet. In all of those situations we have choices. We can get angry and shout obscenities at the driver who cut in front of us on the exit ramp, or we can let it go. We can take time to teach our children the right ways to behave, or we can leave that up to their peer groups and the world. We can see the church as a place where we receive, or we can realize that it is our responsibility to participate in the life of the church in order for it to thrive.

Each of these things, though they may seem small, are seen by others and seen by God. Every step we make in helping our children to become responsible citizens and faithful followers of Christ is a wonderful offering to God. Every time we smile at a clerk or waitress, we are sharing God's kingdom with others.

It doesn't take a trip to Calcutta to be an extraordinary Christian and have an extraordinary faith experience. Simply open your eyes to the opportunities presented to you daily, and you will find that yes, I can do that!

PPC Past Pictures Needed ~ The 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee is looking for pictures of PPC events, people, celebrations, and services over the past 40 years. If anyone has pictures they would like to share, please give them to Janet Swisher or place them in Rob Swisher's PPC office mail box. Digital pictures are also welcome. You can send digital pictures to: janetswisher@comcast.net. Please make sure all pictures are marked with the following information: your name, PPC event and year.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

"On this World Communion Sunday we have been blessed as a church to receive a lovely new communion cloth as a gift to the church from a member of our church family. On the new cloth you will see the letters IHS embroidered. These are the first three letters (iota, eta, sigma) of the Greek spelling of Jesus. The cloth that has been with us for many years has become more fragile, but will continue to be used for special services.

We dine at your table as sisters and brothers, diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one." So says the hymn "We Come to This Table" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. As we celebrate The Lord's Supper on October 5, World Communion Sunday, we will be receiving the Communion bread in a different form. The plate your neighbor passes to you may hold pita bread from the Middle East, rye bread from Sweden, or lavash from Armenia and Lebanon. The bread we share will be different and will remind us that we are all God's children united with Christ in the sacrament of Communion.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tietjen are donating two needlepoint chair covers that will be presented on World Communion Sunday at PPC. Thank you for your generous gift to PPC.

Deacon's Corner

As PPC prepares to celebrate our 40th Anniversary this October 4, & 5th, I can't help but wonder how our charter members must feel. I am reminded of the lyrics from an anthem, "For when two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them." I am so thankful for our church leaders and our congregation! I am so pleased that in a society of "what's in it for me," that PPC is focused on communion with Christ in worship and "caring, helping and giving" through many mission programs. I

see Christian friendship as we serve together in choir, Stephen Ministry, Christmas in April, "Race for the Cure", American Cancer Society benefits, "Cure Autism Now," Work Camp, blanket drives, serving dinner at local missions, Sophia House, Williamsburg Breakfast gift tree, and the list goes on and includes many great causes. As part of our celebration, "40th Anniversary Mission Gifts" drive is October 5th (see the poster in the Fellowship Hall). Another popular song said it this way, "Where ever two or more of you are gathered in His name, there is love." Thanks be to God!

- Gail Yates

Habitat for Humanity Update

Our orientation meeting was held on Saturday, September 6 in Fellowship Hall. Rob Wescott, chair of the Mission Committee, welcomed the 30 volunteers in attendance, and introduced Donna Marsh, Associate Pastor of Darnestown Presbyterian Church. We were told that 11 churches in Montgomery County are joining the Darnestown church in building a home in Poolesville for Jose and Maria Caro, and their 4 children. Alia Williams, Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, provided an overview of the international organization, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry founded in 1976, with over 150,000 homes built thus far. She explained that the homeowners are required to work alongside the volunteer crews as "sweat equity." Upon completion of the home, the Caros will pay an interest-free mortgage on the cost of the land and building materials.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held on Saturday, September 20, with Kerry Stolfus, Rob Wescott, Bert Klein, and Richard Cannon representing the 53 volunteers from PPC who will form our work crews, provide lunches for our crews and lead devotionals during lunch-breaks. Our first work date is Saturday, October 18, and the third Saturday of each month thereafter until the home is built.

Be on the look-out for posters in Fellowship Hall to watch the construction progress!

Richard Cannon (301-365-8632; coolcannons@aol.com), on behalf of the Mission Committee



Deacon's Corner

School is back in session. Our lives and schedules are getting busier every day with various activities. For my family, our daughter plays soccer and this keeps us running during the fall season. I can only imagine what it is like to have two or more children in different activities. This schedule can lead to a lot of juggling and "time management."

This fall we have many new youth and adult Sunday school programs to continue Christian education growth in our Church. Junior and senior high students will have also begun their Sunday evening meetings.



This fall we are also fortunate to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of our church and congregation. Many activities and events are scheduled for this milestone of Potomac Presbyterian Church.

The hard work and dedication of the congregation, serving as officers, teachers and members of the various committees, has built a solid foundation to continue our growth. This time also provides an ideal opportunity for both new and older members of PPC to become involved in teaching Sunday school, joining committees and participating in mission programs as we grow in our Christian faith.

- Beth Dart

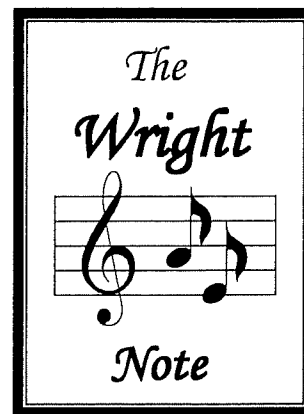
Contributing Appreciated Securities

Many people do not think about income taxes until December or perhaps April. However, now is a good time to do some planning for your 2003 income tax returns. Effective planning can reduce income taxes and increase charitable giving dollars at the same time.

For the first time in the last few years, the stock market has been rising. This means that many investors have stock portfolios with unrealized profits. It is possible to contribute appreciated assets to the Church and deduct the value at the date of the gift on your income tax return. It is not necessary to report the appreciation as taxable income.

For example, if you paid \$1,000 for stock that is now worth \$1,500 you could give it to the church and take a deduction on your income tax return of \$1,500. If you sold the stock you would have to pay income taxes on the capital gain of \$500 and you would have less money to contribute.

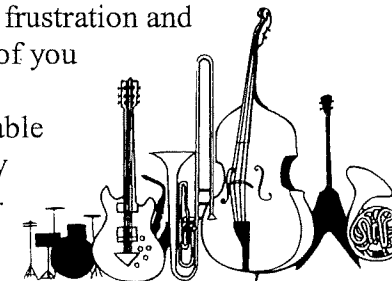
Now is a good time to discuss the opportunity to use appreciated assets for contributions with your income tax advisor. Your income tax advisor can also tell you about the advantages of contributing assets to a charitable remainder trust and other deferred contribution strategies which could benefit you and the Church. Do not wait until it is too late to act for 2003.



Anticipation is a wonderful thing. It is that excitement of preparation for a special time or event that fuels our enthusiasm and gives us extra energy. We experience this in our choirs as we prepare for special worship services and liturgical seasons. It is very apparent now as we rehearse anthems, responses, handbell and horn descants for our church anniversary Sunday, Oct. 5th. As part of the team of people working so diligently at planning this anniversary celebration, the Sanctuary Choir and instruments will lead the congregation in exuberant praise and thanks to God for the formation and mission of our church.

Anticipation has another aspect as it applies to Oct. 4th and 5th. Six months ago a very special nephew of ours announced his long awaited wedding day in California. The date was Oct. 4th. Not knowing our church date at that time, we agreed to fly out and join our family in this celebration. The degree of family anticipation and participation has been increasing ever since. My role has been one of frustration and disappointment that I would have to miss being with all of you for our church's important event. Once I discovered the calendar conflict, I got busy and contacted two very capable musicians who will lead the choir and handbells and play the organ. I know you will welcome Jean Irwin as director and John Gettys as organist. I will have been with everyone for all rehearsals, but will miss the anticipated climax of events. I am confident that all will go as planned. I extend my congratulations to PPC and appreciate being a part of this great congregation for the last eleven years of its forty years of service.

- Cindy



New Addresses



Kent and Doreen Arnold
6160 Kellogg Drive
McLean, VA 22191

Rabb and Tricia Kirchner
13605 Anchor Cove Court
Rockville, MD 20850



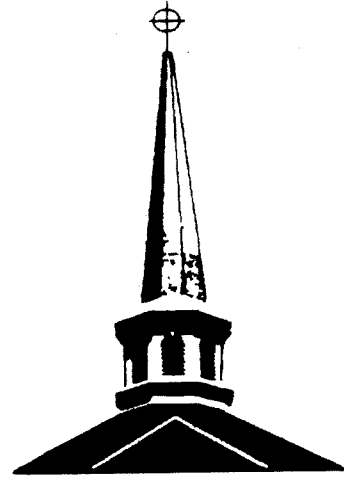
Claire and John Lee (Christopher)
18419 Cornflower Road
Boyd's, MD 20841-4337

Chip and Alyssa Shooshan
51 Catesby Lane
Bedford, ND 03110
(603) 472-3604

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>October 2003</h1> 			1 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir	2 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop <i>(1st & 3rd Thurs.)</i> 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4 <i>40th Anniversary Celebration</i> 6:00 p.m. Celebration begins 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:40 p.m. Program
5 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	6 	7 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table <i>(1st Tues.)</i> St. Martin's Church, Gaithersburg 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends <i>(1st Tues.)</i>	8 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood <i>(2nd Wed.)</i> 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	9 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10	11 
12 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	13 12:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee <i>(2nd Mon.)</i> 7:30 p.m. Committees <i>(2nd Mon.)</i>	14 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. } Christian 7:30 p.m. } Living <i>(2nd Tues.)</i>	15 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	16 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop <i>(1st & 3rd Thurs.)</i> 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17	18 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Poolesville Habitat
19 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class - I 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care <i>(3rd Sun.)</i> 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	20 7:30 p.m. Session <i>(3rd Mon.)</i>	21 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group <i>(3rd Tues.)</i>	22 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	23 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24 	25 Fellowship Committee ~ Pumpkin Carving ~
26 ~Daylight Savings Time Ends~ 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class - II 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons <i>(4th Mon.)</i>	28 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class	29 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir (Pumpkin Caroling in costume) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	30 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	31 	

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

November

2003

KERRY ON...

What a wonderful Anniversary celebration we all enjoyed. When you have the opportunity, please express your thanks to our Anniversary Celebration Team: Taylor and Bettie Ann Johnson, John and Carol Clouse, Rob and Janet Swisher, Ed and Lynda Tennent. They know how to put on a party.

Tom Troeger's poem reminds us to extend an invitation to others:

Come, join us on the journey
beyond what we have known.
All seeking hearts are welcome
no need to go alone.

For there are shadowed valleys
and mountains, high and steep,
and many river crossings
with currents swift and deep.

The life of this congregation in our first forty years is marked by the blessing of new members who join the journey and take up the call of Christ to love God and neighbor. It is life together marked by grace, gratitude and hope. Will you remember to share the joy by inviting a friend or neighbor to join us on the journey?

We need each other's wisdom,
each other's care and strength
to make the whole great journey,
its full and winding length.

(Thomas Troeger, "Come, Join Us On The Journey," [Above The Moon Earth Rises: Hymn Texts, Anthems, and Poems for a New Creation](#))

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*



Our singing choirs are having an exciting fall start. The Primary Choir of eight kindergarten through second graders meets each Wednesday and is happily preparing songs for its annual Pumpkin Caroling event. The Children's Choir, numbering thirteen this year, has already sung once in worship and is anxious to share again soon. These third through sixth graders, along with the Primary Choir, will be singing the musical framework for our 9:30 a.m. Christmas pageant service on Dec. 21st. Preparations for that event begin this month.

The Sanctuary Choir moved quickly this fall to prepare special anthems for the anniversary celebration. As always, they led with musical authority and enthusiasm. The choir approaches each Sunday worship service as a special event. On Nov. 2nd guest oboist, H. David Meyers, will join the choir for two anthems. Mr. Meyers will also play a prelude, provide additions to the hymn accompaniments and play meditative music during the serving of Communion. Mr. Meyers is a well-known concert oboist in the Washington area. We look forward to his musical contribution on All Saints Sunday.

The Handbell Choir is still looking for ringers. If you read music and can keep track of the progression of notes by counting rhythmically, you will enjoy this activity. Rehearsals are Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please contact me for further information and orientation. - Cindy

Adult Education Class... Theme for the Year: The Kingdom of God: Present Reality and Future Hope **Matthew 6:33:** But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. **Schedule for November:**

- November 2 & 9 Reverend John Yiel, Virginia Theological Seminary Professor
Topic: *The Gospel of John*
- November 16 Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams, Virginia Theological Seminary,
M. Div. degree in Hebrew Bible from Yale University
Topic: *Psalms and Negro Spirituals*
- November 23 Workcampers November 30 to be announced

PPC Library... Several new books have been added to our library. One is by Steve Turner, *Amazing Grace: The Story of America's Most Beloved Song*. This book is not only about the hymn; but, about John Newton's life. We have several books written by our Adult Education speakers. The latest, *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible*, by P. Kyle McCarter. In this small volume, Kyle states why it is important to go the original text of the Hebrew Bible. Come in and have a look.

Would you like to give a book to the library in memory or honor of someone? These are titles of books we would like to add to the shelves:

- *Wade in the Water: The Wisdom of Spirituals* by Arthur C. Jones (\$14);
- *G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense* by Dale Ahlquist (\$14);
- *Is the Bible True? : How Modern Debates and Discoveries Affirm the Essence of the Scriptures* by Jeffery L. Sheler (\$24); and
- *Traveling Light: The Promise of Psalm 23* by Max Lucado (\$22).

Please call me (301-299-3272) to let me know which one you'd like, or if you have any other suggestions or questions. - Nancy Tietjen

Redskins Tailgate Party - Mark the Date! Stop celebrating Redskins' wins alone! Come "tailgate" with the PPC Youth as we watch the Redskins take on the Carolina Panthers, November 16th, right after church. We'll be having a chili-cook-off competition, so get out those peppers and kidney beans and your favorite recipe, and sign up to bring chili. To continue in the spirit of friendly competition, we'll also have a dessert bake-off, so plan to bring your favorite dish. Instead of spending hours in the cold, crowded parking lot, watch the game in the comfort of the church, and enjoy hot chili and yummy desserts! Other games and activities will be available for children, and for those who aren't big fans.

We'd like to have a raffle with Redskins-related prizes. If you have tickets you won't be using, or other Redskins stuff, and would be willing to donate it to the raffle, please call Trevor Johnson (301) 765-8924, or David Wescott at (301) 299-2826. All proceeds go to support our 2004 workcamp.

Praying for the Children

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our Kindergartners and First Graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

- Isabella Augustine Alarie, Stefanie Baarman, Delaney Casten, Katherine Donahue, Delaney Casten, Nicholas Mason, Jackson Miller, Travis Nannen, Dylan Parr, Noah Pereles, Meredith Srour, Nathan Van Brunt, Austin Venit, Jack White, Sara Cyrway, Abby Means, Austin Mills, Dalton Novalis, Grace Pereles

Two children were inadvertently left off the October "Steeple to People" prayer list. Please include in your prayers Charlotte and Patterson Koonce.

In the Church Family



Our prayers are with...

John Clouse's sister in Ohio; Kittie Cowie's father, George Cowie; Heather Rosecrans recovering from surgery; Gayle Goff, whose Uncle Mac died recently in Florida; Bob Hazard at home; Carolyn Ewels' father, Jack, ill at home in New Hampshire and the...

World Alliance of Reformed Churches 24th General Council Christians from around the world will be gathering in Accra, Ghana, July 30 - Aug. 13, 2004, for the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) 24th General Council. The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is a member of the WARC, which links 75 million Christians in over 100 countries. It is a fellowship of more than 200 Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed and United churches with roots in the 16th century Reformation led by John Calvin, John Knox and others. The theme for the 24th General Council, *That All May Have Life in Fullness*, is from John 10:10. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) represents almost 4 percent of member churches.



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Zidi Berger
#4 Tile Silo Court
Middletown, MD 21769
301-371-9647 | Bettie Ann & Taylor Johnson
516 Moss Tree Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-794-4160 | Josh Stoltzfus
1260 21st Street, NW, # 307
Washington, DC 20036-7310
202-659-1888 |
| James Chung, 1904 NE Wagant Street, Portland, OR 97211 | | |

Stephen Ministry

Eight members of PPC and three from Geneva have begun the first fifty hours of training to become Stephen Ministers. The fifty hours of training is broken down into twenty 2½ hour sessions held on Wednesday evenings. Among the training topics are the following:

- Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
- The Art of Listening
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Confidentiality
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Caring for People before, during and after Hospitalization

Many Stephen Ministry trainees in the past expected to learn a lot about caregiving, but did not anticipate the personal and spiritual growth they experienced. They enjoyed the close Christian community formed with others in the training class. We are looking forward to another great group of "Care Partners" in our congregation. Please continue to pray for our newest group of Stephen Ministry trainees.



Christmas Donations ~ At the Williamsburg Breakfast on Sunday, December 7, the Mission Committee will again invite the congregation to share our Christmas joy with needy families in our community. In the Fellowship Hall we will 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. There will be a list of suggestions for the food baskets. Please wrap and label the gift or food basket, and bring it to the Fellowship Hall before worship on Sunday, December 14. We will also be asking for volunteers to help us deliver the gifts before Christmas. Many of these families will receive no Christmas presents without our help. Please join us and make Christmas happier for our needy neighbors.

Deacon's Corner... How should we celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

Eugene H. Peterson's version of Psalm 100 gives some suggestions:

On you feet now – applaud God!
Bring a gift of laughter,
Sing yourselves into his presence.

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"
Make yourselves at home, talking praise.
Thank him. Worship him.

Know this: GOD is God, and God, God.
He made us; we didn't make him.
We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

For GOD is sheer beauty,
All-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.

We have a lot to be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving! - Kay Norvell

Marilyn's Message

Here at PPC, those of us involved in Christian education work hard to teach the Bible to our children. John Calvin, the "Father of Presbyterianism," based his whole understanding of Reformed Theology on the foundation of the authority of Scripture. Calvin would not make a statement if it could not be supported scripturally. In children's Sunday School, the workshop rotation model is predicated on the idea that children will learn Bible stories better if they are exposed to fewer stories for a longer time and with different media.

Having said all of that, it is also true that what children and youth - and often adults - learn most in church is not the stories of the Bible. What adults remember most about their childhood church experience is the community that develops from loving teachers and caring friends. Learning the stories and concepts from the Bible are a wonderful thing, and much of that certainly does happen, but think back on your own childhood experience of church and Sunday School: do you remember being taught specific stories, or do you remember that Sunday School teacher who smiled at you every time you walked into her class, or the kindness of the pastor, or the fun you had with your friends at a lock-in? It is through this experience of community with other Christians that the gospel is learned. We learn the love and fellowship of Christ through the love and fellowship of others.





Last Sunday I had the privilege of leading the Inquirer's Class. It was so uplifting to listen to the people who are new to our church express their feelings of being included in the life of this congregation as soon as they stepped in the door. Comments such as, "even though this is Potomac, people are so warm and friendly" echoed similar statements made at the 40th anniversary celebration. That same day we did a progressive dinner with the senior high youth of our church. Fifteen teenagers spent almost four hours together, eating one course of a meal at four different homes, and they never stopped talking and laughing with each other. What a wonderful example of community! What a spirit of Christian fellowship!

During this month of Thanksgiving, why not take a moment to remember the people who have shaped your faith and exemplified Christian community to you - perhaps a teacher or pastor you knew growing up, or your parents, or a Christian friend, or a youth group leader - and send them a card or give them a call, or say a prayer in thanks for them. They are the ones who gave us a glimpse into the Kingdom of Heaven!

Help Wanted: Creative People Who Love Children Please Apply!

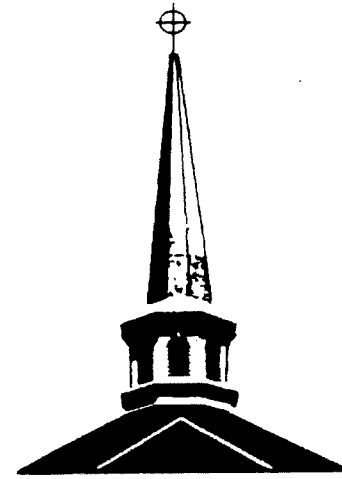
The Christian Education department is looking for a few good people who are interested in leading a 3-week Sunday school lesson for children in art, computers, or drama. This is for our children's rotation model Sunday school. You will be given curriculum (or your own ideas are welcome), and you will teach the same lesson, with slight variations for age, for three weeks. You may do one rotation or many throughout the year.

We do not discriminate on the basis of age or gender. This is a very short-term commitment which will go a long way in the Christian nurture of children. Please see Marilyn Johns for further information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Christmas Shopper's Sitter Service ~ Parents, mark your calendars for Friday, December 5, from 6-10 p.m. On that day there will be a group of responsible and creative teenagers who will entertain your children while you get some Christmas shopping done - by yourselves! We will have games, activities, snacks, and videos to keep them happy, and you can relax and hit the mall! This is a free service, but if you choose to make a donation, it will be used to help fund next summer's workcamp. A sign-up poster will be on the Christian Education kiosk in the next few weeks.</p>						<p>1 1:30-4:30 p.m. D.A.R. Tea</p>
<p>2 ~ <i>All Saints Sunday</i> ~ 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. New Members meet with Session 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion New members 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth</p>	<p>3 </p>	<p>4 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1st Tues.) St. Martin's Church, Gaithersburg 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1st Tues.)</p>	<p>5 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Educator Class 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>6 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1st & 3rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Session Retreat 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Reformed Theology Class</p>
<p>9 ~ <i>Stewardship Commitment Sunday</i> ~ 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Pledges Received 12:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth</p>	<p>10 9:30 a.m. Christian Education Committee (2nd Mon.) 7:30 p.m. Committees (2nd Mon)</p>	<p>11 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2nd Tues)</p>	<p>12 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2nd Wed.) 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>13 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>14 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Family Craft Workshop</p>	<p>15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Poolesville Habitat</p>
<p>16 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 a.m. Fellowship/Gift card sale 12:30 p.m. Redskins Tailgate Party 3:00 p.m. Manor Care (3rd Sun.)</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3rd Tues.) 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National) 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3rd Tues.)</p>	<p>19 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Educator Class 4:00 p.m. Primary Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3rd Wed.)</p>	<p>20 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1st & 3rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 a.m. Fellowship/Gift card sale 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>26 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. NO Primary Choir</p>	<p>27 ~ <i>Thanksgiving</i> ~ (Office closed) 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>28 (Office closed)</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 <i>Advent I</i> 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 a.m. Fellowship/Gift card sale No Youth Groups</p>	 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">November 2003</h1> 					

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

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

December

2003

Advent Advent Advent Advent Advent

KERRY ON...

Advent might be compared to a prison cell in which one waits and hopes and does various unessential things... but it is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In Advent we are reminded to prepare for the coming of God to this planet we call earth. Seen from space it is a beautiful sphere floating in vastness beyond our imagining. On the ground hatred and war, greed and injustice, boredom and arrogance close in like prison walls. How shall we reflect and prepare our hearts and lives for the One who comes? It will not be easy in what is often a frantic season.

Do we not need a reminder that God is the One who opens the door? We wait, God acts. We are doers, even movers and shakers. We get things done but the four weeks of Advent call us to acknowledge God's initiative. In the end God comes quietly, nearly unnoticed, save for a peasant couple and a few scruffy shepherds. Perhaps our preparation simply enables us to see with the eyes of faith that the door has to be opened from the outside.



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 Wright Note... **A Night to Remember**

That night in November,
The choir can remember,
When fierce winter winds swirled around.

The church like a shroud
Stood behind night's dark cloud,
No power, no lights could be found.

The hour was late,
Must have been close to eight
When cautiously cars did appear.

The flashlights clicked on,
People tramped through the lawn,
These singers who came without fear.

They crept down the hall
To their musical stall,
Where they took their cantatas in hand.

With flashlights and scores,
Through dark basement doors
They rehearsed like a true Baroque band.

They worked 'til nine-thirty
In a room dark and dreary,
To master Bach's advent cantata.

This choir, what a bunch!
They rehearse in a crunch,
When Cindy says "practice", they gotta!

On the 14th of December,
They hope you'll remember,
As you hear strings and voices declare.

That one dark, cold night,
With just a flashlight,
They came to the church to prepare.

Pageant Preparations... The Primary and Children's Choirs are busily preparing music for the presentation of the nativity story to be shared with the congregation at a special 9:30 a.m. worship service on Dec. 21st. Children or youth interested in appearing that day, costumed as shepherds, kings or star bearer, should sign up with Mrs. Wright on a chart which will be on display in the fellowship hall. All pageant participants - both singers and costumed characters - are asked to come to a dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 20th at 11:00 a.m. Please indicate your decision to participate by Dec. 7th. We need time to adequately arrange for costuming and blocking details.

Deacons Corner... "Heart of the Home" Where, you ask? Why the kitchen, of course, and family room...and so it goes. "Heart of PPC" Where, you ask? Why the kitchen, of course, and fellowship hall...and so your deacons go.

When I was asked to fill in for Chip as temporary deacon (having already served as a deacon to "my flock"), I knew exactly where I was headed. The kitchen, of course, and fellowship hall! Yes, this feels absolutely correct. Somehow when you enter "the kitchen," warm arms surround you and comfort you. It brings you back to your roots and conger up thoughts and feelings of family. It is a leap but there it is...your deacons bringing comfort and fellowship of family through their job, so often centered behind the scenes, for their extended family, in the kitchen, of course and fellowship hall.

Never miss a chance to experience that feeling of love and acceptance offered to each of you through...What you ask? The Kitchen, of course, and Fellowship Hall.

Praying for the Children

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our Second and Third Graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Shannon Baarman, Laura Bretscher, David Fasano, David Hay,
Audrey Ling, Courtney Barr, Hannah Singerling, Lia Sohl,
McCartney VanBrunt, Haley White, Michael Donahue,
Jane Drumheller, Hannah Jung, Samantha Klein, Amanda Kuhn,
Christopher Lee, Kayla Mason, Lucy Miller, Matthew Underhill.

In the Church Family



We rejoice in the birth of...

Jacob Murray, son of Andrew and Pam Sharer, on November 3rd.
The proud grandparents are Gene and Wilma Sharer and the proud sister is Emily.

We celebrate with joy the baptisms of...

Matthew Rafi Mamalian, son of Paul and Cyndy Mamalian, on November 16th;
Samuel Crosthwaite Spencer, son of Matt and Tracy Spencer, on November 16th; and
Abigail Talbot Spencer, daughter of Matt and Tracy Spencer, on November 16th.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Melissa Dorman and Peter Attilio who were married on November 15th.

Our prayers are with...

John Clouse, who's sister, Joanna Clay, died in Ohio in October;
Kittie Cowie's father, George Cowie;
Carolyn Ewels' father, Jack, ill at home in New Hampshire;
Bob Hazard at home;
Heather Rosecrans recovering from surgery;
Miriam Sass at Asbury Healthcare; and
Gail Yates, whose sister-in-law, Kelly Sauls, died in October in Florida.

New Address... Taylor and Bettie Ann Johnson 910-794-4160
516 Moss Tree Drive Wilmington, NC 28405

Welcome New Members

Brad Broseker and Laurie Lane Hay
8606 Delcris Drive
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
301-869-4828

Brad is a native of the Washington area (Adelphi, Maryland) and Laurie is originally from Waco, Texas and came east to attend Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Their children are Alexandra Broseker, a fifth grader, and Maggie Hay, a fourth grader, and David Hay, a second grader. Laurie is active in the PPC Choir and was "recruited" by Cindy Wright to share her vocal skills and interest in choral works.

Corey and Patricia Eng
7800 River Falls Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-4405

Both Corey and Patricia grew up in the Washington, DC area and went to college in Indiana. They lived in Los Angeles for 9 years, and then returned to the DC area in 1991. They are the parents of Brandon, a fourth grader, and twins Lauren and Bryan who are in Kindergarten. The Engs enjoy visiting museums and other family activities.

Karlyne Reilly
12313 Rivers Edge Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
301-869-6136

Karlyne and her husband, Jay, are the parents of Jordan, a first grader, and Megan, a pre-schooler. Karlyne is originally from Berkley, California. She and Jay lived in Boston prior to coming to the DC area in 2002. Along with her family, Karlyne enjoys hiking and arts and crafts. Her main interest is cancer research.

Matthew and Tracy Spencer
10052 Colebrook Avenue
Potomac, MD 20854
301-251-9340

Matt and Tracy are the parents of Sam, age three, and Abigail, age two. The family moved to Potomac in December 2002, but Matt and Tracy have lived in the DC area since they graduated from college. They enjoy taking hikes and walks together as well as visiting their families in the Northeast.

Share Your Computer Skills!

Do you enjoy "playing" on your computer? Would you like to provide a valuable service to the church while spending your free time at the computer?

After this issue, I will be retiring as editor of Steeple to People. If you are interested in the job or want more information, please call Pastor Kerry at 301-299-6007. You do not have to be an "expert" or a computer guru. The entire newsletter is done in Microsoft Word. Anyone with basic computer skills and a little free time can do the job.

Marilyn's Message

It's December, and that means - eek! - only a few more days until Christmas! Shopping, cookies, cleaning, decorating - how will it all get done?! Crowds, traffic, bad weather, tempers -- will I survive the stress of another Christmas season?

This year my daughters and I have decided to avoid some of that by taking a trip at Christmas, which will be my Christmas present to them. That way I only spend money on tickets and reservations, which can be done over the internet and not at the mall. Our timing is not great, though. We're going to San Diego, and made our reservations about a week before the terrible fires began. It should make for an interesting vacation.

I'm always looking for ways to lower anxiety and have time to enjoy the wonder and joy of the true meaning of Christmas. To that end, I have found a nifty little article called *40 Ways to Keep Christmas Simple and Meaningful*. I ordered several copies of this article to share with you in the hope that our blood pressure will be reduced and we will be blessed with a Christmas season that is worthy of the amazing gift of the Christ child. Look for the article in the literature rack in the narthex.

Presbyterian 101

Beginning on Sunday, January 18, and continuing through February 8, a class on basic Presbyterianism will be held in the parlor at 9:45 a.m. New members and those who need a brush-up are invited to attend the four-Sunday class, which is led by Marilyn Johns. We will look at a brief overview of Presbyterian history and theology, government and structure, sacraments, and current issues in our denomination. There will be lots of time for discussion and questions. All are welcome!

Christmas Shoppers' Sitter Service

On Friday, December 5, from 6-10 p.m., the youth of our church will offer quality child care for parents who want to get some Christmas shopping done. There will be games, videos, art projects and other activities for children through age 12. This is a free service, but if you *must* make a donation, it will go to the youth workcamp. There is a sign-up in Fellowship Hall, or call Katie MacFarlan at 301-765-9521, to register your child(ren).

Advent and Christmas are coming...

Time to decorate PPC and you can help!

- **Donate evergreen and magnolia branches.** Bring the branches to the church between November 29 and December 3. Please set the greens on the patio outside Fellowship Hall.
- **Decorate the church Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall & the exterior of the church:**
Saturday, December 6 - 9 AM (coffee and goodies will be provided by the Fellowship committee)
Tuesday, December 23 - 12:30 PM
- **Give Money.** Cash or checks should be put in the "Sanctuary Flower Fund" envelope from the pew racks; give in the offering or to the church office with "CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS" written on the outside of the envelope.
- **Purchase poinsettia plants.** The Worship Committee is selling poinsettia plants to help defray decoration costs.

Excess funds will be donated to Montgomery County Hospice. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact:
 Pam Drumheller 301-977-7973 Renee Jochum 301-309-0235
 Eugenia Lee 301-530-5761 Roberta Meredith 301-963-8666

We extend our thanks to Wilma Sharer for all the years she has given to make our church so beautiful for the Advent/Christmas Season.

November Poinsettia Sale

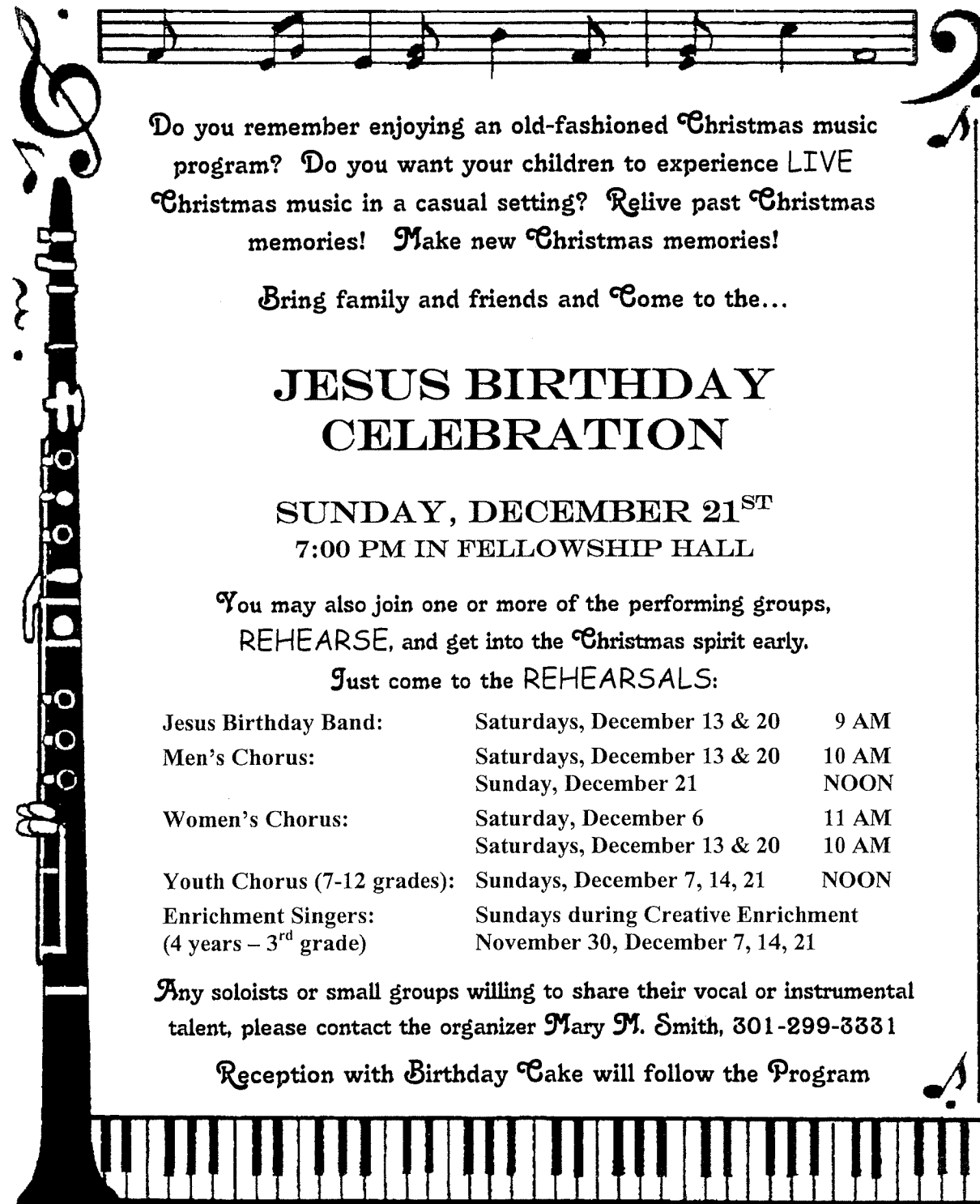
The Worship Committee is once again offering a lovely array of poinsettias for sale to the congregation. The profit from the sale of these items defrays the cost of the Christmas decorations for the church.

The poinsettias are grown by Behnke Nurseries and are of excellent quality. They are available in red, white, pink, and new this year, Twilight Monet, a cream color with rose-pink highlights. The deadline for orders is Sunday, November 30. Poinsettias may be picked up on Saturday, December 6, from 10 AM to Noon. Checks should be made out to Potomac Presbyterian Church and must accompany the order. Please put the order form in the Flower Fund envelope found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate. Coordinators are Cecie Phair, 301-926-8944, and Susan Hougen, 301-299-8391.

Pot Sizes	Number of Blooms	Price	Pot Sizes	Number of Blooms	Price
6 inch	4-6	\$12	8 inch	12-15	\$30
7 inch	8-12	\$20	10 inch	20 +	\$45

Order Form

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



Do you remember enjoying an old-fashioned Christmas music program? Do you want your children to experience LIVE Christmas music in a casual setting? Relive past Christmas memories! Make new Christmas memories!

Bring family and friends and Come to the...

JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
7:00 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

You may also join one or more of the performing groups, REHEARSE, and get into the Christmas spirit early.

Just come to the REHEARSALS:

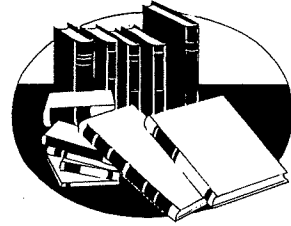
Jesus Birthday Band:	Saturdays, December 13 & 20	9 AM
Men's Chorus:	Saturdays, December 13 & 20	10 AM
	Sunday, December 21	NOON
Women's Chorus:	Saturday, December 6	11 AM
	Saturdays, December 13 & 20	10 AM
Youth Chorus (7-12 grades):	Sundays, December 7, 14, 21	NOON
Enrichment Singers: (4 years - 3 rd grade)	Sundays during Creative Enrichment November 30, December 7, 14, 21	

Any soloists or small groups willing to share their vocal or instrumental talent, please contact the organizer **Mary M. Smith, 301-299-3331**

Reception with Birthday Cake will follow the Program

Adult Education Class Schedule for December

December 7	No class - Williamsburg Breakfast
December 14	Richmond McPherson Topic: <i>Shelter in Belfast</i>
December 21	No class - two services
December 28	No Sunday School for children or adults
January 4	Tom Miles Topic: <i>Keep the Faith: Spare the Religion</i> (This is just what we need to get our minds back in gear after the holidays!)



Have you looked at the new books in the Church Library?

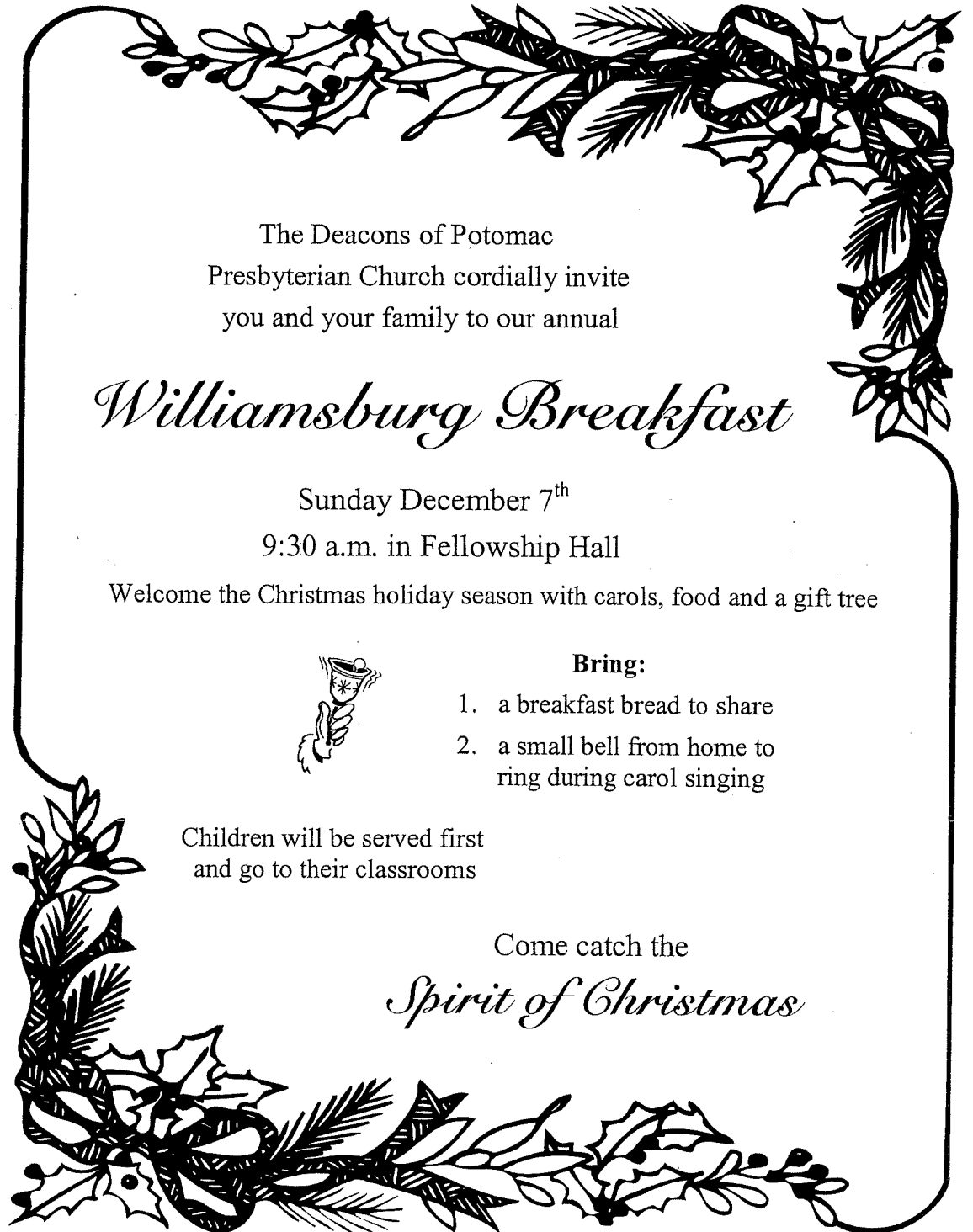
A dozen new books have been put on the church library shelves. If you want to check one out, please put your name, phone number and date you take the book on the book card and put that in the gray box. The card catalog is on the shelf under the windows.

Some of the new titles are Jonathan Edwards: A Life by George Marsden (285.8 MAR). This is the latest biography about Jonathan Edwards and has received great reviews. Marta Felber wrote what she learned and needed after her husband died. Finding Your Way After Your Spouse Dies (646.7 FEL) is very helpful for those in that situation. Scripture suggestions follow the short messages about how she approached her grieving. The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Church History by John Hannah is great for teachers and those in Adult Education who have been interested in the Reformation (270 HAN). And I must tell you about Patrick Kavanaugh's The Music of Angels: A Listener's Guide to Sacred Music from Chant to Christian Rock (781.71 KAV). This is a delightful book of sacred music and composers. A discography follows each section.

If you have any questions, call Nancy Tietjen (301-299-3272).

Advent Booklets Available

As we prepare for the blessed season of Advent, The Worship Committee this year is offering Advent Prayer Booklets. Each booklet, entitled *Silent Night*, contains daily devotions and prayers for the family. The prayers take their inspiration from one of our most beloved Christmas carols and will be available during the Advent Season in the Narthex.




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

Williamsburg Breakfast

Sunday December 7th
9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Welcome the Christmas holiday season with carols, food and a gift tree



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

November 30 ~ First Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Children's Choir
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Adult Education
11:00 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion
12:00 p.m. Fellowship – Gift Card Sale
(NO Youth Groups)

12/2 - Tues.

1:00 p.m. Lord's Table
7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends

12/3 - Wed.

12:00 p.m. Bible Study Luncheon
4:00 p.m. Primary Choir & Children's Choir
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

12/4 - Thurs.

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

12/6 - Sat.

9:00 a.m. Decorate Church

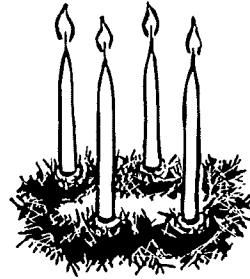
12/5 - Fri.

6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Christmas
Shopper's Sitter Service

12/6 - Sat.

11:00 Women's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)

Advent



December 14 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Adult Education
11:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary Choir Cantata #142 "To Us A Son Is Given"
12:00 p.m. Fellowship – Gift Card Sale by J. S. Bach
Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
1:30 p.m. Jr. High Christmas Outing
3:30 p.m. Caroling at Manor Care and Collingswood
6:00 p.m. Caroling Dinner
6:00 p.m. Sr. High Christmas Party

12/15 - Mon.

12:00 p.m. Steeple to People Deadline

12/16 - Tues.

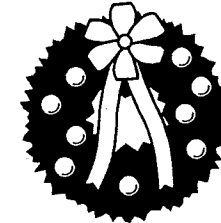
10:30 p.m. Men's Book Group
7:30 p.m. Christian Living

12/17 - Wed.

4:00 p.m. Primary Choir and
Children's Choir

12/18 - Thurs.

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir



12/20 - Sat.

9:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band
10:00 a.m. Women's Chorus &
Men's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
11:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
(Children's Choirs and all
pageant participants)
9:00-4:00 p.m. Poolesville
Habitat

December 7 ~ Second Sunday of Advent



9:30 a.m. **Williamsburg Breakfast**
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship – Gift Card Sale
Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner
6:30 p.m. Youth Groups

12/8 - Mon.

8:00 p.m. Session

12/9 - Tues.

9:30 a.m. Christian Living

12/10 - Wed.

3:00 p.m. Collingswood
4:00 p.m. Primary Choir and Children's Choir
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

12/11 - Thurs.

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

12/13 - Sat.

9:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band
10:00 a.m. Men's Chorus & Women's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Reformed Theology Class

December 21 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship (Pageant)
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
11:00 a.m. Worship/Sacrament of Baptism
12:00 p.m. Fellowship – Gift Card Sale
Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
Men's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
7:00 p.m. "Jesus Birthday Celebration"

12/24 - Tues. (Christmas Eve)

5:00 p.m. Family Service
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

